



United Nations
Framework Convention on Climate Change
**GUIDANCE FROM THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES AND RESPONSES BY
THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**
COP1 – COP28



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Dubai, United Arab Emirates



Poznan, Poland



Introduction

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established its Financial Mechanism to facilitate the provision and transfer of resources from developed to developing countries. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) became the first operating entity of the Financial Mechanism after the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC, and the GEF Council agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1996. This agreement placed the GEF under the guidance of the COP, as Article 11 of the Convention states that the Financial Mechanism “shall function under the guidance of and be accountable to the Conference of the Parties, which shall decide on its policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria related to this Convention.”

The yearly COPs have provided an opportunity for Parties to update and renew their guidance to the GEF. To date, there have been 145 UNFCCC COP decisions and 526 paragraphs that offer guidance to the GEF (see Table 1). In addition, the Conferences of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) have issued 40 decisions and 115 paragraphs as guidance to the GEF (see Table 2). Key areas of Convention guidance have included: the GEF’s role as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, including the Paris Agreement; the GEF’s institutional and procedural reform; transparency and access to GEF funds; country engagement and empowerment; reporting on greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories; support for technology transfer; and ongoing programming in mitigation and adaptation.

At COP 21, held in 2015, Parties provided guidance to the GEF, giving it an important role in implementing key aspects of the Paris Agreement. The COP agreed that the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, including its operating entities, shall serve as the financial mechanism of the Paris Agreement. Parties decided to establish the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), requesting the GEF to make arrangements to support its establishment and operation. Most recently, additional guidance to the GEF emerged from COP 28, and is included in the first chapter of this booklet and in the GEF Report to COP 29.

The GEF continually incorporates COP guidance into its programs and operations, as described annually in its report to the COP. As a complementary publication to the GEF’s annual report, this booklet summarizes all guidance to the GEF dating from the first COP to COP 28 and the corresponding GEF responses. This publication provides full documentation of the evolution of GEF activities and policies as informed by guidance from the COP.

The COP guidance and GEF responses contained in this booklet are presented in reverse chronological order, starting with COP 28 and ending with COP 1. The first chapter is updated annually to reflect the most recent COP guidance. Sections corresponding to earlier COPs remain as published in prior years. Therefore, some responses within may appear outdated. Nevertheless, such information is helpful in following historical trends and in highlighting cumulative action. The booklet also contains annexes including the MOU between the COP and the GEF Council, guidelines for the review of the Financial Mechanism, and GEF project terms.

TABLE 1 NUMBER OF COP DECISIONS INCLUDING GUIDANCE TO THE GEF

Year	COP	Number of COP decisions including guidance to the GEF*
1995	COP 1	4 (8)
1996	COP 2	2 (6)
1997	COP 3	1 (1)
1998	COP 4	3 (8)
1999	COP 5	2 (4)
2000	COP 6	0 (0)
2001	COP 6-2	1 (8)
2001	COP 7	6 (24)
2002	COP 8	5 (14)
2003	COP 9	4 (17)
2004	COP 10	6 (23)
2005	COP 11	3 (12)
2006	COP 12	4 (18)
2007	COP 13	5 (13)
2008	COP 14	4 (15)
2009	COP 15	0 (0)
2010	COP 16	6 (16)
2011	COP 17	5 (19)
2012	COP 18	8 (16)
2013	COP 19	4 (19)
2014	COP 20	6 (16)
2015	COP 21	6 (28)
2016	COP 22	8 (32)
2017	COP 23	8 (22)
2018	COP 24	9 (33) ¹
2019	COP 25	5 (20) ¹
2021	COP 26	12 (46) ¹
2022	COP 27	11 (43) ¹
2023	COP 28	8 (45) ¹
Total		145 (526)

* Parentheses denote number of paragraphs with GEF guidance.

¹ These figures include decision text from COP only, not including conclusions from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), or decisions from CMA.

TABLE 2 NUMBER OF CMA DECISIONS INCLUDING GUIDANCE TO THE GEF

Year	CMA	Number of CMA decisions including guidance to the GEF
2018	CMA 1	5 (11) ²
2019	CMA 2	3 (6) ²
2021	CMA 3	9 (31) ²
2022	CMA 4	11 (25) ²
2023	CMA 5	12 (42) ²
Total		40 (115)

² These figures include decision text from CMA only, not including conclusions from SBI and SBSTA, nor decisions from COP.

Madrid, Spain



Abbreviations and Acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment	FECO	Foreign Economic Cooperation Office of China
ADB	Asian Development Bank	FLP	Gustavo Fonseca Leadership Program
AfDB	African Development Bank	FSP	Full-Sized Project
AF	Adaptation Fund	FUNBIO	Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade
AILAC	Independent Association of Latin America and the Caribbean	FY	Fiscal Year
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment	GBFF	Global Biodiversity Framework Fund
AML-CFT	Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism	GCF	Green Climate Fund
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
AWG-LCA	Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention	GEBs	Global Environmental Benefits
BOAD	West African Development Bank	GEF	Global Environment Facility
BTR	Biennial Transparency Report	GEF-3	Third Replenishment Period
BUR	Biennial Update Report	GEF-4	Fourth Replenishment Period
CAF	Development Bank of Latin America	GEF-5	Fifth Replenishment Period
CBIT	Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency	GEF-6	Sixth Replenishment Period
CBIT GSP	CBIT Global Support Program	GEF-7	Seventh Replenishment Period
CBO	Community-Based Organization	GEF-8	Eighth Replenishment Period
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation	GEF EO	Global Environment Facility Evaluation Office
CCM	Climate Change Mitigation	GEF IEO	Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage	GEFTF	Global Environment Facility Trust Fund
CDI	Capacity Development Initiative	GHG	Greenhouse Gas
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	GGP	GEF Gender Partnership
CGE	Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention	GGWI	Great Green Wall Initiative
CI	Conservation International	GSP	Global Support Programme for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports
CIFs	Climate Investment Funds	IAP	Integrated Approach Pilot
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement	IAs	Implementing Agencies
COP	Conference of the Parties	ICG	Informal Coordination Group
CPACC	Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change	IDA	International Development Association
CSO	Civil Society Organization	IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
CSP	Country Support Program	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network	IGCC	Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle
CTI	Climate Technology Initiative	INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
EA	Enabling Activities	IP	Impact Program
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ECW	Expanded Constituency Workshop	IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples and local communities
EGTT	Expert Group on Technology Transfer	IT	Information Technology
EST	Environmentally Sound Technology	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework	JPC	Joint Programming Consultation

LDC	Least Developed Country	PPP	Public-Private Partnership
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund	PSP	Poznan Strategic Programme on technology transfer
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group	RAF	Resource Allocation Framework
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry	RBM	Results-Based Management
LTV	Long-Term Vision on complementarity, coherence and collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility	RCCs	Regional Collaboration Centers
		REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation plus conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	SANET	Sustainable Alternatives Network
MCFs	Multilateral Climate Funds	SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank	SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement	SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
MFA	Multi-Focal Area	SCCF-A	Special Climate Change Fund Adaptation Program
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	SCCF-B	Special Climate Change Fund Program for Technology Transfer
MRV	Measurement, reporting and verification	SCCF-C	Special Climate Change Fund Program for Mitigation in Different Sectors
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	SCCF-D	Special Climate Change Fund Program for Economic Diversification
MSP	Medium-Sized Project	SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action	SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
NAP	National Adaptation Plan	SGP	Small Grants Programme
NAP GSP	NAP Global Support Programme	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action	SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
NC	National Communication	SNC	Second National Communication
NCPC	National Communications Programme for Climate Change	SOFF	Systematic Observations Financing Facility
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment	SPA	Strategic Priority on Adaptation
NCSP	National Communications Support Program	SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
NDA	National Designated Authorities	STAP	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution	STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
NDE	National Designated Entities	STRM	Short-term Response Measures
NDI	National Dialogue Initiative	TC	Transitional Committee
NDR	Report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement	TEC	Technology Executive Committee
		TNA	Technology Needs Assessment
NGI	Non-Grant Instrument	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
NGO	Non-governmental Organization	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
NPFE	National Portfolio Formulation Exercise	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
OPF	Operational Focal Point	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
OPS	Overall Performance Study	UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
OPS2	Second Overall Performance Study	V20	Vulnerable Twenty
OPS3	Third Overall Performance Study	WBG	World Bank Group
OPS4	Fourth Overall Performance Study	WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
OPS5	Fifth Overall Performance Study	WWF-US	World Wildlife Fund, Inc.
OPS6	Sixth Overall Performance Study		
OPS7	Seventh Overall Performance Study		
PAS	Pacific Alliance for Sustainability		
PDF-B	Project Development and Preparation		
PFAN	Private Financing Advisory Network		
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building		
PICCAP	Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme		
PIF	Project Identification Form		
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants		

Dubai, United Arab Emirates



I. COP 28 Decisions and GEF Responses

1. The twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28) was held from November 30–December 13, 2023, in Dubai, presided over by the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 5) also took place in Dubai, UAE.
2. COP 28, CMP 18 and CMA 5 in 2023 provided specific guidance to the GEF, while the conclusions of SBI 59 as well as SBSTA 59 also contained matters of relevance to the GEF. Key topics include: role of the GEF as one of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention and the Paris Agreement; appreciation for contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LCDF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF); taking into account the GGA framework in administering the LDCF and SCCF; enhancing ongoing work to fund activities relevant to averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage; expansion of implementing agencies within the GEF partnership with a focus on underserved regions; progress on programming with the conclusion of the GEF-8 cycle; improvement of efficiency in the GEF project cycle; progress on capacity-building activities, including those related to technology transfer as guided by the Global Stocktake; expedited process for projects related to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement (Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, or CBIT, and biennial transparency reports, or BTRs) and further consultation on support to implementing the ETF.
3. Other matters of relevance to the GEF include: further efforts, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to simplify access to climate finance; calls to consider ecosystems, biodiversity, and carbon stores, including forests, in the next round of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and on the importance of nature-based solutions and ecosystem conservation towards achieving the Paris Agreement goal, along with the need to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030;
4. The reporting period for the GEF responses below is GEF fiscal year (FY) 2024, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

A. Long-term climate finance (Decision 13/CP.27)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 8, the COP <i>welcomed</i> the recent pledges to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation.</p>
<p>In paragraph 10, the COP <i>emphasized</i> the need for further efforts to enhance access to climate finance, including through harmonized, simplified, and direct access procedures, to address the needs of developing country Parties, in particular for the least developed countries and small island developing States;</p>	<p>The GEF-8 Replenishment Policy Recommendations include a decision to explore areas for streamlining the GEF project cycle, with an objective of reducing transaction costs and facilitating faster access to GEF resources by countries.</p> <p>In response to Decision 4 and similar guidance received from the COP at different sessions, the GEF continues to pursue efforts to enhance access to climate finance both internally, through streamlining of its operations, policies, and procedures, and externally through its engagement with the other major multilateral climate funds towards increased complementarity and collaboration.</p> <p>Two related processes are underway. First, the GEF has been actively involved in mapping the streamlining potential of processes and practices between the multilateral climate funds (MCFs). This exercise is informed by the ongoing Long-Term Vision on complementarity, coherence, and collaboration between the GEF and the GCF (LTV). The collaboration among the MCFs expanded to also include the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs), following the joint declaration by the four heads of the MCFs at COP 28.¹</p>

¹ <https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/news/enhancing-access-and-increasing-impact-role-multilateral-climate-funds>.

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
	<p>Second, the GEF partnership has been exploring ways to enhance its internal effectiveness. One important measure that was considered and approved by the GEF Council at its 6th Council Meeting involved increasing the cap on the size of Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs) from \$2 to \$5 million.² The financing ceiling for GEF Trust Fund MSPs was initially set at \$1 million and was later raised to \$2 million in 2012. This most recent increase in the MSP cap is expected to enable a greater number of projects and value of GEF financing to benefit from the more streamlined approval process.</p> <p>In addition, with the establishment of a simplified project and program cycle for the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), which is managed by the GEF Secretariat, it is expected that experiences with the deployment of these further simplified processes will be assessed and will inform the extent to which further simplification measures can be considered for the project cycle(s) of the GEF Trust Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund.</p>
<p>In paragraph 13, the COP <i>also reiterated</i> that a significant amount of adaptation finance should come from the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p>	<p>In administering the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, the GEF stood ready to work with both donors and recipient Parties to increase the share of global adaptation finance that it receives and channels in its capacity of operating entity of the Financial Mechanism.</p>
<p>In paragraph 17, the COP <i>reiterated</i> that the secretariat, in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies and bilateral, regional, and other multilateral channels, will continue to explore ways and means to assist developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including their technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action.</p>	<p>This was for the UNFCCC secretariat. The GEF secretariat stood ready to continue collaboration with partners.</p>

² GEF, 2024, *Joint Summary of the GEF Council Co-Chairs*, Council Document GEF/C.66/JointSummary, Decision 3/2024.

B. Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance (Decision 5/CP.28)

COP guidance	GEF response
<p>In paragraph 13, the COP <i>noted with concern</i> that the draft guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism prepared by the Standing Committee on Finance was not considered owing to a limited number of submissions and requests Parties and other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement to provide elements for the draft guidance well in advance of future sessions of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement to enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate in this regard.</p>	<p>This was for Parties to consider.</p>

C. Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund (Decision 6/CP.28)

COP guidance	GEF response
<p>In paragraph 10, the COP <i>also requested</i> the Board to continue to enhance coherence and complementarity of the Green Climate Fund with other relevant bilateral, regional, and global funding mechanisms and institutions, wherever feasible and to the extent possible, inter alia through joint programmes, outreach, and information-sharing, thereby improving access to climate finance and lowering transaction costs for developing countries.</p>	<p>While this guidance was not directed to the GEF, this was noted. Ongoing efforts to continue to enhance coherence and complementarity with the GCF and with other multilateral climate funds have been outlined above in this table of responses and in the body of this Report.</p>

D. Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility (Decision 7/CP.28)

COP guidance	GEF response
<p>In Paragraph 1, the COP <i>welcomed</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-eighth session and its addendum, including the response of the Global Environment Facility to the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation.</p>

COP guidance	GEF response
<p>In paragraph 2, the COP <i>noted</i> the work undertaken by the Global Environment Facility during its reporting period (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023), including:</p> <p>(a) Approval of 34 climate change projects and programmes under the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p> <p>(b) Continued integration of climate change priorities into its other focal areas and integrated programmes and the expected avoidance or sequestration of 1,007.4 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent achieved through such integration;</p> <p>(c) Continued implementation of the long-term vision on complementarity, coherence, and collaboration with the Green Climate Fund;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation of recognition of the work undertaken.</p>
<p>(d) Actions following cases of mismanagement of funding from the Global Environment Facility in projects managed by one of its implementing agencies;(e) Continued work to implement the recommendations in decision 24/2020 of the Council of the Global Environment Facility;</p>	
<p>In paragraph 3, the COP <i>welcomed</i> the successful start of the implementation of the eighth replenishment cycle, including the 11 integrated programmes, and <i>encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to track and regularly report to the Conference of the Parties the climate-related benefits of the integrated programmes;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation. The GEF continued to track the climate-related benefits of its integrated programs regularly, from initial GEF Council approval of a Program Framework Document (PFD) to terminal evaluation. Climate benefits figures are captured at the project, program, and portfolio level through Core Indicator 6 (Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated or avoided, reported in tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂ eq)), and reported in the GEF annual report to COP.</p>
<p>In paragraph 4, the COP <i>also encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to maximize global environmental benefits through its projects and programmes with a focus on the co-benefits relating to climate change;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 4.</p>

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 5, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to continue its support to developing countries in implementing the reporting requirements under the Convention, consistent with its current mandates;</p>	<p>Regarding mobilization of finance for reporting and enabling activities under the UNFCCC, the GEF continued to review and approve projects in a timely manner during the reporting period. The GEF Trust Fund continued to support National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), through the programming of medium-sized and full-sized projects.</p> <p>Following the GEF’s work in previous reporting periods to define and communicate modalities of support provided for BTRs, the GEF Secretariat continued to work closely with countries requesting support for BTR preparation, with a view to allowing sufficient lead-time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024. As of June 30, 2024, the GEF had approved BTR support to 102 countries for 144 BTRs, and three additional countries have submitted requests for GEF financial support for BTR preparation.</p> <p>The GEF also continued to provide funding to support countries through the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). Each CBIT proposal submitted to the GEF Secretariat has received support, upon technical clearance, in line with the Paris Agreement decision to provide support upon request. As of June 30, 2024, the entire CBIT portfolio includes 96 projects covering 88 countries, 88 national projects, one regional project (covering four countries), and seven global projects, totaling \$159.7 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs. Progress made on the CBIT, including portfolio analysis and outlook, is presented to the 67th GEF Council as an information document.³</p>

3 GEF, 2024, *Progress Report on the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency*, Council Document GEF/C.67/Inf.06.

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 6, the COP <i>encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider ways to better serve different regions, including by taking into account the needs of and challenges faced by developing countries in implementing the transparency requirements under the Convention;</p>	<p>The GEF continued to engage with recipient countries, agencies, and partners to continuously improve the way it serves different regions with the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework. Specific information regarding the support available from the GEF for this purpose is being incorporated in briefing packages provided to countries during GEF’s Country Support Program activities, such as national dialogues and expanded constituency workshops.</p> <p>In addition, and in response to guidance received, <i>inter alia</i>, at COP 28, the GEF continued to be actively engaged in a wide range of outreach activities with the UNFCCC Secretariat and other partners, to further disseminate to Parties information on support available. This includes, most recently, the participation of the GEF Secretariat in the delivery of four “Regional online workshops on support available to developing country Parties for preparing their biennial transparency reports and enhancing sustainable institutional capacity and national reporting systems within their governments for implementing the ETF, and in providing guidance on the application process for transparency-related projects,” organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat between April 15 and 18 2024, as well as the GEF Secretariat’s virtual participation in the seventh Workshop of the Cluster Lusophone in Luanda, Angola, on April 12, 2024. The GEF Secretariat has also participated online in the meetings and webinars organized by the Regional Networks of the CBIT-GSP- global project.</p>

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 7, the COP <i>also encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to strengthen its Small Grants Programme to provide better support for youth, women and girls, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples;</p>	<p>The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) continued to serve as an important element of the GEF's enhanced efforts to support inclusion and strong engagement of civil society stakeholders and partners. SGP 2.0 Implementation arrangements for GEF-8, approved by the GEF Council,⁴ incorporates renewed provisions to strengthen support to youth, women, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs).</p> <p>Additionally, emphasis on youth, women, and IPLCs were part of the criteria in the selection of two new GEF SGP Implementing Agencies in 2023, and of the finalization of the SGP 2.0 Operational Guidelines as well as the new SGP 2.0 Results Framework. The GEF Secretariat was also launching a new SGP CSO Challenge Program that prioritizes youth, women, and IPLCs while offering financing and opportunities for cross-learning and for creating new strategic partnerships for the GEF to deliver on GEBs.</p>
<p>In paragraph 8, the COP <i>welcomed</i> with appreciation the financial pledges to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund made by Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, equivalent to USD 179.06 million;</p>	<p>The GEF took note of the appreciation and looked forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>In paragraph 9, the COP <i>commended</i> the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for their enhanced support to developing countries and in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States for addressing the adverse impacts of climate change;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation of recognition of the work undertaken. The secretariat is committed to continue to support least developed countries and small island developing States in their efforts to address climate adaptation priorities through investments, technical assistance, as well as direct capacity-building opportunities.</p>

⁴ GEF, 2022, *GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0 Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8*, Council Document GEF/C.63/06/Rev.01.

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 10, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, in administering the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, to continue to support the least developed countries and small island developing States to utilize programmatic approaches to implement policies, programmes and projects identified in their national adaptation plans and adaptation components of nationally determined contributions;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this guidance in paragraph 10. The GEF continued to be supportive of programmatic approaches to adaptation in least developed countries and small island developing States, aligned with priorities identified in their NAPs, NDCs and their national priorities. In this reporting period, the GEF supported 3 multi-country projects and programs including the Climate Change Resilience in the Caribbean Fisheries Sector project that targets vulnerable small-fisherfolk communities of five Caribbean SIDS, the Programme for innovation in climate adaptation and resilience building solutions in five LDCs that will unlock the ingenuity and creativity of MSMEs to drive innovative climate adaptation and resilience building solutions, and the Transformation approach to large-scale investment in support of the implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative targeting eight African LDCs, which aims to restore landscapes and ecosystem services for resilient communities living in arid and semi-arid environments across the GGW region of the Sahel. The GEF had also been organizing regional adaptation strategy and programming workshops in LDCs and SIDS to discuss project-based as well as programmatic approaches to utilization of LDCF and SCCF resources.</p>

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 11, the COP <i>invited</i> the Global Environment Facility to encourage its implementing agencies to facilitate more active engagement of women, youth, local communities and Indigenous Peoples in the formulation and implementation of its projects and programmes;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this guidance in paragraph 11. The GEF continued to encourage its Implementing Agencies (IAs) to increase their engagement with and support to women, youth, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples. The GEF’s policies on Stakeholder Engagement, Gender Equality, Environmental and Social Safeguards, and its Principles and Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples are designed to complement and reinforce key dimensions of these stakeholders’ engagement with the GEF, particularly in the design and implementation of GEF projects and programs. The GEF also provided platforms, such as the seventh GEF Assembly, COPs, GEF Seminars and Workshops, for Implementing Agencies to showcase positive results from their projects arising from engaging and supporting women, youth, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples. The Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Program was created in preparation for the seventh GEF Assembly to demonstrate GEF’s commitment to engaging CSOs, indigenous peoples, youth, and local community groups in providing inclusive adaptation and environmental benefits. Twenty-three CSOs were selected under the challenge program to receive grants of up to \$100,000 to expand their initiatives.⁵</p> <p>In addition, programs, and initiatives such as the Small Grants Programme (SGP) and the Gustavo Fonseca Leadership Program (FLP) specifically focus on youth, women, and IPLCs engagements and their empowerment.</p>
<p>In paragraph 12, the COP <i>welcomed</i> the continued support by the Global Environment Facility for climate-friendly innovation, and technology development and transfer and related capacity-building, including in partnership with private sector actors and others, and requests the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide such support, in particular for technology needs assessments, and technology action plans and their implementation;</p>	<p>The development and transfer of low-carbon and climate-resilient technology had been a key cross-cutting theme for the GEF since its establishment and continues to be at the core of the programming directions for GEF-8.</p> <p>In this reporting period, the GEF had been working closely with a GEF Agency on the submission and approval of the CEO Endorsement document for Phase V of the Global Technology Needs Assessment Project. Out of the 17 participating countries, twelve countries have used their STAR resources for the development of their TNAs.</p>

5 *Winners of Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Program announced in Vancouver*

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 13, the COP <i>also requested</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider ways to enhance its ongoing work to fund activities relevant to averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage, consistent with its current mandates;</p>	<p>The GEF also noted this decision in paragraph 13.</p>
<p>In paragraph 14, the COP <i>encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to further streamline, consolidate and increase the efficiency of its operations, including by simplifying the information requirements for designing and implementing its projects and programmes;</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat took note of the encouragement to continue its efforts to streamline its operational procedures and to increase efficiency of access to its funds, in consultation with the other GEF partners, particularly the GEF implementing agencies. The GEF-8 Replenishment Policy Recommendations include a decision to explore areas for streamlining the GEF project cycle, with an objective of reducing transaction costs and facilitating faster access to GEF resources by countries.</p> <p>In response to that decision and to similar guidance received from the COP at different sessions, the GEF continued to pursue efforts to further simplify information requirements for designing and implementing its projects and programs.</p> <p>During this reporting period, one significant measure that was considered and approved by the GEF Council at its 66th Council Meeting (February 2024) was increasing the cap on the size of Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs) from \$2 to \$5 million.⁶ The financing ceiling for GEF Trust Fund MSPs was initially set at \$1 million and was later raised to \$2 million in 2012. This most recent increase in the MSP cap is expected to enable a greater number of projects and value of GEF financing to benefit from the more streamlined approval process. At its 67th Council Meeting (June 2024), having considered document GEF/C.67/05, Streamlining the GEF Project Cycle: Report from the Working Group on the Streamlining Process, the GEF Council endorsed continued work by the Secretariat as outlined in that report, with support from Agencies and others as appropriate, encouraged Agencies to also identify areas for further streamlining and efficiencies within their own processes and communicate these to the Secretariat and Working Group and endorsed further development of proposals for decision in December 2024, considering advance consultation requirements for any proposals requiring changes to policy and guidelines.⁷</p>

6 GEF, 2024, *Joint Summary of the GEF Council Co-Chairs*, Council Document GEF/C.66/Jointsummary, Decision 3/2024.

7 GEF, 2024, *Joint Summary of the GEF Council Co-Chairs*, Council Document GEF/C.67/Jointsummary, Decision 24/2024.

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
	<p>In addition, with the establishment of a simplified project and program cycle for the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), which is managed by the GEF Secretariat, it was expected that experiences with the deployment of these further simplified processes would be assessed and would inform the extent to which further simplification measures can be considered for the project cycle(s) of the GEF Trust Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund.</p>
<p>In paragraph 15, the COP <i>welcomed</i> the ongoing efforts of the Global Environment Facility to improve its fiduciary standards, to which its implementing agencies are accountable;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 15.</p>
<p>In paragraph 16, the COP <i>also welcomed</i> the ongoing efforts of the Global Environment Facility to continue assessing and addressing the risks induced by the current level of funding concentration among some of its implementing agencies;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 16. The secretariat continues to make efforts in this regard and to provide information on the agency share of programming for each work program for the GEF TF, LDCF, and SCCF; the secretariat also provides information on agency share in its report to the COP.</p>
<p>In paragraph 17, the COP <i>encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to show appropriate flexibility with respect to geographical restrictions in implementing agencies to reduce agency concentration and enable wider geographical reach of its projects, in a country-driven manner;</p>	<p>In line with the GEF-8 Policy Recommendations, the GEF Secretariat continued to monitor and report on the strength of the GEF Partnership and on the achievement of the aspirational ceiling for any one Agency of no more than 30 percent of approved amounts in GEF-8. With respect to geographical restrictions for specific agencies, the GEF Council at its 64th meeting requested the Secretariat to take the necessary steps to remove the geographic restrictions applicable for the Development Bank of South Africa to enable it to implement GEF projects or programs in any country in accordance with its mandate.⁸</p>

8 GEF, 2023, *Joint Summary of the GEF Council Co-Chairs*, Council Document GEF/C.64/Jointsummary, Decision 16/2023.

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 18, the COP <i>also encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to open a targeted round of implementing agency expansion within the Global Environment Facility partnership with a focus on underserved regions, with regard to implementing agency coverage, in line with existing policies and procedures;</p>	<p>The GEF continued to monitor the geographic and thematic coverage of the 18 GEF Agencies in accordance with the GEF-8 Replenishment Resolution adopted by Replenishment Participants and in accordance with its Council-approved policies and procedures. The GEF had been successful in the diversification of funding among existing Agencies and in rolling out a new Country Engagement Strategy in support of this objective, including further empowerment of Operational Focal Points. The GEF Council took a decision in June 2023 for the GEF to continue to monitor the strength of the relationship among the five dimensions of geographic coverage, thematic coverage, effectiveness, efficiency, and engagement, with an updated analysis to be considered by the GEF Council in advance of the GEF-9 replenishment negotiations.⁹ Further consideration of a potential GEF implementing agency expansion round will be informed by the upcoming Comprehensive Evaluation for GEF 8 (OPS8), which the GEF IEO is expected to produce as part of the GEF 9 replenishment process.</p>
<p>In paragraph 19, the COP <i>further encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to enhance the coherence and complementarity with other climate finance delivery channels with a view to enhancing the impact and effectiveness of its work and decreasing transaction costs, inter alia through streamlining and simplifying, where feasible and to the extent possible, its procedures and guidelines and takes note of these ongoing efforts;</p>	<p>The GEF continued to engage actively with the other Multilateral Climate Funds (MCFs) in response to guidance received from the COP at different sessions, with the view of increasing complementarity and collaboration and of moving towards harmonization. Increased GEF engagement efforts with the MCFs during the reporting period resulted in a joint declaration by the four MCFs Heads at COP 28, and the subsequent development of the “Multilateral Climate Funds Action Plan on Complementarity and Coherence”. The Action Plan was presented to and welcomed by the GEF¹⁰ and the CIFs¹¹ Governing Bodies on their respective June 2024 meetings. The Plan is expected to be presented to the GCF and AF Governing Bodies in the second half of 2024, and to be published by the Heads at COP 29.</p>

⁹ GEF, 2023, *Joint Summary of the GEF Council Co-Chairs*, Council Document GEF/C.64/Jointsummary, Decision 16/2023.

¹⁰ GEF, 2024, *Joint Summary of the GEF Council Co-Chairs*, Council Document GEF/C.67/JointSummary, Decision 31/2024.

¹¹ CIF, 2024, *Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees Tuesday, June 11, and Wednesday June 12, 2024, Summary of the Co-Chairs*, Agenda Item 2.

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
	<p>To support this strengthened engagement between the MCFs, specific governance structures were established, including a Committee of the Heads of the MCFs, which met twice in April and in May 2024, and a taskforce comprised of several working groups with participants from the funds' secretariats. In addition, a meeting of the Co-Chairs of the MCFs was also held for the first time, on May 24, 2024.</p> <p>The four MCFs organized a joint Pavilion at COP 28, as a shared space to promote collaboration and to act as a one-stop-shop for countries, partners, and stakeholders to interface with the climate funds.</p> <p>The GEF-GCF LTV bilateral work also advanced in the reporting period, as detailed in Part II, section 2 of this report, and included the organization of one additional Joint Programming Consultation (JPC) in Uganda, which took place in Uganda on November 15 to 17, 2023, following the inaugural JPC in Rwanda carried out in the previous reporting period.</p>
<p>In paragraph 20, the COP <i>noted</i> the adoption of the private sector engagement strategy of the Global Environment Facility at the 59th meeting of the Council of the Global Environment Facility and encouraged the Global Environment Facility to reinforce its efforts to mobilize and engage with private sector actors during its eighth replenishment cycle;</p>	<p>GEF's engagement with the private sector during the eighth replenishment cycle focused on the engagement of private sector actors at all scales, with an emphasis on landscape or value chain collaboration in key sectors relevant to the GEF's integrated programs, as well as in standalone projects. For GEF-8, 93 percent of GEF projects now engage the private sector and the private sector is expected to contribute nearly \$3.5 billion in co-financing, as of June 2024.¹²</p>
<p>In paragraph 21, the COP <i>requested</i> the Global Environment Facility, from existing allocations in the Blended Finance Global Programme, to further explore risk-taking and to foster innovation in the context of its programming in order to use its concessional financing more effectively and mobilize additional private funds;</p>	<p>The programming of resources under the GEF's Blended Finance Global Program continued during the reporting period. As of June 30, 2024, out of the GEF-8 envelope of \$196 million, \$147 million have now been programmed in 9 highly innovative operations of which 5 projects are under the CCM focal area. The projects selected seek to support new technologies like green hydrogen in Chile, support financial structures that target Scope 3 emissions, or focus on replicability and scaling up of existing technologies in renewable energy and energy efficiency with high participation of the private sector.</p>

¹² GEF, 2024, *GEF-8 Corporate Scorecard – June 2024*.

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 22, the COP <i>welcomed</i> the policy on gender equality adopted by the Council of the Global Environment Facility and <i>encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to ensure that all its implementing agencies apply this policy;</p>	<p>The GEF took note of this decision in paragraph 22.</p>
<p>In paragraph 23, the COP <i>also encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to further explore ways to provide support for assessing the needs and priorities of developing countries in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and for translating climate finance needs into action;</p>	<p>The GEF continued to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among other efforts, the GEF continued to provide resources for transparency-related capacity-building through the CBIT, for technology needs assessments (TNAs), and for other support initiatives as part of its Country Support Program, such as national dialogues and expanded constituency workshops (ECWs), in an effort to enhance the abilities of developing countries to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into action.</p>
<p>In paragraph 24, the COP <i>invited</i> Parties to submit to the secretariat their views and recommendations on elements of guidance for the Global Environment Facility via the submission portal no later than 12 weeks prior to the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (November 2024);</p>	<p>This was for Parties to consider.</p>
<p>In paragraph 25, the COP <i>requested</i> the Standing Committee on Finance to take into consideration the submissions referred to in paragraph 24 above in preparing its draft guidance for the Global Environment Facility and to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision;</p>	<p>This was for the Standing Committee on Finance.</p>
<p>In paragraph 26, the COP <i>took note</i> of decision 11/CMA.5 and decides to transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement contained in paragraphs 2–12 of that decision.</p>	<p>This was for Parties to consider.</p>

E. Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism (Decision 9/CP.28)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 5, the COP <i>invited</i> Parties to explore ways of enhancing the provision of technical and logistical support to their national designated entities and improving national-level coordination, including of national designated entities with operational focal points of the Global Environment Facility, national designated authorities of the Green Climate Fund, and designated authorities and national implementing entities of the Adaptation Fund;</p>	<p>This was for Parties. Through the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), National Designated Entities (NDEs) have been encouraged to liaise with their respective GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) to enhance collaboration through scaling up of projects and to develop common approaches to decision making on technology development and transfer. GEF national dialogues and expanded constituency workshops (ECWs), in addition, have been used as entry points to facilitate further coordination with GEF OFPs and to explore potential cooperation in a country-driven manner. Specifically, in the reporting period, the NDEs of Ghana, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Jordan participated in the national dialogues in their respective countries.</p>
<p>In paragraph 9, the COP <i>noted</i> the insufficient transfer and deployment of technology in developing countries, <i>encouraged</i> the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network to continue collaborating with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and relevant financial institutions with a view to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to prepare project proposals and facilitating their access to available funding for technology development and transfer and for implement the results of their technology needs assessments and technical assistance of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, and strengthening the transfer and deployment of technology, and calls for regional balance in this work.</p>	<p>This was for the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network. The development and transfer of low-carbon and climate-resilient technology had been a key cross-cutting theme for the GEF since its establishment. It continued to be at the core of the programming directions for GEF-8. The GEF continued to explore opportunities for further collaboration in support of technology development and transfer with the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), as consistent with national priorities and based on country demand.</p>

F. Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism (Decision 10/CP.28)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 1, the COP <i>welcomed</i> the enhanced collaboration between the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund and invites them to continue their collaboration;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation.</p>

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 2, the COP <i>noted</i> the collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism included in the joint work programme of the Technology Mechanism for 2023–2027 and invited the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network to use such collaboration to support technology development and transfer in developing countries with measurable, time-bound, and result-oriented actions;</p>	<p>This was for the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network.</p>
<p>In paragraph 3, the COP <i>welcomed</i> the funding for technology development and transfer provided and mobilized by the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility in partnership with the Climate Technology Centre and Network;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation.</p>
<p>In paragraph 4, the COP <i>noted</i> with appreciation the information provided by the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism on the linkages and collaboration between them in their reports to the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 4.</p>
<p>In paragraph 7, the COP <i>welcomed</i> the ongoing work of the Climate Technology Centre and Network as part of its project selected for support under the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation of the Global Environment Facility as well as the collaboration of the respective national designated entities and operational focal points in the context of the project;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 7.</p>
<p>In paragraph 8, the COP <i>also welcomed</i> the collaboration between the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism on identifying ways to enhance information-sharing and streamline coordination processes among national designated entities, national designated authorities of the Green Climate Fund and operational focal points of the Global Environment Facility and emphasized the importance of continued coordination among those national focal points;</p>	<p>Through the CTCN, NDEs have been encouraged to liaise with their respective GEF OFPs and to enhance collaboration through scaling up of projects and to develop a common approach to decision making on technology development and transfer.</p> <p>For example, GEF national dialogues and ECWs have been used as entry points to facilitate further coordination with GEF OFPs and to explore potential cooperation in a country-driven manner. Specifically, in the reporting period, the NDEs of Ghana, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Jordan participated in the national dialogues in their respective countries.</p>

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 9, the COP <i>encouraged</i> the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network to consider opportunities to support developing countries in accessing funding from the Global Environment Facility and/or the Green Climate Fund for work on climate technology incubators and accelerators, taking into account the specific needs of the least developed countries and small island developing States;</p>	<p>This is for the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network.</p>
<p>In Paragraph 10, the COP <i>invited Parties, the UNFCCC constituted bodies, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and other relevant stakeholders</i> to submit via the submission portal by 1 February 2024 views on maintaining and enhancing collaboration and cooperation between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism, including on linkages between the Mechanisms, taking into account the guiding questions contained in the annex;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 10.</p>
<p>In paragraph 12, the COP <i>also requested</i> the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network, in consultation with the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, to organize an in-session workshop at the sixtieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (June 2024) to take stock of the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism taking into account the views expressed in the submissions referred to in paragraph 10 above.</p>	<p>In response to the relevant COP guidance, TEC and CTCN, in consultation with the SBI Chair, organized an in-session workshop and the GEF was invited to participate. GEF Secretariat staff, as well as representatives from the GEF Council, participated in the event and shared experiences and information regarding the continued GEF support for technology transfer and its central role within the GEF investment strategy for both climate mitigation and adaptation. Existing linkages between the Financial and Technology Mechanisms were highlighted, including the ongoing efforts to support capacity building and coordination between the two mechanisms' national focal points. Finally, the GEF provided an update on the status of the financial support provided for Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs), information about which is also included in Part III, Section 2 of this report.</p>

G. Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022 (Decision 11/CP.28)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 2, the COP <i>invited</i> Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations organizations, observers, and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations referred to paragraph 1 above and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates.	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 2.

H. Terms of reference for the second review of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (Decision 12/CP.28)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 3, the COP <i>invited</i> Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, representatives of relevant processes under the Convention, and non-Party stakeholders to submit via the submission portal by 29 February 2024 views on the second review of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building based on the terms of reference contained in the annex for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its sixtieth session (June 2024).	The GEF also noted this decision in paragraph 3.

I. Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund (Decision 3/CMP.18)

<i>CMP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 2, the CMP <i>noted</i> the following information, actions and decisions relating to the Adaptation Fund Board presented in the report referred to in paragraph 1 above: (k) the continued enhancement of complementarity and coherence with other climate funds and building of linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;	While this guidance was not directly addressed to the GEF, this was noted as it relates to the ongoing efforts of the Multilateral Climate Funds to enhance complementarity and coherence and their collective impact.
In paragraph 15, the CMP <i>welcomed</i> the work of the Adaptation Fund Board on complementarity and coherence with other multilateral climate funds with respect to accreditation and other areas of operations and <i>encouraged</i> the Board to continue this work with a view to simplifying its access modalities, as appropriate;	While this guidance was not directly addressed to the GEF, this was noted as it relates to the ongoing efforts of the Multilateral Climate Funds to enhance complementarity and coherence and their collective impact.

J. Outcome of the first global stocktake (Decision 1/CMA.5)

CMA guidance	GEF response
<p>In paragraph 50, the CMA <i>recalled</i> the United Nations Secretary-General’s call made on World Meteorological Day on 23 March 2022 to protect everyone on Earth through universal coverage of early warning systems against extreme weather and climate change by 2027 and invited development partners, international financial institutions, and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to provide support for implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative;</p>	<p>In line with its climate adaptation programming strategy (2022-2026) priority theme of ‘Climate information and early warning systems’, the GEF Secretariat continued to work closely with partners of the Hydromet Alliance and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) to ensure coordinated and impactful support for LDCs and SIDS that is also aligned with the Early Warnings for All Initiative.</p>
<p>In paragraph 75, the CMA <i>emphasized</i> the ongoing challenges faced by many developing country Parties in accessing climate finance and <i>encouraged</i> further efforts, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to simplify access to such finance, in particular for those developing country Parties that have significant capacity constraints, such as the least developed countries and small island developing States;</p>	<p>The GEF took note of this guidance and reaffirms its commitment to the ongoing efforts to simplify, improve and increase access. Ongoing activities relevant for these efforts, both in terms of internal operational streamlining and external harmonization with other MCFs, are described above in this table in the section responding to COP guidance to the GEF (see responses to paragraphs 14 and 19 of Decision 7/CP.28: Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility).</p> <p>At its 67th Council Meeting (June 2024), having considered document GEF/C.67/05, Streamlining the GEF Project Cycle: Report from the Working Group on the Streamlining Process, the GEF Council: endorsed continued work by the Secretariat as outlined in that report, with support from Agencies and others as appropriate; encouraged Agencies to also identify areas for further streamlining and efficiencies within their own processes and to communicate these to the Secretariat and Working Group; and endorsed further development of proposals for decision in December 2024, taking into consideration advance consultation requirements for any proposals requiring changes to policy and guidelines.¹³</p>

13 GEF, 2024, *Joint Summary of the GEF Council Co-Chairs*, Council Document GEF/C.67/Jointsummary, Decision 24/2024.

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 8, the CMA <i>recognized</i> the importance of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Adaptation Fund in the climate finance architecture, <i>welcomed</i> the new pledges to the Fund made at this session, <i>urged</i> all contributors to fulfil their pledges in a timely manner and <i>invited</i> the contributors to ensure the sustainability of the resources of the Fund, including the share of proceeds;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation for the recognition.</p>
<p>In paragraph 83, the CMA <i>strongly urged</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to make full use of their current replenishment, calls on multilateral development banks and other financial institutions to further scale up investments in climate action and calls for a continued increase in the scale, and effectiveness of, and simplified access to, climate finance, including in the form of grants and other highly concessional forms of finance;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 83. As of June 2024, at the midpoint of the GEF-8 replenishment cycle, 54 percent of the GEF-8 Climate Change Mitigation Focal Area resources have been committed to new projects and programs in developing countries.¹⁴ For Climate Change Adaptation, approximately 49.5 percent of LDCF resources have been programmed. The share of MDBs and IFIs in the LDCF programming has also been significant in the GEF-8 period, with over 36 percent of the LDCF portfolio.¹⁵</p>
<p>In paragraph 95, the CMA <i>underscored</i> the importance of reforming the multilateral financial architecture, inter alia, multilateral development banks, acknowledges the updated vision statement by the World Bank to create a world free of poverty on a livable planet and by the multilateral development banks to strengthen collaboration for greater impact, and calls on their shareholders to expeditiously implement that vision and continue to significantly scale up the provision of climate finance in particular through grants and concessional instruments;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 95.</p>
<p>In paragraph 105, the CMA <i>encouraged</i> the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to enhance the involvement of stakeholders as they take action to strengthen the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism;</p>	<p>The GEF took note of this guidance and stood ready to support the involvement of stakeholders as consistent with national priorities and the GEF's mandate.</p>

¹⁴ GEF, 2024, *GEF-8 Corporate Scorecard – June 2024*.

¹⁵ GEF, 2024, *Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund, 36th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting*, Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.36/03.

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 110, the CMA <i>decided</i> to establish a technology implementation programme, supported by, inter alia, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to strengthen support for the implementation of technology priorities identified by developing countries, and to address the challenges identified in the first periodic assessment of the Technology Mechanism, and invites the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its sixty-first session (November 2024) to take into account the technology implementation programme in its consideration of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, with a view to recommending a draft decision on the matter for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its sixth session;</p>	<p>The GEF took note of this guidance and reaffirmed its commitment to support the implementation of technology options as consistent with national priorities and based on country demand.</p>

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 120, the CMA requested the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Adaptation Fund to further enhance support for capacity-building in developing countries and to provide updates thereon in their annual reports to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement and encouraged Parties to further enhance support for capacity-building, including through international cooperation;</p>	<p>The GEF continued to support capacity building needs by integrating capacity building elements into its projects and programs, in a country-driven manner.</p> <p>Enabling activities and CBIT projects were entirely devoted to building and installing capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. In addition, all approved GEF projects and programs, with very few exceptions, include components, outcomes and activities aimed at building and installing capacity to either limit or deal with the impacts or climate change, at national or local level.</p> <p>The large majority of projects with climate mitigation objectives addressed technical training, education and public awareness, enhancement of policies and enabling environments and institutional capacity building. Projects supported by the CBIT focus on institutional capacity building and GHG inventories, emission database management and systems for collecting, managing, and utilizing activity data and emission factors. For climate adaptation projects, efforts include capacity building for implementation of adaptation measures in various relevant sectors; education; training and public awareness; and enhancement of enabling environments.</p> <p>Additional capacity support was also made available, specifically for climate change adaptation, through the GEF regional adaptation programming and strategy workshops in LDCs and SIDS, as provided for under its new dedicated program for the GEF-8 cycle.</p> <p>The GEF continued to track and report in its annual report to the COP activities that are related to the UNFCCC capacity-building framework and its 15 priority areas, as listed in decision 2/CP.7.</p>

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 188, the CMA <i>encouraged</i> the relevant operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the constituted bodies under or serving the Paris Agreement to continue to provide, within their mandates, capacity-building support for the preparation and communication of the next nationally determined contributions.</p>	<p>The GEF stood ready to provide capacity-building support for countries to prepare and implement their next round of NDCs. Countries can access resources from their GEF STAR allowances for this purpose and can continue to use CBIT resources for objectives that are closely related. Indeed, as of June 30, 2024, approximately 60 percent of CBIT country projects have included objectives related to NDC enhancement and policy analysis and review.</p> <p>The GEF had been invited by the UNFCCC Secretariat and the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centers (RCCs) to participate in and contribute to several workshops and events intended to raise awareness and to present the type of support available from different international organizations and development partners for the preparation and implementation stages of the new round of NDCs, which is due for submission to the UNFCCC at the end of 2025.</p> <p>In addition, several ongoing GEF projects and programs included activities that were ultimately designed to support in-country processes contributing to the preparation of new or updated NDCs. One such example was the Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator Integrated Program, under which 12 countries have been selected globally to implement national child projects. These countries, representing a balanced regional distribution, were receiving financing from the GEF to prepare or to enhance the ambition of their long-term low-emission development plans and NDCs through support targeting, inter alia, socio-economic modeling and data analysis, enabling informed decision-making and identification of the most cost-effective, socially-just, and climate-positive policy reforms, to be prioritized for inclusion in the upcoming or successive rounds of NDC updates.</p>

K. Global goal on adaptation (Decision 2/CMA.5)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 25, the CMA <i>recognized</i> the importance of the timeliness and predictability of adaptation finance and the need to accelerate efforts to enhance access to adaptation finance, with a focus on facilitating direct access by harmonizing and simplifying access procedures.	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 25.

L. Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme referred to in decision 4/CMA.4 (Decision 4/CMA.5)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 10, the CMA <i>requested</i> the secretariat to organize, under the guidance of the co-chairs of the work programme, future global dialogues and investment-focused events in a manner that enables effective engagement of participants, including by (c) enhancing the investment-focused events, with a view to unlocking finance, including through presentations by Parties to potential financiers, and by inviting to the events more multilateral development banks, financial institutions and representatives of relevant multilateral climate funds, including the Green Climate Fund.	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 10. The GEF stood ready to participate in and contribute to this work programme.

M. New collective quantified goal on climate finance (Decision 8/CMA.5)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 14, the CMA <i>invited</i> Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, climate finance institutions, observers, and other stakeholders, including from the private sector, to submit views in advance of each technical expert dialogue and meeting under the ad hoc work programme via the submission portal.	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 14.

N. Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance (Decision 9/CMA.5)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 11, the CMA <i>invited</i> Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, climate finance institutions, observers and observer organizations, and other stakeholders, particularly from the private sector, to submit via the submission portal by 31 March 2024 their views on the issues to be addressed during the workshops under the Sharm el-Sheikh Dialogue on Article 2, paragraph 1(c) of the Paris Agreement</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 11.</p>

O. Guidance to the Global Environment Facility (Decision 11/CMA.5)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 1, the CMA <i>recommended</i> that the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-eighth session transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance contained in paragraphs 2–12 below;</p>	<p>This was for the COP</p>
<p>In paragraph 2, the CMA <i>welcomed</i> the support provided in accordance with Article 13 of the Paris Agreement through the Global Environment Facility to developing countries in relation to their implementation of the enhanced transparency framework during the reporting period (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023), including support for: (a) Preparing biennial transparency reports, including through the combined application process for preparing multiple biennial transparency reports and the expedited process for projects related to biennial transparency reports; (b) Implementing 89 projects under the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency in 87 countries aimed at building national capacity to implement the enhanced transparency framework;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation for the recognition of the efforts by the GEF to support the implementation of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.</p>
<p>In paragraph 3, the CMA <i>underlined</i> the importance of providing adequate and predictable support to developing countries for preparing biennial transparency reports;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 3.</p>

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 4, the CMA <i>encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue efforts to provide, in an expeditious manner, adequate, predictable, and timely financial support to developing countries for preparing biennial transparency reports, and to enhance collaboration with its implementing agencies to promote timely delivery of support;</p>	<p>The GEF had continued to provide timely support to developing countries for the preparation of their BTRs during the reporting period. Following the work conducted in the previous reporting periods to define and adequately communicate modalities of support provision for BTRs, the GEF Secretariat continued to work closely with countries requesting support for BTR preparation, with a view to allowing sufficient lead-time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024. As of June 2024, the GEF had approved BTR support to 102 countries for 144 BTRs, and three additional countries have submitted requests for GEF financial support for BTR preparation.</p> <p>The GEF also continued to provide funding to support countries through the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). Each CBIT proposal submitted to the GEF Secretariat had received support, upon technical clearance, in line with the Paris Agreement decision to provide support upon request. As of June 30, 2024, the entire CBIT portfolio included 96 projects covering 88 countries, 88 national projects, one regional project (covering four countries), and seven global projects, totaling \$159.7 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs. Progress made on the CBIT, including portfolio analysis and outlook, was presented to the 67th Council as an information document.¹⁶</p>

¹⁶ GEF, 2024, *Progress Report on the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency*, Council Document GEF/C.67/Inf.06.

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 5, the CMA <i>underscored</i> the importance of the Global Environment Facility exploring alternative programming modalities, procedures, and processes for facilitating and expediting access to financial resources for enabling activities;</p>	<p>The GEF took note of this guidance and reaffirms its commitment to its ongoing efforts to simplify and increase access to its resources, including for enabling activities. Operational improvements implemented in previous reporting periods within GEF-8 include: (i) the revision and streamlining of all funding application templates (including the forms available for the submission of PIFs for MSPs and FSPs, PFDs, and the template to request enabling activities), (ii) the introduction of the possibility for Parties to request their entire resource envelope for enabling activities and reporting within one 4-year GEF cycle (which includes one National Communication and two BTRs), with one single bundled application, (iii) the establishment of coordination practices between the GEF and its agencies to ensure support is provided to as many developing countries as possible, (iv) the provision of online and in-person workshops together with the UNFCCC, the CBIT Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) and GEF agencies to developing countries about support provided by the GEF to enabling activities and the CBIT, (v) bilateral meetings with developing countries, upon request, to further explain modalities of support and offer advice and troubleshooting as needed.</p> <p>These measures have helped shorten the time from application to approval substantially, with averages for new submissions now ranging between 1 and 3 months.</p>
<p>In paragraph 6, the CMA <i>encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-ninth session (November 2024) information on lessons learned with respect to enabling activities, in particular the costs, access modalities and delivery of support to prepare the first biennial transparency reports;</p>	<p>Reference was made to section III.5. of the GEF report to UNFCCC COP29.</p>

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 7, the CMA <i>requested</i> the Global Environment Facility in administering the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund to take into account, in the context of its adaptation strategy, the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience referred to in decision 2/CMA.5, and to explore ways to support Parties in achieving the global goal on adaptation;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 7. The GEF appreciated the importance of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience for guiding the achievement of the global goal on adaptation and for reviewing overall progress in achieving it, as well as for guiding and strengthening efforts toward reducing vulnerability and enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience. As such, the GEF will continue to observe and to engage in discussions under the UNFCCC process related to the development of this goal, including with a view to informing the GEF's climate change adaptation strategy for the next GEF cycle.</p>
<p>In paragraph 8, the CMA <i>encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider including in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on support provided for research development and demonstration;</p>	<p>While the GEF does not support basic research and development, some projects may include activities of relevance to applied research and piloting as demonstrations. They are included in project descriptions.</p>
<p>In paragraph 9, the CMA <i>also encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to further explore ways to provide support for assessing developing countries' needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and for translating climate finance needs into action;</p>	<p>The GEF continued to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among other efforts, the GEF continued to provide resources for transparency-related capacity-building through the CBIT, for technology needs assessments (TNAs), and for other initiatives such as expanded constituency workshops (ECWs), in an effort to enhance the abilities of developing countries to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into action.</p>
<p>In paragraph 10, the CMA <i>further encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to further strengthen its approach to mobilizing private finance, including through blended finance, with a view to de-risking scalable projects in developing countries and contributing to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement;</p>	<p>The programming of resources under the GEF's Blended Finance Global Program continued during the reporting period; as of June 30, 2024, out of the GEF-8 envelope of \$196 million, \$147 million have now been programmed in 9 highly innovative operations of which 5 projects are under the CCM focal area. The projects selected seek to support new technologies like green hydrogen in Chile; to support financial structures that target Scope 3 emissions; or to encourage replicability and scaling up of existing technologies in renewable energy and energy efficiency with high participation by the private sector.</p>

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 11, the CMA <i>encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to participate in the workshops referred to in paragraph 14 of decision 18/CMA.5;	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 11. The GEF intended to participate in the referenced workshops.
In paragraph 12, the CMA <i>requested</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider ways to enhance the institutional capacity of developing country Parties to assist them in meeting their reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement in accordance with its Article 13, in the context of its enabling activities, and to report thereon in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-ninth session.	<p>The GEF had continued to program resources to assist developing countries in strengthening their institutional capacity in relation to the reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement. As mentioned above in this table, the primary objective of the CBIT is indeed that of building such institutional capacity.</p> <p>Analysis of the CBIT portfolio showed that, as of June 30, 2024, CBIT support was primarily being used by countries to develop the necessary institutional arrangements and to build their technical capacity to track mitigation progress (80.4 and 90.2 percent of projects, respectively). Also, 28.3 percent of projects included developing projections or scenario modeling as a component. This was encouraging as it indicated that CBIT is assisting countries with some of the more advanced and complex aspects of the transparency requirements under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.</p>

P. Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund (Decision 12/CMA.5)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 2, the CMA <i>noted</i> the following information, actions and decisions relating to the Adaptation Fund Board presented in the report referred to in paragraph 1 above: (k) the continued enhancement of complementarity and coherence with other climate funds and building of linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;	While this guidance was not directly addressed to the GEF, this was noted as it relates to the ongoing efforts of the MCFs to enhance complementarity and coherence and their collective impact.
In paragraph 15, the CMA <i>welcomed</i> the work of the Adaptation Fund Board on complementarity and coherence with other multilateral climate funds with respect to accreditation and other areas of operations and encouraged the Board to continue this work with a view to simplifying its access modalities, as appropriate.	While this guidance was not directly addressed to the GEF, this was noted as it relates to the ongoing efforts of the MCFs to enhance complementarity and coherence and their collective impact.

Q. Enhancing climate technology development and transfer to support implementation of the Paris Agreement (Decision 14/CMA.5)

CMA guidance	GEF response
<p>In paragraph 5, the CMA <i>invited</i> Parties to explore ways of enhancing the provision of technical and logistical support to their national designated entities and improving national- level coordination, including of national designated entities with operational focal points of the Global Environment Facility, national designated authorities of the Green Climate Fund, and designated authorities and national implementing entities of the Adaptation Fund;</p>	<p>This was for Parties. Through the CTCN, NDEs have been encouraged to liaise with their respective GEF OFPs and to enhance collaboration through scaling up of projects and developing a common approach to decision making on technology development and transfer-related matters. For example, GEF national dialogues and ECWs have been used as entry points to facilitate further coordination with GEF OFPs and to explore potential cooperation in a country-driven manner. Specifically, in the reporting period, the NDEs of Ghana, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Jordan participated in the national dialogues in their respective countries.</p>
<p>In paragraph 9, the CMA <i>noted</i> the insufficient transfer and deployment of technology in developing countries, <i>encouraged</i> the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network to continue collaborating with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and relevant financial institutions with a view to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to prepare project proposals and facilitating their access to available funding for technology development and transfer and to implement the results of their technology needs assessments and technical assistance of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, and strengthening the transfer and deployment of technology, and <i>called</i> for regional balance in this work.</p>	<p>The development and transfer of low-carbon and climate-resilient technology had been a key cross-cutting theme for the GEF since its establishment. It continues to be at the core of the programming directions for GEF-8. The GEF continued to explore opportunities for further collaboration in support of technology development and transfer with the TEC and the CTCN, as consistent with national priorities and based on country demand.</p>

R. Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2023 (Decision 15/CMA.5)

CMA guidance	GEF response
<p>In paragraph 2, the CMA <i>invited</i> Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations organizations, observers, and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations referred to paragraph 1 above and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates.</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 2.</p>

S. Terms of reference for the second review of the Paris Committee on capacity-building (Decision 16/CMA.5)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 4, the CMA <i>invited</i> Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, representatives of relevant processes under the Convention, and non-Party stakeholders to submit via the submission portal by 29 February 2024 views on the second review of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building based on the terms of reference contained in the annex for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its sixtieth session (June 2024).</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 4.</p>

T. Work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement and in decision 4/CMA.3 (Decision 17/CMA.5):

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 8, the CMA <i>recalled</i> decision 8/CMA.4, paragraph 8, which invited interested Parties, relevant bodies, institutional arrangements and processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement related to, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, including United Nations bodies, multilateral, bilateral and other public donors, and private and non-governmental organizations to provide information on financial, technology and capacity-building support available or provided for identifying, developing or implementing non-market approaches for recording on the UNFCCC web- based platform;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 8</p>

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 16, the CMA <i>requested</i> the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, as the convener of the Glasgow Committee on Non-market Approaches, to invite interested Parties, relevant bodies, institutional arrangements and processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement related to, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, including United Nations bodies, multilateral, bilateral and other public donors, and private and non-governmental organizations, to have a focused exchange of views on financial, technology and capacity- building support available or provided for identifying and developing non-market approaches, including on enhancing access to various types of support and identifying investment opportunities and actionable solutions that support the achievement of nationally determined contributions, as part of the in-session workshop referred to in paragraph 15(c) above.</p>	<p>In response to the COP guidance, the Glasgow Committee on Non-market Approaches, in consultation with the SBSTA co-chair, organized an in-session workshop on non-market approaches (NMAs) on June 4 and 8, 2024, during the 60th Subsidiary Body meetings in Bonn, Germany. GEF Secretariat staff was invited to participate and presented an overview of the GEF and its relevance to NMAs under Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement.</p>

U. Provision of financial and technical support to developing country Parties for reporting and capacity-building (Decision 18/CMA.5)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 1, the CMA <i>welcomed</i> the action taken by the Global Environment Facility to provide support to developing country Parties for preparing their biennial transparency reports and building their institutional and technical capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation for the recognition.</p>
<p>In paragraph 3, the CMA <i>appreciated</i> the efforts of the Global Environment Facility in developing an expedited process for projects combining multiple reports, including biennial transparency reports and national communications;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation for the recognition.</p>

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 4, the CMA <i>acknowledged</i> the increase in the allocation to the climate change focal area set aside for enabling activities, including the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, from USD 165 million in the seventh replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility to USD 220 million in the eighth cycle, and welcomed that, within the agreed resource allocation framework for the eighth cycle, USD 75 million has been allocated to the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, a 36 per cent increase on the allocation in the seventh cycle;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 4.</p>
<p>In paragraph 5, the CMA <i>welcomed</i> the reports by the Global Environment Facility on its progress in supporting implementation of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation for the recognition.</p>
<p>In paragraph 6, the CMA <i>appreciated</i> the oral report made by the Global Environment Facility at the fifty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation under the agenda items on the provision of financial and technical support for developing country Parties for reporting under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 6.</p>
<p>In paragraph 7, the CMA <i>also appreciated</i> the launch of the Climate Transparency Platform, an online tool for facilitating reporting by developing country Parties under the enhanced transparency framework;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 7.</p>
<p>In paragraph 8, the CMA <i>acknowledged</i> the existing financial, technical, and capacity-building support for developing country Parties to address challenges in implementing the enhanced transparency framework that is available through bilateral, multilateral, and other channels;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 8.</p>

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 11, the CMA <i>underscored</i> the importance of the Global Environment Facility continuing its efforts to provide adequate and timely support to developing country Parties for implementing the enhanced transparency framework, to further simplify the existing processes for approving projects under the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies, and exploring alternative programming modalities, procedures and processes for facilitating and expediting access to financial resources for enabling activities for supporting developing country Parties in meeting their requirements under the enhanced transparency framework and for building and enhancing their institutional and technical capacity for reporting under the Paris Agreement on a continuous basis;</p>	<p>Regarding mobilization of finance for reporting and enabling activities under the UNFCCC, the GEF continued to review and approve projects in a timely manner during the reporting period. The GEF Trust Fund continued to support National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), through the programming of medium-sized and full-sized projects.</p> <p>Following the work conducted in the previous reporting periods to define and communicate modalities of support provision for BTRs, the GEF Secretariat continued to work closely with countries requesting support for BTR preparation, with the view to allow sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024. As of June 30, 2024, the GEF has approved BTR support to 102 countries for 144 BTRs, and three additional countries have submitted requests for GEF financial support for BTR preparation.</p> <p>The GEF also continued to provide funding to support countries through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). Each CBIT proposal submitted to the GEF Secretariat has received support, upon technical clearance, in line with the Paris Agreement decision to provide support upon request. As of June 30, 2024, the entire CBIT portfolio includes 96 projects covering 88 countries, 88 national projects, one regional project (covering four countries), and seven global projects, totaling \$159.7 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs. Progress made on the CBIT, including portfolio analysis and outlook, is presented to the 67th Council as an information document.¹⁷</p>

¹⁷ GEF, 2024, *Progress Report on the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency*, Council Document GEF/C.67/Inf.06.

CMA guidance	GEF response
	<p>For this reporting period, one significant measure that was considered and approved by the GEF Council at its 66th Council Meeting (February 2024) was increasing the cap on the size of Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs) from \$2 to \$5 million.¹⁸ The financing ceiling for GEF Trust Fund MSPs was initially set at \$1 million and was later raised to \$2 million in 2012. This most recent increase in the MSP cap is expected to enable a greater number of projects and value of GEF financing to benefit from the more streamlined approval process. At its 67th Council Meeting (June 2024), having considered document GEF/C.67/05, Streamlining the GEF Project Cycle: Report from the Working Group on the Streamlining Process, the GEF Council: endorsed continued work by the Secretariat as outlined in that report, with support from Agencies and others as appropriate; encouraged Agencies to also identify areas for further streamlining and efficiencies within their own processes and to communicate these to the Secretariat and Working Group; and endorsed further development of proposals for decision in December 2024, taking into consideration advance consultation requirements for any proposals requiring changes to policy and guidelines.¹⁹</p> <p>In addition, with the establishment of a simplified project and program cycle for the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), which is managed by the GEF Secretariat, it is expected that experiences with the deployment of these further simplified processes will be assessed and will inform the extent to which further simplification measures can be considered for the project cycle(s) of the GEF Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund.</p>

18 GEF, 2024, *Joint Summary of the GEF Council Co-Chairs*, Council Document GEF/C.66/Jointsummary, Decision 3/2024.

19 GEF, 2024, *Joint Summary of the GEF Council Co-Chairs*, Council Document GEF/C.67/Jointsummary, Decision 24/2024.

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 14, the CMA requested the secretariat to organize an in-person workshop, to be held at the sixtieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (June 2024), as well as regional online workshops to be held prior to that session, with the relevant stakeholders, such as the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies, as appropriate, on support available to developing country Parties for preparing their biennial transparency reports and enhancing sustainable institutional capacity and national reporting systems within their Governments for implementing the enhanced transparency framework, and in providing guidance on the application process for transparency-related projects.</p>	<p>A GEF delegation participated in the 60th session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC (SB 60), held in Bonn, Germany, from June 3 to 13, 2024. Delegation members participated in various technical engagements, including those related to capacity building and transparency, among other issues.</p> <p>At SB 60, GEF staff was also invited to contribute to in-session workshops, including on support available to developing country Parties for preparing their biennial transparency reports. As is customary, the GEF was also invited to submit a written statement in relation to the SBI agenda item on Provision of Financial Support for Reporting (SBI 4b) and was further invited by Parties to provide an oral update outlining the status of programming of resources for enabling activities, under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and for the CBIT.</p> <p>In addition, the GEF has participated in four regional workshops organized by the UNFCCC in advance of SB 60, covering respectively (i) Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern America, (ii) Africa and Europe, (iii) Asia and Pacific and (iv) the Pacific, which were held between April 15 and 18, 2024.</p>

V. SBI 59 Conclusions on matters relating to the least developed countries

<i>SBI conclusions</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>Expressed appreciation to the entities undertaking activities to support the Least Developed Countries, including in accessing funding for adaptation action, such as the organization by the Global Environment Facility of workshops for African, Asian and Pacific Least Developed Countries, and requested the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to contribute to such activities, as appropriate;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation for the recognition.</p>

<i>SBI conclusions</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p><i>Noted that as at 4 December 2023, of the 46 Least Developed Countries, 5 had accessed funding related to the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) through the Least Developed Countries Fund during the eighth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility (2022–2026);</i></p>	<p>The GEF noted this conclusion.</p>
<p><i>Requested the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to convene a meeting with the Adaptation Fund, the GCF, the GEF and other relevant organizations, as part of NAP Expo 2024, to identify ways to assist the Least Developed Countries in expeditiously implementing adaptation action based on priorities identified in their NAPs, and to include recommendations in its reports to the SBI with a view to addressing the challenges, gaps and needs that the Least Developed Countries continue to face in accessing funding for implementing NAPs;</i></p>	<p>The GEF appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Least-Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) members at the recent NAP Expo 2024 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, held in April 2024, to discuss ways to assist LDCs in expeditiously implementing climate adaptation action.</p>
<p><i>Welcomed the support provided by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to the Least Developed Countries for addressing identified data gaps and other gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, including through the Open NAPs and NAP Data initiatives, and the continued collaboration of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group with the Adaptation Fund Board, Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility secretariats on enhancing access to funding by the Least Developed Countries for implementing NAPs under the NAP implementation pipeline development initiative and requested the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to scale up these collaborative efforts;</i></p>	<p>The GEF looked forward to continued collaboration with LEG and other partners for enhancing access to the LDCF.</p>

<i>SBI conclusions</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>Noted with appreciation the financial pledges, totaling USD 141.74 million, made by the Governments of Belgium, France, Germany, Norway, Spain, and Sweden to the Least Developed Countries Fund at the Global Environment Facility pledging conference held on 4 December 2023, and called for additional contributions to the Fund.</p>	<p>The GEF took note of the appreciation and looked forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>

Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt



I. COP 27 Decisions and GEF Responses

1. The twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) was held from 6-20 November 2022, in Sharm el-Sheikh, presided over by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 4) also took place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.
2. COP 27 and CMA 4 in 2022 provided specific guidance to the GEF, while the conclusions of SBI 57, as well as SBSTA 57, also contain matters of relevance to the GEF. Key topics include: role of the GEF as one of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention and the Paris Agreement; appreciation for contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LCDF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF); efforts to scale up adaptation in small island developing States (SIDS) through the dedicated SCCF window; funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage; progress on programming with the conclusion of the GEF-8 replenishment cycle; improvement of efficiency in the GEF project cycle; progress on capacity-building activities, including those related to the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) requirements under the Paris Agreement (Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, or CBIT, and biennial transparency reports, or BTRs); increased collaboration with support provided by the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) for technology transfer activities; expedited process for projects related to BTRs and further consultation on support to implementing the ETF.
3. Other matters of relevance to the GEF include: further efforts, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to simplify access to climate finance; invitation to development partners, international financial institutions, and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to provide support for implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative.
4. The reporting period for the GEF responses below is GEF fiscal year (FY) 2023, from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

A. Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (Decision 1/CP.27)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 23, the COP highlighted the role of the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund in supporting actions by developing countries to address climate change, and welcomed the pledges made to the two Funds and invited developed countries to further contribute to the two Funds;</p>	<p>The GEF appreciated pledges of \$105.6 million in total to the LDCF and SCCF¹ made at the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF held on the margins of COP 27.</p> <p>In particular, the GEF expressed appreciation of the new pledge of \$35 million towards SCCF's dedicated focus on SIDS as a key avenue of climate finance that is otherwise lacking.</p> <p>The GEF looked forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>In paragraph 30, the COP welcomed and reiterated the United Nations Secretary-General's call made on World Meteorological Day on 23 March 2022 to protect everyone on Earth through universal coverage of early warning systems against extreme weather and climate change within the next five years and invited development partners, international financial institutions and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to provide support for implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative;</p>	<p>The GEF had been supporting activities that help countries set up and operationalize early warning systems.</p> <p>In GEF-8, this support would continue, with a focus on bridging climate information value-chain gaps, expanding access to early warning systems, and striving for greater user uptake and application of climate information services under the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026).</p>
<p>In paragraph 42, the COP emphasized the ongoing challenges faced by many developing country Parties in accessing climate finance and encourages further efforts, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to simplify access to such finance;</p>	<p>The GEF took note of the encouragement to undertake further efforts to enhance access to finance and continues to work towards streamlining its operational procedures and increasing efficiency of access to its funds, in consultation with the other GEF partners, particularly the GEF Agencies. The GEF-8 replenishment resolution included commitments to propose concrete actions for consideration by the GEF Council by December 2023 and work was in progress on this.²</p> <p>Furthermore, GEF-8 replenishment negotiations had simplified access to finance under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) by allowing for full flexibility across focal areas in the use of resources allocated to countries under STAR.</p>

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

2 The GEF-8 Replenishment Resolution is included in the *Summary of Negotiations of the Eighth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund* (Council Document GEF/C.62/03).

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
	<p>In addition, the GEF revised and streamlined its funding application templates, including the forms available for the submission of project identification forms (PIFs) for medium-sized projects (MSPs) and full-sized projects (FSPs), program framework documents (PFDs) for multi-country programs, and the template to request enabling activity (EA) funding for reporting obligations.</p> <p>Additional efforts were ongoing within the GEF Partnership to identify adjustments that could further contribute to streamlining and simplifying the processes for countries, Council, and Agencies in designing, approving and executing GEF projects, ultimately reducing the overall timeline and effort required for countries to access GEF resources.</p>

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

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 7, the COP invited United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and bilateral, multilateral, and international financial institutions to submit inputs on how they might enhance access to and/or the speed, scope, and scale of availability of finance for activities relevant to addressing loss and damage, including potential limitations and barriers and options for addressing them;</p>	<p>The GEF was actively following discussions in relation to this Decision and providing necessary inputs. At the first Transitional Committee meeting, the GEF presented ongoing support that helps countries to address loss and damage within the scope of CCA.</p> <p>In addition, as requested by the UNFCCC Secretariat, the GEF had seconded two members of the GEF Secretariat as members of the technical support unit that supports the work of the Transitional Committee on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements and fund for loss and damage.</p>
<p>In paragraph 11, the COP invited the United Nations Secretary-General to convene the principals of international financial institutions and other relevant entities with a view to identifying the most effective ways to provide funding to respond to needs related to addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 11.</p>

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 12, the COP also invited international financial institutions to consider, at the 2023 Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, the potential for such institutions to contribute to funding arrangements, including new and innovative approaches, responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 12.
In paragraph 13, the COP reiterated decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 64, in which developed country Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations entities, and intergovernmental organizations and other bilateral and multilateral institutions, including non-governmental organizations and private sources, are urged to provide enhanced and additional support for activities addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;	<p>While the GEF had not received a specific mandate to support loss and damage, it had been supporting activities that help countries address and mitigate risk, such as early warning systems and insurance, within the scope of its LDCF/SCCF support. A recent initiative with the Vulnerable Twenty was a good example.</p> <p>In GEF-8, this support is continuing, with a focus on bridging climate information value-chain gaps, expanding access to early warning systems, and striving for greater user uptake and application of climate information services under the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026).</p>

C. Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security (Decision 3/CP.27)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 5, the COP welcomed the participation of representatives of constituted bodies, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and observer organizations in workshops under the Koronivia joint work on agriculture	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 5.
In paragraph 11, the COP underscored the importance of constituted bodies and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism taking into account the conclusions of the subsidiary bodies in implementing their actions and workplans, according to their mandates;	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 11.

COP guidance	GEF response
<p>In paragraph 14, the COP requested that the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation establish the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, including implementation of the outcomes of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and previous activities addressing issues related to agriculture, as well as future topics, recognizing that solutions are context-specific and take into account national circumstances, with the following objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Enhancing coherence, synergies, coordination, communication, and interaction between Parties, constituted bodies, and workstreams, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund in order to facilitate the implementation of action to address issues related to agriculture and food security; b. Providing support and technical advice to Parties, constituted bodies, and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security, respecting the Party-driven approach and in accordance with their respective procedures and mandates; 	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 14. The GEF was ready to engage with the SBSTA, Parties, constituted bodies, and workstreams in the context of the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.</p>
<p>In paragraph 15, the COP also requested the secretariat to support the joint work by holding in-session workshops in hybrid format, facilitating both virtual and in-person participation, on agreed topics related to agriculture and food security at the first regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies each year and inviting representatives of the constituted bodies under the Convention, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund and observers to them.</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 15.</p>

D. Matters relating to the least developed countries (Decision 10/CP.27)

COP guidance	GEF response
<p>In paragraph 10, the COP underscored the importance of developing project pipelines and proposals for implementing adaptation actions associated with the priorities in the national adaptation plans of the least developed countries and encourage relevant organizations, as well as operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to enhance support to the least developed countries in this regard;</p>	<p>The GEF-8 CCA strategy recognized the importance of developing project pipelines and proposals for implementing CCA actions. Therefore, the strategy introduced three dedicated programs that contribute to project pipelines and proposals. The dedicated program on "Outreach and Capacity Support for LDC and SIDS Planning and Programming" directly responded to the countries' need to strengthen the design of LDCF project concepts for greater CCA impact, and to enhance access to CCA finance and enable coordinated programming across various funding sources.</p>

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
	Furthermore, the GEF Secretariat was collaborating with other operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the UNFCCC to support activities to formulate technical guidelines for the implementation of national adaptation plans.
In paragraph 11, the COP noted with appreciation the financial pledges, totalling USD 70.6 million, made by the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden, and Switzerland and the government of the Walloon Region of Belgium to the Least Developed Countries Fund and urged additional contributions to the Fund;	<p>The GEF expressed appreciation for the pledges to the LDCF made at the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF held on the margins of COP 27.</p> <p>The GEF looked forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
In the Annex paragraph XIII – 57, the COP decided that the least developed countries expert group shall invite the secretariats of the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and the Adaptation Fund to its meetings to discuss collaboration in supporting the least developed countries.	The GEF noted this decision in Annex paragraph XIII - 57.

E. Long-term climate finance (Decision 13/CP.27)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 5, the COP welcomed the recent pledges made to the Adaptation Fund (totalling \$211.6 million), the Least Developed Countries Fund (totalling \$70.6 million), the Special Climate Change Fund (totalling \$35.0 million) and the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (totalling \$5.3 billion and with a climate-related finance target of no less than 80 percent of all funding commitments in the eighth replenishment period) and urged developed country Parties to fulfil their pledges on time;	The GEF expressed appreciation for the pledges made to the GEF Trust Fund, LDCF, and SCCF, and looked forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.
In paragraph 8, the COP also reiterated that a significant amount of adaptation finance should flow through the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund;	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 8.

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 9, the COP emphasized the need for further efforts to enhance access to climate finance, including through harmonized, simplified, and direct access procedures;	<p>In the reporting period, the GEF had continued to undertake efforts to enhance access to climate finance by the Parties, including through the streamlining of its funding request templates for projects, programs, and EAs.</p> <p>The GEF had also continued its engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in the context of the LTV and with the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance, as encouraged by Decision 12/CMA.3, to support an initial group of five pilot countries in carrying out coordinated and joint programming between the GEF and GCF, and to further coordinate and improve on the on-the-ground delivery of climate finance.</p>
In paragraph 11, the COP reiterated that the secretariat, in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies and bilateral, regional, and other multilateral channels, would continue to explore ways and means to assist developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including their technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action;	The GEF continued to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among other efforts, the GEF continued to provide resources for transparency-related capacity-building through the CBIT, for technology needs assessments (TNAs), and for other initiatives such as expanded constituency workshops (ECWs), in an effort to enhance the abilities of developing countries to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into action.

F. Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility (Decision 17/CP.27)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 1, the COP welcomed the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-seventh session and its addendum, including the response of the Global Environment Facility to the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties;	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 1.
In paragraph 2, the COP also welcomed the work undertaken by the Global Environment Facility during the reporting period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, including:	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 2 with appreciation of recognition of the work undertaken.

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The approval of 86 climate change projects and programmes under the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund; b. The continued integration of climate change priorities into its other focal areas and integrated programmes and the expected avoidance or sequestration of 76.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent achieved through such integration; c. The continued implementation of the long-term vision on complementarity, coherence, and collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility; d. The creation of a competitive window in the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources amounting to 8 percent of the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources allocation for the five top recipient countries under this system; 	
<p>In paragraph 3, the COP further welcomed the conclusion of the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility amounting to \$5.3 billion, while noting that overall resources available for programming for the climate change focal area in the eighth replenishment increased by 6 percent compared with the resources available in the seventh replenishment;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 3.</p>
<p>In paragraph 4, the COP welcomed the integrated programming approach of the Global Environment Facility across all five of its focal areas, which should help it to maximize the global environmental benefits of its support;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 4.</p>
<p>In paragraph 5, the COP noted the adoption of the private sector engagement strategy by the Global Environment Facility Council at its fifty-ninth meeting and the renewed non-grant instrument under the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and encouraged the Global Environment Facility to enhance its efforts to mobilize and engage with the private sector during the eighth replenishment period;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 5.</p>

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 6, the COP welcomed the increased allocation of resources to small island developing States and the least developed countries in the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources, including through harmonizing the small island developing State floors with the least developed country floors and raising these floors to USD 8 million;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 6.</p>
<p>In paragraph 7, the COP appreciated the efforts of the Global Environment Facility secretariat to scale up adaptation finance for small island developing States through the designation of a dedicated window under the Special Climate Change Fund for supporting the adaptation needs of small island developing States and encouraged continued and increased voluntary contributions of financial resources to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund in line with the Global Environment Facility's 2022–2026 programming strategy on adaptation to climate change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p>	<p>The GEF took note of the appreciation and looked forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>In paragraph 8, the COP also encouraged the Global Environment Facility, in administering the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, to support developing country Parties in implementing national adaptation plans and other national adaptation planning processes and urged developed country Parties to increase their voluntary contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p>	<p>The GEF looked forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>In paragraph 9, the COP encouraged the Global Environment Facility to work towards implementing its programming strategy on adaptation to climate change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund during the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility so as to effectively assist developing countries;</p>	<p>The GEF would make concerted efforts to effectively implement the Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF.</p> <p>The GEF looked forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 10, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to continue to foster greater diversity of its implementing agencies, building on the comparative advantages of the various agencies and taking into account recipient country priorities;</p>	<p>The GEF-8 Replenishment Resolution included a request for the Secretariat to monitor and report on the achievement of diversification efforts – particularly an aspirational target for the regional multilateral development banks and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, whose collective share should reach at least ten percent of the approved amounts in GEF-8, and a notional limit of 30 percent on programming by any one GEF Agency.</p>
<p>In paragraph 11, the COP called on the Global Environment Facility to enhance its support, within its mandate, for implementing the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan;</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat implemented the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan with guidance by its Gender Policy and Gender Equality Implementation Strategy. In 2022, 100 percent of projects at Chief Executive Officer (CEO) endorsement/approval stage had detailed gender analysis and all planned to include gender-responsive results framework. These include projects that support the gender-responsive implementation of the UNFCCC, including its gender action plan. The GEF Gender Partnership (GGP), convened by the GEF Secretariat, was working with the UNFCCC Secretariat to support the implementation of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan. Planned activities under the GGP included, among others: updating the e-course on gender and the environment (climate change module), holding a webinar and/or joint capacity-building and awareness-raising session for the national gender and climate change focal points of the UNFCCC.</p>
<p>In paragraph 12, the COP encouraged the Global Environment Facility Secretariat to recommend further streamlining measures aimed at reducing transaction costs for all implementing agencies, reducing administrative costs and facilitating increased access by multilateral development banks;</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat took note of the encouragement to undertake further efforts to enhance access to finance and continued to work towards streamlining its operational procedures and increasing efficiency of access to its funds, in consultation with the other GEF partners, particularly the GEF Agencies. The GEF-8 Replenishment Resolution included commitments to propose concrete actions for consideration by the GEF Council by December 2023 and work was in progress on this.</p> <p>In the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat had revised and streamlined its funding application templates, including the forms available for the submission of PIFs for MSPs and FSPs, PFDs, and the template to request EA funding for reporting obligations. Based on the preliminary observations in the first year of GEF-8, the use of the new templates had resulted in substantially shorter funding applications.</p>

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
	<p>In addition, efforts were ongoing within the GEF Partnership to identify adjustments that could further contribute to streamlining and simplifying the process for countries, Council and Agencies in designing, approving and executing GEF projects, ultimately reducing the overall timeline and effort required for countries to access GEF resources.</p> <p>In relation to multilateral development banks (MDBs), the GEF was working towards addressing the following GEF-8 policy commitment: “Participants request the Secretariat to monitor and report on the achievement of an aspirational target for the regional multilateral development banks and IFAD, whose collective share should reach at least 10 percent of the approved amounts during GEF-8.”</p> <p>To this end, the GEF had also initiated efforts to further communicate to countries about the importance of considering working with Agencies across the GEF Partnership, including by considering MDBs as implementing Agency. This effort was further supported by making available to countries Agency Factsheets, prepared by the GEF Secretariat, that present the experience of an Agency, including the World Bank and regional development banks, within the GEF Partnership in terms of commitments, focal area focus, and regional distribution, among other elements. This tool was piloted in March 2023 at the Country Support Program’s ECW held in Maputo, Mozambique, with the participation of countries from Southern Africa.</p>
<p>In paragraph 13, the COP requested that the Global Environment Facility report on its efforts to deliver the increased per-project funding ceiling under its Small Grants Programme agreed on during the eighth replenishment process;</p>	<p>The Small Grant Programme (SGP) funding had increased from \$128 million in GEF-7 to \$155 million in GEF-8. The SGP core funding would be equally distributed to all 144 GEF recipient countries, meaning each country will receive \$937,500 (including Agency fees and non-grant activities). Countries can add additional funding up to 10 percent of their GEF-8 STAR allocation, to a maximum of \$5 million (which, however, is not a requirement). The first tranche of the SGP funding was approved by the GEF Council in June 2023.</p>
<p>In paragraph 14, the COP welcomed the Global Environment Facility’s commitment to maintain an ambitious level of direct and indirect climate co-benefits in its eighth replenishment;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 14.</p>

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 15, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to further explore ways to provide support to developing country Parties for assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and for translating climate finance needs into action;	The GEF continued to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among other efforts, the GEF continued to provide resources for the CBIT, TNAs, and other initiatives such as ECWs.
In paragraph 16, the COP urged the further enhancement of the support provided by the Global Environment Facility for activities related to technology training, funding for technology development and transfer, and capacity-building;	Please refer to the response under paragraph 15 of this decision above.
In paragraph 17, the COP encouraged the continuing engagement of the Global Environment Facility with the Green Climate Fund, including in implementing the Long-term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility;	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 17. The GEF and GCF had continued their engagement in the reporting period and a Progress Report, summarizing the specific activities and achievements from such engagement, had been submitted as an information document to the GEF sixty-fourth Council meeting in June 2023 as well as to the GCF Board meeting in the fall of 2023.
In paragraph 18, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals are duly followed in an efficient manner;	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 18. The GEF duly followed its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals in an efficient manner.
In paragraph 21, the COP also requested the Global Environment Facility to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision;	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 21.

G. Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism (Decision 18/CP.27)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 9, the COP welcomed the collaboration of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and strongly encouraged the two bodies to continue such collaboration with a view to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to prepare project proposals and facilitating their access to available funding for technology development and transfer;	The GEF continued to collaborate with the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) in enhancing the capacity of developing countries to access available funding for technology development and transfer. Among others, the National Designated Entities of the CTCN had been invited to GEF's National Dialogues. National Dialogues, organized at the request of the GEF's Operational Focal Point, are a strategic tool for convening all relevant national stakeholders in a country to discuss and agree on the prioritization and programming of GEF resources, including on technology development and transfer.
In paragraph 10, the COP acknowledged the work on incubators and accelerators planned by the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network under the joint work programme and invites the two bodies to continue to work with developing country Parties, in particular the least developed country Parties and small island developing States, to promote the use of incubators and accelerators and to support the development of funding proposals that incorporate their use for submission to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism;	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 10.

H. Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022 (Decision 19/CP.27)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 2, the COP invited Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations organizations, observers, and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations referred to in paragraph 1 above ³ and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates;	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 2. The recommendations included in the annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) referenced in this paragraph were directed to Parties.

³ Paragraph 1 of Decision 19/CP.27 "Welcomes the annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022 and takes note of the recommendations therein."

I. Report of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures (Decision 20/CP.27)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 25, the COP encouraged relevant agencies, financial institutions, and UNFCCC constituted bodies to enhance support for addressing issues related to the assessment and analysis of the impacts of the implementation of mitigation actions, policies, and programmes, including nationally determined contributions and long-term low-emission development strategies, with a view to addressing the adverse impacts and maximizing opportunities;</p>	<p>The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 25. This decision was for those mentioned in this paragraph, which did not include the GEF.</p>

J. Action plan under the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (Decision 23/CP.27)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 4, the COP recalled that, under the Glasgow work programme:</p> <p>a. multilateral and bilateral institutions and organizations, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, were invited to provide financial support for Action for Climate Empowerment activities.</p>	<p>The GEF provided support through responding to applications from one of the GEF Agencies.</p> <p>While the GEF Secretariat had not received funding requests explicitly related to the Action for Climate Empowerment activities, in calendar year 2022, the GEF provided more than \$9.8 million towards education, training and public awareness through its regular CCM and CCA programming. In addition, many NC EAs contained components that provide support for education, training, and public awareness.</p>

K. Intermediate review of the implementation of the gender action plan (Decision 24/CP.27)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 12, the COP also encouraged Parties and relevant public and private entities to strengthen the gender responsiveness of climate finance with a view to further building the capacity of women and for implementation work under the gender action plan, and in order to facilitate simplified access to climate finance for grass-roots women's organizations as well as for indigenous peoples, especially women, and local communities;</p>	<p>The GEF was committed to successfully implementing its gender action plan. In 2022, 100 percent of GEF projects at CEO endorsement/ approval stage had very detailed gender analysis and all planned to include gender-responsive results framework. The GEF would continue implementing its gender action plan, guided by the lessons learned and best practices from GEF-7, and the GEF-8 Policy Directions.</p>

L. Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (Decision 1/CMA.4)

<i>COP guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 49, the CMA welcomed and reiterated the United Nations Secretary-General's call made on World Meteorological Day on 23 March 2022 to protect everyone on Earth through universal coverage of early warning systems against extreme weather and climate change within the next five years and invited development partners, international financial institutions, and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to provide support for implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative;	Please refer to the response to paragraph 30 of decision 1/CP.27 above.
In paragraph 66, the CMA emphasized the ongoing challenges faced by many developing country Parties in accessing climate finance and encouraged further efforts, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to simplify access to such finance;	Please refer to the response under paragraph 42 of decision 2/CP.27 above.

M. Funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage (Decision 2/CMA.4)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 7, CMA invited United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and bilateral, multilateral, and international financial institutions to submit inputs on how they might enhance access to and/or the speed, scope, and scale of availability of finance for activities relevant to addressing loss and damage, including potential limitations and barriers and options for addressing them;	Please refer to the response under paragraph 7 of decision 2/CP.27 above.
In paragraph 11, the CMA invited the United Nations Secretary-General to convene the principals of international financial institutions and other relevant entities with a view to identifying the most effective ways to provide funding to respond to needs related to addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;	Please refer to the response under paragraph 11, Decision 2/CP.27.

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 12, the CMA also invited international financial institutions to consider, at the 2023 Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, the potential for such institutions to contribute to funding arrangements, including new and innovative approaches, responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;	Please refer to the response under paragraph 12 of decision 2/CP.27 above.
In paragraph 13, the CMA reiterated decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 64, in which developed country Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations and other bilateral and multilateral institutions, including non-governmental organizations and private sources, were urged to provide enhanced and additional support for activities addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;	<p>While the GEF had not received a specific mandate to support loss and damage, it continued to support activities that help countries address and mitigate risk, such as early warning systems and insurance, within the scope of CCA.</p> <p>In GEF-8, this support would continue, with a focus on bridging climate information value-chain gaps, expanding access to early warning systems, and striving for greater user uptake and application of climate information services under the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022- 2026).</p>

N. New collective quantified goal on climate finance (Decision 5/CMA.4)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 11, the CMA requested the co-chairs of the ad hoc work programme on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, with a view to significantly advancing substantive progress in 2023, to, inter alia, invite Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, climate finance institutions, observers and observer organizations and other stakeholders, particularly from the private sector, to submit inputs via the submission portal on each technical expert dialogue to be held, on the basis of guiding questions well in advance of each technical expert dialogue to allow for those inputs to be reflected in the organization of the dialogues.	The GEF was ready to respond to an invitation from the co-chairs of the ad hoc work programme on the collective quantified goal on climate finance to engage more actively on this agenda item, including via submission of inputs on the expert dialogue process.

O. Matters relating to the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement (Decision 8/CMA.4)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 18, the CMA requested the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, as the convenor of the Glasgow Committee on Non-market Approaches, to invite representatives of relevant UNFCCC constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under or serving the Paris Agreement and/or the Convention, which may include the Adaptation Fund, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, the Standing Committee on Finance, and the Technology Executive Committee, to a meeting held in conjunction with the fifty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (June 2023) and organized with the assistance of the Secretariat, with the aim of enhancing collaboration between the Glasgow Committee and relevant constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under or serving the Paris Agreement and/or the Convention, as necessary, taking into account their respective mandates;</p>	<p>The GEF was ready to respond to an invitation from the Chair of the SBSTA, as the convenor of the Glasgow Committee on Non-market Approaches, to a meeting convened on the topic of non-market approaches referred to in Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement.</p>

P. Matters relating to the least developed countries (11/CMA.4)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 10, CMA underscored the importance of developing project pipelines and proposals for implementing adaptation actions associated with the priorities in the national adaptation plans of the least developed countries and encouraged relevant organizations, as well as operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to enhance support to the least developed countries in this regard;</p>	<p>Please refer to the response under paragraph 10 of decision 10/CP.27 above.</p>
<p>In paragraph 11, the CMA noted with appreciation the financial pledges, totalling \$70.6 million, made by the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden, and Switzerland and the government of the Walloon Region of Belgium to the Least Developed Countries Fund and urge additional contributions to the Fund;</p>	<p>The GEF appreciated the pledges of \$70.6 million in total to the LDCF made at the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF held on the margins of COP 27.</p> <p>The GEF continued to look forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>In Annex – Paragraph XI.53, the CMA decided that the least developed countries expert group shall invite the secretariats of the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and the Adaptation Fund to its meetings to discuss collaboration in supporting the least developed countries.</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat was invited to attend NAP Expo 2023, held from March 27-30, 2023, in Santiago, Chile. Collaboration in supporting LDCs with the GCF and Adaptation Fund was being discussed at various forums and engagements, such as NAP writing workshop.</p>

Q. Guidance to the Global Environment Facility (Decision 17/CMA.4)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 2, the CMA welcomed the actions taken by the Global Environment Facility to incorporate innovation and technology development and transfer into the programming directions under the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, noting the goals of the Paris Agreement;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation this decision in paragraph 2.</p>
<p>In paragraph 3, the CMA appreciated the efforts of the Global Environment Facility in developing an expedited process for projects related to preparing biennial transparency reports and in combining the multiple processes for applying for support for preparing biennial transparency reports;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation this decision in paragraph 3.</p>
<p>In paragraph 4, the CMA encouraged the Global Environment Facility to further enhance its reporting on whether and how Parties have used their System for Transparent Allocation of Resources country allocation for developing and revising technology needs assessments and action plans and implementing them;</p>	<p>The GEF Council approved Phase V of the Global Technology Needs Assessment in June 2023. Under Phase V, 12 countries out of 17 have used their STAR resources for the development of their TNAs. Total GEF financing for this project was \$5.6 million, comprising \$3.9 million from STAR allocation and \$1.7 from the CCM focal area set-aside, inclusive of GEF project financing and Agency fees.</p>
<p>In paragraph 5, the CMA requested the Global Environment Facility to improve working with its implementing agencies in order to expedite the project preparation and submission processes for biennial transparency reports to increase the efficiency of the project cycle;</p>	<p>The GEF continued to work very closely with the GEF Agencies involved with the provision of support to countries for the preparation of BTRs. In an effort to further streamline access, several measures had been taken in the reporting period, which were contributing to making significant progress towards the goals set by the CMA guidance included in this paragraph.</p> <p>In particular, the GEF had:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. worked to streamline and significantly simplify its templates for EAs, resulting in forms that are quicker to prepare and to review, with benefits in terms of timeline of preparation and approval; b. tested bundling of several BTRs in the same project through the umbrella modality, which allows for faster approval of financing as compared to individual applications, and is working with Agencies to continue to use this modality in the near future;

CMA guidance	GEF response
	<p data-bbox="833 237 1399 636">c. clarified the possibility to bundle together several reports in the same one-step MSP application, including up to two BTRs and/ or one NC, resulting also in this case in more expedited approval cycle; continued to work with the Agencies to ensure that all Parties that have not yet submitted a request for funding for their first BTR do so at the earliest possible time, noting that funds are available and that both Agencies and GEF are ready to provide any clarification or answer any preliminary question on the process to access the funds.</p> <p data-bbox="833 667 1399 1161">The BTR support modalities were informed by two informal consultations organized by the GEF Secretariat in June 2020⁴ and November 2020,⁵ and made available as of February 2021, and communicated to all countries in February 2021 from the GEF CEO. The Information Note on the Financing of BTRs for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement was submitted as an information document to the fifty-ninth GEF Council meeting, in December 2020.⁶ The early support provision had been made in order to provide sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024. This timeline did not apply to LDCs and SIDS, which can submit BTRs at their discretion.</p> <p data-bbox="833 1192 1399 1623">In February 2022, the GEF organized the third BTR informal consultation in response to the CMA 3 guidance to estimate the cost to developing countries of implementing the ETF.⁷ The GEF prepared an Information Note on the Update to the Financing of BTRs for the Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement, for the sixty-second GEF Council meeting in June 2022.⁸ The indicative costing for the three modalities for supporting the preparation of BTRs was updated based on the feedback received during the third BTR informal consultation and upon further analysis by the GEF Secretariat.</p>

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

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

6 GEF, 2020, *Information Note on the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement*, Council Document GEF/C.59/Inf.19.

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

8 GEF, 2022, *Information Note on the Update of the Cost Structure for the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for the Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement*, Council Document GEF/C.62/Inf.15.

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 6, the CMA welcomed the actions taken by the Global Environment Facility to ensure that support will continue to be available for the preparation of biennial transparency reports and underlined the importance of providing support to developing countries for preparing biennial transparency reports, including for establishing and enhancing national reporting systems in order to implement the enhanced transparency framework;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation this decision in paragraph 6.</p>
<p>In paragraph 7, the CMA noted the increased support provided by the Global Environment Facility for developing countries to prepare biennial transparency reports and for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, in particular in the context of implementation of the enhanced transparency framework;</p>	<p>The GEF noted with appreciation this decision in paragraph 7.</p>
<p>In paragraph 8 , the CMA encouraged the Global Environment Facility, through the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, to continue providing capacity-building support to developing country Parties for enhancing and sustaining adaptation monitoring, reporting, evaluation and learning systems, as well as for establishing and enhancing these systems at all levels, with a view to facilitating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The monitoring and reporting of the progress, effectiveness, and adequacy of adaptation action and support over time; b) The sharing of experience globally to contribute to enhancing action, support and international cooperation; 	<p>The GEF continued to provide funding to support countries through the CBIT. Every CBIT proposal submitted to the GEF Secretariat had received support, upon technical clearance, in line with the Paris Agreement decision to provide support upon request. As at June 30, 2023, the entire CBIT portfolio included 89 projects covering 87 countries, 83 national projects, one regional project (covering five countries) and five global projects, totalling \$146.6 million, including GEF project financing, Project Preparation Grants, and Agency fees.</p>
<p>In paragraph 9, the CMA also encouraged the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to provide adequate, predictable, and timely financing for biennial transparency reports, including efforts relating to the increased support for biennial transparency reports and national inventory reports of greenhouse gas emissions and removals, the combined application process for multiple biennial transparency reports, and the expedited process for projects related to preparing biennial transparency reports;</p>	<p>The GEF continued to strengthen its efforts to help countries access BTR financing. The GEF already provided an expedited approval process for EAs of up to \$2 million. In addition, in GEF-8, the GEF had released a new streamlined template for EAs and was encouraging countries to submit requests to support two subsequent BTRs and combined BTR and NC.</p>

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 10, the CMA acknowledged the challenges developing country Parties face in implementing the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement in a sustainable manner, including in establishing and enhancing reporting systems within their respective national governments, and requests the Global Environment Facility to consult with developing country Parties on how the support provided to them by the Facility for preparing their biennial transparency reports could best achieve this, in addition to the support provided for capacity-building provided through the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency.</p>	<p>The GEF continued to actively support developing countries in the implementation of the ETF. As of June 30, 2023, the GEF had approved BTR support to 69 countries for 87 BTRs, and nine additional countries had submitted requests for GEF financial support for BTR preparation.</p> <p>The GEF organized a workshop at the Subsidiary Body Meetings in June 2023 intended to respond to this CMA guidance and to provide an update on the status of the GEF support to Parties for the implementation of the ETF.⁹ The workshop was also designed to enable sharing of information and early lessons between Parties regarding the initial experiences with BTR support and preparation.¹⁰</p> <p>In addition, jointly with the UNFCCC and the CBIT Global Support Program (CBIT GSP), the GEF organized a webinar series to inform developing countries on the GEF's access modalities and procedures to apply for BTR funding. The webinar series took place on May 2-4, 2023.¹¹</p>

R. Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund (Decision 18/CMA.4)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<p>In paragraph 2, the CMA noted the actions and decisions relating to the Adaptation Fund Board as presented in its report to Parties, including:</p> <p>The promotion of linkages of the Adaptation Fund with other UNFCCC bodies, such as the Adaptation Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, and the Standing Committee on Finance, with the Adaptation Fund Board having progressed in establishing linkages between the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund, including through a framework for promoting the scale-up of funded projects and the Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities;</p>	<p>The Adaptation Fund continued to draw upon the cross-support services of the GEF Secretariat, supporting the technical review of project and program proposals. The GEF and Adaptation Fund had also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed.</p>

S. Enhancing climate technology development and transfer to support

9 <https://www.thegef.org/events/consultation-gef-support-enhanced-transparency-framework>.

10 A summary of the event with its main outcomes is available at: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2023-07/Consultation_GEF_Support ETF_Summary_2023_07.pdf.

11 For the webinars on May 2, 2023, for countries in Asia and the Pacific, more information is available at: <https://www.cbitplatform.org/index.php/events/webinar-gef-support-btr-financing-and-access-modalities-countries-asia-pacific>.

For the webinars on May 3, 2023, for countries in Africa, Middle East and North Africa, Eurasia, Central Asia and the Caucasus, more information is available at: <https://www.cbitplatform.org/index.php/events/webinar-gef-support-btr-financing-and-access-modalities-africa-mena-eurasia-central-asia>.

For the webinars on May 4, 2023, for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, more information is available at: <https://www.cbitplatform.org/index.php/events/webinar-gef-support-btr-financing-and-access-modalities-countries-latin-america-and>.

implementation of the Paris Agreement (Decision 19/CMA.4)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 9, the CMA welcomed the collaboration of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and strongly encouraged the two bodies to continue such collaboration with a view to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to prepare project proposals and facilitating their access to available funding for technology development and transfer;	Please refer to response under paragraph 19 of decision 18/CP.27 above.

T. Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022 (Decision 21/CMA.4)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 2, the CMA invited Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Paris Agreement, United Nations organizations, observers, and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations referred to in in the annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022 and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates;	The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 2. The GEF would continue to engage with the PCCB through its periodic meetings, including at COPs.

U. Action plan under the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (Decision 22/CMA.4)

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
In paragraph 4, the CMA recalled that, under the Glasgow work programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) multilateral and bilateral institutions and organizations, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, were invited to provide financial support for Action for Climate Empowerment activities. 	<p>The GEF provided support through responding to applications from one of the GEF Implementing Agencies.</p> <p>While the GEF Secretariat had not received funding requests explicitly related to the ACE activities, in calendar year 2022, the GEF provided more than \$9.8 million towards education, training and public awareness through its regular CCM and CCA programming. In addition, many NC EAs contained components that provide support for education, training and public awareness.</p>

V. Report of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures (Decision 23/CMA.4)

CMA guidance	GEF response
In the paragraph 26, the CMA encouraged relevant agencies, financial institutions and UNFCCC constituted bodies to enhance support for addressing issues related to the assessment and analysis of the impacts of the implementation of mitigation actions, policies, and programmes, including nationally determined contributions and long-term low-emission development strategies, with a view to addressing the adverse impacts and maximizing opportunities;	This decision was for those mentioned in this paragraph, which did not include the GEF.

W.SBI 57 and SBSTA 57 conclusions on the Koronivia joint work on agriculture (Agenda item 10 of SBI and item 7 of SBSTA)

CMA guidance	GEF response
<p>Upon recommendation submitted by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision on Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, in which it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Welcomed the participation of representatives of constituted bodies, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and observer organizations in workshops under the Koronivia joint work on agriculture; b) Underscored the importance of constituted bodies and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism taking into account conclusions of the subsidiary bodies in implementing their actions and workplans, according to their mandates; c) Requested the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to establish the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, including implementation of the outcomes of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and previous activities addressing issues related to agriculture, as well as future topics, recognizing that solutions are context-specific and take into account national circumstances, with the following objectives: 	Please refer to response under decision 3/CP.27 above.

<i>CMA guidance</i>	<i>GEF response</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing coherence, synergies, coordination, communication, and interaction between Parties, constituted bodies and workstreams, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund in order to facilitate the implementation of action to address issues related to agriculture and food security; • Providing support and technical advice to Parties, constituted bodies, and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security, respecting the Party-driven approach and in accordance with their respective procedures and mandates; <p>d) Also requested the secretariat to support the joint work by holding in-session workshops in hybrid format, facilitating both virtual and in-person participation, on agreed topics related to agriculture and food security at the first regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies each year and inviting representatives of the constituted bodies under the Convention, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund and observers to them.</p>	

Glasgow, Scotland



II. COP 26 Decisions and GEF Responses

1. The twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) was held from 31 October-12 November 2021, in Glasgow, presided over by the Government of the United Kingdom. The third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 3) also took place in Glasgow, United Kingdom.
2. COP 26 and CMA 3 in 2021 provided specific guidance to the GEF, while the conclusions of SBI 52-55, as well as SBSTA 52-55, also contain matters of relevance to the GEF. Key topics include: reaffirmed role of the GEF as one of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention and the Paris Agreement; appreciation for new contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF); improvement of efficiency in the GEF project cycle; continued support for technology through technology needs assessments (TNAs); progress on capacity-building activities, including those related to the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) requirements under the Paris Agreement (Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, or CBIT, and biennial transparency reports, or BTRs); increased collaboration with support provided by the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) for technology transfer activities.
3. Other matters of relevance to the GEF include: enhanced finance mobilization to deliver the scale of resources needed to achieve climate plans; innovative approaches and instruments for mobilizing finance for adaptation from private sources; importance of international collaboration; and importance of non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities, youth, children, local and regional governments and other stakeholders in contributing to progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement; consideration of how vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change could be reflected in the provision and mobilization of concessional financial resources and how they could simplify and enhance access to finance.
4. The reporting period for the GEF responses below is GEF fiscal year (FY) 2022, from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

A. Glasgow Climate Pact (Decision 1/CP.26)

COP guidance

5. In Decision 1/CP.26, paragraph 13, the COP welcomed the recent pledges made by many developed country Parties to increase their provision of climate finance to support adaptation in developing country Parties in response to their growing needs, including contributions made to the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund, which represent significant progress compared with previous efforts.
6. In Decision 1/CP.26, paragraph 14, the COP called upon multilateral development banks, other financial institutions and the private sector to enhance finance mobilization in order to deliver the scale of resources

needed to achieve climate plans, particularly for adaptation, and encouraged Parties to continue to explore innovative approaches and instruments for mobilizing finance for adaptation from private sources.

7. In Decision 1/CP.26, paragraph 28, the COP urged the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, multilateral development banks and other financial institutions to further scale up investments in climate action, and called for a continued increase in the scale and effectiveness of climate finance from all sources globally, including grants and other highly concessional forms of finance.
8. In Decision 1/CP.26, paragraph 30, the COP emphasized the challenges faced by many developing country Parties in accessing finance and encourages further efforts to enhance access to finance, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism.
9. In Decision 1/CP.26, paragraph 40, the COP urged developed country Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations and other bilateral and multilateral institutions, including non-governmental organizations and private sources, to provide enhanced and additional support for activities addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

GEF response

On contributions to the LDCF and SCCF and enhanced finance mobilization

10. The GEF expressed appreciation for the pledges of \$413 million in total to the LDCF³¹ made at the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF held on the margins of COP 26.
11. The GEF looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.

On scale and effectiveness of climate finance

12. The GEF-8 Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change outlines enhanced innovation, technology transfer, and private sector engagement as key priorities for both LDCF and SCCF programming. The strategy outlines a set of entry points for innovation and private sector engagement, including risk sharing to catalyze private sector investment; micro, small, medium-sized enterprise (MSME) incubation and acceleration; inclusive microfinance for smallholder farmers; technology innovation and deployment; and enabling conditions for private sector investment. One of the ways by which the LDCF and SCCF will increase their support in this area is through the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation, which has demonstrated its ability to engage non-traditional partners, and bring their ideas and resources for climate adaptation action in support of the most vulnerable.

On access to GEF funds

13. The GEF-8 Programming Strategy confirms the role of the GEF as a provider of grants and other forms of highly concessional climate finance to developing countries and integrates the consideration of climate change results across all its focal areas. GEF-8 will also continue to offer to developing countries other forms of concessional finance through its Blended Finance Global Program to help unlock, mobilize, and scale-up private financing. The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026) also reaffirms the catalytic role of the two funds in scaling adaptation finance in the LDCs and presents scenarios to mobilize additional support to countries. The LDCF will continue to provide grant financing. The SCCF will be primarily grant-based, with opportunities for non-grant support.
14. The GEF takes note of the encouragement to undertake further efforts to enhance access to finance and continues to work towards streamlining its operational procedures and increasing efficiency of access

¹ The GEF Secretariat organized the Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session for the LDCF and SCCF on the margins of COP 26 in Glasgow on November 9, 2021, and generated a substantial pledge of \$413 million for the LDCF. Twelve donors (Belgium, the Belgian region of Wallonia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America) made these historic pledges to the LDCF on that occasion.

to its funds. The GEF-8 strategy incorporates some important shifts in key areas to increase operational efficiency and support to recipient countries. The GEF Secretariat is committed to work with the rest of the GEF Partnership to take actions to identify further streamlining, consolidation, and increased efficiency of GEF operations². These adjustments will enable the GEF to pursue a more effective, responsive, and agile delivery model.

On support for activities addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change

15. While the GEF has not received a specific mandate to support loss and damage, it has been supporting activities that help countries address and mitigate risk, such as early warning systems and insurance, within the scope of climate adaptation. In GEF-8, this support will continue, with a focus on bridging climate information value-chain gaps, expanding access to early warning systems, and striving for greater user uptake and application of climate information services under the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026).

B. Long-term climate finance (Decision 4/CP.26)

COP guidance

16. In Decision 1/CP.26, paragraph 13, the COP welcomed the recent pledges made by many developed In Decision 4/CP.26, paragraph 2, the COP welcomed the recent pledges made to the Adaptation Fund (totaling USD 356 million) and to the Least Developed Countries Fund (totaling USD 605.3 million).
17. In Decision 4/CP.26, paragraph 22, the COP reiterated that the secretariat, in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies and bilateral, regional, and other multilateral channels, will continue to explore ways and means to assist developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including their technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action.

GEF response

18. As mentioned in response to paragraph 13 of decision 1/CP.26 above, the GEF appreciates the pledges of \$413 million in total to the LDCF.
19. The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among other efforts, the GEF continues to provide resources for the CBIT, TNAs, and other initiatives such as Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs), in an effort to enhance the abilities of developing countries to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into action.

² GEF, 2022, *Revised Policy Recommendations*, Document GEF/R.08/32.

C. Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance (Decision 5/CP.26)

COP guidance

20. In Decision 5/CP.26, paragraph 3, the COP Noted that UNFCCC funds and multilateral climate funds approved USD 2.2 billion and USD 3.1 billion for climate finance projects in 2017 and 2018, respectively.
21. In Decision 5/CP.26, paragraph 4, the COP welcomed the improved granularity of data in the fourth (2020) Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows and encouraged developed country Parties and climate finance providers, as well as multilateral and financial institutions, private finance providers and other relevant institutions, to continue to enhance the availability of granular, country-level data on mitigation and adaptation finance.
22. In Decision 5/CP.26, paragraph 8, the COP invited the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and other institutions providing climate finance to consider the operational definitions of climate finance of the Standing Committee on Finance with a view to ensuring that finance provided addresses the needs of developing country Parties, while respecting their existing policies.
23. In Decision 5/CP.26, paragraph 11 and Annex II, the COP welcomed the first report on the determination of the needs (NDR) of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement of the Standing Committee on Finance, in particular the executive summary, and endorses its key findings and recommendations, which include:
 - i) Encourage developing country Parties and climate finance providers, as well as multilateral and financial institutions, private finance data providers, and other relevant institutions, to enhance the availability of granular, country-level data on needs related to the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement with a view to addressing existing data gaps.
 - ii) Invite the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions, and other relevant institutions to make use of the information contained in the first NDR when supporting developing country Parties in identifying and costing needs.
 - iii) Invite the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to revise templates and guidance for developing countries when supporting their processes in identifying their needs with a view to enhancing availability of granular information on qualitative and quantitative needs.
 - iv) Encourage the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions, and other relevant institutions to make available further information on methodologies related to determining and costing needs, especially for adaptation needs and incremental costs.
 - v) Encourage developing country Parties to take advantage of available resources through the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as well as other multilateral and bilateral actors, to strengthen institutional capacity for identifying and costing their needs in relation to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement.
 - vi) Encourage Parties, multilateral and financial institutions, academia, methodology developers, research institutions, and other relevant actors to continue to develop methodologies for the determination of adaptation and resilience enhancement needs and, in this context, needs related to averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage.

24. In Decision 5/CP.26, Annex II, the COP also referred to the following findings and recommendations:
- i) Encourage the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions, and other relevant institutions to provide financial and technical support to developing countries for updating the reporting of their qualitative and quantitative information and data on needs to be considered in subsequent NDRs, as appropriate.
 - ii) Encourage all actors, when determining needs for implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, to highlight linkages to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and application of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
25. In Decision 5/CP.26, paragraph 18, the COP invited the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions, and other relevant institutions to make use of the information contained in the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement when supporting developing country Parties in identifying and costing needs.

GEF response

26. The GEF noted this decision in paragraphs 3, 4, 8 and 18.

On findings and recommendations from the first NDR

27. The GEF continues to support developing countries in the preparation of BTRs, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), National Communications (NCs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and TNAs. Support to Biennial Update Reports (BURs) was provided until December 2021. From January 2022, BUR support has been phased out to prioritize BTR development, and help countries move towards the implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).

On additional findings from the first NDR

28. Please refer to the response to paragraph 11 of the decision outlined above.

D. Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund (Decision 6/CP.26)

COP guidance

29. In Decision 6/CP.26, paragraph 4, the COP welcomed the long-term vision on complementarity, coherence, and collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility and requested the Board to enhance coherence and complementarity with other climate finance delivery channels with a view to enhancing the impact and effectiveness of its work.

GEF response

30. The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 4 with appreciation of recognition of the Long-Term Vision (LTV) on complementarity, coherence, and collaboration between the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the GEF. This decision is for the GCF.

E. Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility (Decision 7/CP.26)

COP guidance

31. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 1, the COP welcomed the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-sixth session, including the responses of the Global Environment Facility to previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties.
32. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 2, the COP also welcomed the work undertaken by the Global Environment Facility during its reporting period (1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021), including with regard to:
 - (a) The approval of climate change projects and programmes approved during the reporting period under the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund.
 - (b) The integration of climate change priorities into its other focal areas and the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions achieved through such integration.
 - (c) The improvement in coordination with the Green Climate Fund.
 - (d) The adoption of its private sector engagement strategy.
 - (e) The adoption of the sustainable bond strategy for the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.
33. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 3, the COP encouraged the Global Environment Facility, as part of the eighth replenishment process, to duly consider ways to increase the financial resources allocated for climate action, including the climate change focal area and climate co-benefits, taking into account the reporting requirement referred to in paragraph 6 of decision 12/CMA.3, and to apply a coherent approach across its focal areas to prioritizing projects that generate environmental co-benefits.
34. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 4, the COP called upon developed country Parties to make financial contributions to the Global Environment Facility to contribute to a robust eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to support developing countries in implementing the Convention and encourages additional voluntary financial contributions to the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility.
35. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 5, the COP took note of ongoing discussions on the eighth replenishment process regarding its allocation policies under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources and invited the Global Environment Facility to duly consider the needs and priorities of developing country Parties when allocating resources to developing country Parties.
36. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 6, the COP took note of the ongoing work of the Global Environment Facility in monitoring the concentration and geographical and thematic coverage, as well as the effectiveness, efficiency and engagement, of the Global Environment Facility Partnership and encourages the Global Environment Facility to consider ways to enhance participation of additional national and regional entities from developing country Parties in the Partnership, including by allowing them to serve as executing agencies, as appropriate.
37. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 7, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to consider ways to further enhance the role of national agencies and civil society organizations as executing agencies in order

to enhance country ownership of projects and programmes funded by the Global Environment Facility and prevent implementing agencies from serving simultaneously as executing agencies.

38. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 8, the COP welcomed with appreciation the contributions made by developed country Parties to the Least Developed Countries Fund, amounting to USD 605.3 million, and encourages additional voluntary financial contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund to support adaptation and technology transfer.
39. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 9, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention entrusted with the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund, to continue to assist developing country Parties in accessing resources in an efficient manner.
40. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 10, the COP called upon the Global Environment Facility to continue to improve the governance framework for its agencies and the standards to which the implementing partners are accountable.
41. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 11, the COP took note that financial resources allocated for the non-grant instrument under the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility increased to USD 136 million from USD 110 million under the sixth replenishment and encourages the Global Environment Facility, during its discussions on the instrument under the eighth replenishment, to continue to take into account needs and priorities of developing countries, as well as their different national circumstances.
42. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 12, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to consider updating its policy on gender equality to include protection against discrimination.
43. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 13, the COP recognized that the Global Environment Facility does not impose minimum thresholds and/or specific types or sources of co-financing or investment mobilized in its review of individual projects and programmes.
44. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 14, the COP encouraged the Global Environment Facility to reinforce its efforts to engage with and mobilize resources from the private sector under its eighth replenishment.
45. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 15, the COP took note of ongoing discussions within the Global Environment Facility concerning the Small Grants Programme under the eighth replenishment and invites the Global Environment Facility to consider increasing the funding ceiling per project to provide adequate financial and technical support to communities and civil society organizations.
46. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 16, the COP urged the Global Environment Facility to enhance its support for projects that engage with stakeholders at the local level, and to continue to provide funding for projects related to technology training and scale up South–South cooperation and triangular cooperation with the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network.
47. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 17, the COP welcomed the long-term vision on complementarity, coherence and collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility and requests the Global Environment Facility Council to enhance coherence and complementarity with other climate finance delivery channels with a view to enhancing the impact and effectiveness of its work.
48. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 18, the COP also requested the Global Environment Facility, as part of the eighth replenishment process, to take note of the needs and priorities for climate finance, including those identified in the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, nationally determined contributions, national

communications and national adaptation plans, as well as in other sources of available information, including the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows and other relevant reports.

49. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 19, the COP invited Parties to submit views and recommendations on elements of guidance for the Global Environment Facility via the submission portal no later than 10 weeks prior to the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (November 2022).
50. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 20, the COP requested the Standing Committee on Finance to take into consideration the submissions referred to in paragraph 19 above when preparing its draft guidance for the Global Environment Facility for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-seventh session and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session (November 2022).
51. In Decision 7/CP.26, paragraph 21, the COP also requested the Global Environment Facility to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision.

GEF response

52. The GEF noted with appreciation of recognition in paragraph 1 of the report to the COP and responses to previous guidance.

On approval of climate change projects and programmes, integration of climate change priorities, improvement in coordination with the Green Climate Fund, private sector engagement and impact

53. The GEF noted with appreciation of recognition of the work undertaken in paragraph 2.
54. The GEF Trust Fund Programming Directions for GEF-8 (2022-2026), and the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026) build further on the integration agenda, partnership with the GCF, and private sector engagement to present enhanced opportunities for programming with impact.
55. The GEF has made progress on the development and implementation of the LTV on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration with the GCF. This progress is reported to the GEF Council and GCF Board as a joint report.

On the increase of financial resources for climate action as part of the eighth replenishment process

56. Resources available for programming in GEF-8 for the climate change focal area have increased by 4.6 percent compared to those available in GEF-7.
57. In addition, the GEF-8 strategy builds on and expands the GEF-7 integration agenda, with the approval of funding envelopes for 11 new integrated programs. They will complement focal area investments in providing additional financing for climate action in developing countries. In GEF-8, GEF recipient countries will have full flexibility in the use of their GEF-8 STAR allocations, to further facilitate the mainstreaming of integrated programming principles and in order to optimize and maximize investments to increase positive impact.
58. Furthermore, and in line with the guidance received in paragraph 6 of decision 12/CMA.3, participants to the replenishment negotiations increased the allocation to the climate change focal area set-aside window to finance executing agencies (EAs) by more than 30 percent (from \$110 million in GEF-7 to \$145 million in GEF-8).

59. The set-aside window for EAs supports developing country Parties with the preparation and submission of NCs and with the operationalization of the ETF. The GEF supports the ETF through the provision of financial support for the preparation of BTRs and capacity development for transparency-related reporting through the CBIT.

On financial contributions to the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility

60. Country pledges for GEF-8 have reached a record replenishment of \$5.33 billion for the period 2022-2026, a 30 percent increase compared to the previous period. More pledges could be made later in 2022.

On adjustments to the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources

61. The GEF-8 strategy incorporates some important shifts in key areas to increase operational efficiency and support to recipient countries³. This includes most notably the adjustments to the STAR and measures to improve streamlining and efficiency and reduce transaction costs.
62. With respect to the STAR, the GEF Secretariat conducted a detailed review and analysis of the GEF-7 experience of increased flexibility in the use of STAR resources by GEF recipient countries. The analysis, which was presented to the GEF Council at its sixty-first meeting, pointed to an increasing demand for, and use of, flexibility in the utilization of STAR resources by developing country Parties. In consideration of these findings, replenishment participants adopted a critical methodological advancement and moved onto introducing the possibility for GEF recipient countries to make use of full flexibility in the programming of their allocated STAR resources.
63. With respect to operational adjustments, with the adoption of the GEF-8 Programming Directions, replenishment participants agreed that “[...] Throughout GEF-8, a review of the project and program cycle will seek to identify areas for further streamlining and efficiency. Through consultations with Agencies, recipient countries and others, including the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Panel (STAP) and the Trustee, and taking into consideration the findings and recommendations of Seventh Overall Performance Study of the GEF (OPS7), concrete measures will be identified and operationalized by the Secretariat.”⁴
64. These important shifts, which are based on the due consideration of the needs and priorities of developing countries, will enable the GEF to pursue a more effective, responsive, and agile delivery model in the GEF-8 cycle.

On concentration, geographical and thematic coverage, and enhanced participation of additional national and regional entities

65. The GEF-8 Policy Recommendations recognize the need to avoid high concentration of funding in a small number of Agencies, and to reduce the risks associated with it⁵. The GEF-8 Policy Recommendations also reaffirmed the coverage, as well as the effectiveness, efficiency, and engagement, of the GEF Partnership and encouraged the GEF to consider ways to enhance participation of additional national and regional entities from developing country Parties in the Partnership, including by allowing them to serve as EAs, as appropriate. It also reaffirmed the importance of country ownership in the GEF and that countries are free to choose their preferred GEF Agency to implement GEF projects.
66. In an effort to find the balance between these two objectives, as requested by the GEF-8 replenishment negotiations participants, the GEF Secretariat will monitor and report on the achievement of an aspirational target for the regional multilateral development banks and IFAD, whose collective share should reach at least 10 percent of the approved amounts in GEF-8. In addition, also in line with the GEF-8 Policy Recommendations, the GEF Secretariat will monitor and report on the achievement of an aspirational ceiling for any one Agency of no more than 30 percent of approved amounts in GEF-8.

3 GEF, 2021, *The Use of Flexibility of STAR*, Council Document GEF/C.61/Inf.08.

4 GEF, 2022, *GEF-8 Policy Directions: The Enabling Environment for Transformation*, Document GEF/R.08/31.

5 GEF, 2022, *Revised Policy Recommendations*, Document GEF/R.08/32.

67. With regards to the participation of national and regional entities from developing country Parties, the GEF already allows, and indeed encourages, national and regional entities to serve as executing entities. Executing entities receive project-specific GEF funding from a GEF Agency⁶ to execute a GEF project, or parts thereof, under the supervision of the same GEF Agency. The GEF executing entities work directly with the 18 GEF Agencies and the use of government agencies as project executing entities was indeed embedded in over two-thirds of the projects approved in GEF-7.
68. The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022- 2026) also builds on the improvements made in the GEF-7 period in terms of Agency concentration and engagement of additional Agencies in climate adaptation programming. In GEF-8, the whole-of-society approach and inclusive climate adaptation support is expected to generate additional opportunities to enhance participation of additional national and regional entities from recipient countries as executing partners. The LDCF/SCCF will also monitor and report on the Agency concentration.

On the role of national agencies and civil society organizations as executing agencies

69. The GEF has continued to make concerted efforts to encourage engagement of local stakeholders as executing partners at the project level. Arrangements for GEF Agencies to serve also as executing partners are approved only on an exceptional basis, upon written request from recipient countries.

On contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund

70. The GEF appreciates pledges to the LDCF and looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF to support climate adaptation and technology transfer.
71. Please refer to the response to paragraph 9 of the decision outlined below on the SCCF.

On the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund

72. The SCCF has had limited donor support throughout the GEF-7 period. In the reporting period, the optimization of the SCCF was discussed as a part of the Adaptation Programming Strategy development. Participants agreed to focus the SCCF support on two priority areas, building on its strengths and capacity to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and vulnerable areas, and to promote technology transfer, through innovation and private sector engagement. The GEF is ready to engage with donors to encourage support to the SCCF, so that the Fund can address its mandate and serve developing countries in an efficient manner.

On governance framework and standards for GEF agencies and implementing partners

73. The GEF-8 replenishment process participants, having also considered the findings of the GEF IEO's OPS⁷, recognized the considerable advances made by the GEF through extensive revisions and updates to its policies and approaches related to stakeholder engagement, gender equality and environmental and social safeguards, and supported the continued implementation of these policies and approaches.
74. In GEF-7, the Council continued to improve the governance framework and the related accountability standards for the 18 GEF Agencies. As recently as 2019, the Council upgraded the policies for GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards⁸, Project Monitoring⁹, and the policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards¹⁰. The policy on Gender Equality was upgraded in 2018¹¹.

6 GEF, 2017, Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, Council Document GEF/C.52/Inf.06.

7 GEF IEO, 2022, *Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF: Working Toward a Greener Global Recovery*, Document GEF/R.8/10.

8 GEF, 2019, *Updated Policy on Minimum Fiduciary Standards*, Council Document GEF/C.57/04/Rev.02.

9 2019, *Policy on Monitoring*, Document ME/PL/03.

10 GEF, 2019, *Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards*, Document SD/PL/03.

11 GEF, 2017, *Policy on Gender Equality*, Document SD/PL/02.

75. In addition to the policy updates highlighted above, the GEF Secretariat will take action to implement the GEF-8 replenishment recommendations related to measures to continue to reduce the concentration of funding among a small number of Agencies, while respecting the principle of country ownership.
76. Finally, the GEF will also undertake a comprehensive independent third-party review of Agency alignment with these policies, including implementation capacity.

On the non-grant instrument

77. The GEF continues to recognize the principle of country ownership and considers the priorities for developing countries. Under the GEF-8 replenishment, the GEF increased the indicative allocation to non-grant instruments (NGIs) to \$191 million from \$149 million in GEF-7.

On updates to the GEF policy on gender equality

78. The GEF Gender Equality Policy and the accompanying Guidelines¹² are still at the early stages of implementation. The guiding principles of the existing policy address the issue of protection from discrimination by specifying that GEF activities address and do not exacerbate existing gender-based inequalities, by stipulating inclusive stakeholder engagement in the design and implementation of GEF-financed activities and decision-making.
79. GEF-8 Policy Directions¹³ extend the GEF's inclusion agenda to capture important human rights principles, including non-discrimination and participation; and gender-responsive approach was reaffirmed as one of the cross-cutting themes in GEF programming.
80. The Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change Adaptation for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026) puts a renewed focus on addressing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and embraces a whole-of-society approach, engaging with diverse actors and multi-sectoral stakeholders that would facilitate their participation in the decision-making process.

On the GEF policy on co-financing

81. The GEF policy on co-financing¹⁴ establishes that while co-financing is required for all GEF-financed full-sized projects (FSPs), medium-sized projects (MSPs) and programs, "the Secretariat does not impose minimum thresholds and/or specific types or sources of co-financing or investment mobilized in its review of individual projects and programs."
82. Co-financing is not required for LDCF/SCCF projects.

On private sector resources mobilization

83. As mentioned in GEF's response to Paragraph 11 of the decision outlined above, in the GEF-8 replenishment, the GEF increased the allocation to the NGIs compared to the GEF-7 allocation. The NGI window aims at helping developing countries to unlock and scale-up private financing.
84. The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026) also includes opportunities to foster and leverage private sector investments.

On the Small Grants Programme in the GEF-8 replenishment

85. In the GEF-8 replenishment, the GEF increased the allocation to the Small Grants Programme (SGP) by 16.3 percent compared to GEF-7, from \$128 million in GEF-7 to \$153 million in GEF-8.

On cooperation with the CTCN and the TEC

12 GEF, 2018, *Guidelines on Gender Equality*, Document SD/GN/02.

13 GEF, 2022, *GEF-8 Policy Directions: The Enabling Environment for Transformation*, GEF/R.08/31.

14 GEF, 2018, *Updated Co-Financing Policy*, Council Document GEF/C.54/10/Rev.01.

86. The GEF will continue to work with the CTCN, consistent with national priorities and based on countries' requests. The ongoing cooperation with the TEC will also be continued, as appropriate.

On the Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility

87. The GEF has made progress on the development and implementation of the LTV on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration with the GCF. As a major initiative, the GEF, in collaboration with GCF, is supporting a new phase of the Great Green Wall Initiative, with complementary projects approved by the GCF Board in March 2022 and by the LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2022. Additional efforts are ongoing to develop major initiatives in SIDS, on zero-emission transportation, among others.

On the recognition of needs and priorities for climate finance

88. The GEF continues to recognize the needs and priorities for climate finance, including in the GEF-8 Programming Strategy. For example, the GEF held an informal consultation on BTRs in February 2022, to obtain feedback on the costing of BTRs and the operational procedures related to the support modalities for the first and subsequent reports. The GEF has revisited the costing structure for the BTRs applicable in the GEF-8 period, starting from July 1, 2022. More information on the new costing structure is provided in the GEF Council Information Document on the Update of the Cost Structure for the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for the Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement¹⁵, as well as in the section on the enhanced transparency framework in the annual report of the GEF to the Conference of Parties¹⁶.

89. Also, as a part of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026), the needs and priorities for climate finance as articulated in various documents, including national reports, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports, Adaptation Gap report, as well as the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows, were taken into consideration.

90. This decision in its paragraph 19 is for the COP.

91. This decision in its paragraph 20 is for the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF).

On the GEF annual report to the Conference of the Parties

92. This report includes information on the steps taken from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 (FY22) to implement the guidance received from COP 26.

15 GEF, 2022, *Information Note on the Update of the Cost Structure for the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for the Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement*, Council Document GEF/C.62/Inf.15.

16 GEF, 2022, *Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Twenty-Seventh session of the Conference of Parties to the United Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC COP27 : July 2021 – June 2022*

F. Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism (Decision 9/CP.26)

COP guidance

93. In Decision 9/CP.26, paragraph 3, the COP welcomed the collaboration between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism and encouraged the continuation of this collaboration.
94. In Decision 9/CP.26, paragraph 22, the COP welcomed with appreciation the continuing collaboration between the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Global Environment Facility.

GEF response

95. GEF representatives continue to regularly participate in the meetings of the TEC and the CTCN, provide various inputs to technical papers and official documents, and present the latest information and updates concerning GEF's support for technology.
96. Please see response to paragraph 3 of the decision outlined above.

G. Second review of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (Decision 11/CP.26)

COP guidance

97. In Decision 11/CP.26, paragraph 20, the COP encouraged the Climate Technology Centre and Network, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and in consultation with the Advisory Board, to liaise with the UNFCCC secretariat to further enhance resource mobilization from various sources, including the Financial Mechanism; bilateral, multilateral and private sector channels; philanthropic sources; and financial and in-kind contributions from the host organization and participants in the Network.
98. In Decision 11/CP.26, paragraph 21, the COP invited the Climate Technology Centre and Network to continue working with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to further strengthen their linkages with the aim of scaling up the Climate Technology Centre and Network's provision of technical support to developing country Parties.

GEF response

99. The GEF continues to encourage the CTCN to utilize GEF's Country Support Program (CSP) as an entry point to facilitate further coordination with the GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) to explore potential cooperation in a country-driven manner.
100. Please see response to Paragraph 20 of the decision outlined above.

H. Annual technical progress reports of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2020 and 2021 (Decision 12/CP.26)

COP guidance

101. In Decision 12/CP.26, paragraph 2, the COP invited Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations organizations, observers and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations referred to in paragraph 1¹⁷ of this decision and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates.

GEF response

102. The GEF continues to provide financing to country-driven climate change mitigation (CCM), climate adaptation, technology transfer, and transparency and reporting projects through the GEF Trust Fund, LDCF and SCCF that have capacity-building elements embedded in them.

103. Further, as an active member of the Informal Coordination Group (ICG) for capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, information relevant to the recommendations referred to here are shared with the rest of ICG members on a regular basis.

I. Fifth review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition under the Convention (Decision 13/CP.26)

COP guidance

104. In Decision 13/CP.26, paragraph 1(b), the COP recognized that Parties included in Annex I to the Convention and the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, have provided adequate resources and assistance for the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition established under decision 3/CP.7.

105. In Decision 13/CP.26, paragraph 5, the COP invited Parties included in Annex II to the Convention and other Parties in a position to do so, the Global Environment Facility, multilateral and bilateral agencies, international organizations, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and the private sector or any further arrangements, as appropriate and within their mandates, to continue to provide support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition.

GEF response

106. The GEF noted with appreciation this decision in paragraph 1(b).

107. The GEF will continue to provide support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition if they are eligible for support under the Convention, including through the CBIT, from set-asides that do not draw on country allocations.

¹⁷ Welcomes the annual technical progress reports of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building for 2020 and 2021 and takes note of the recommendations contained in the 2021 report.

J. Extension of the mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (Decision 15/CP.26)

COP guidance

108. In Decision 15/CP.26, paragraph 10, the COP invited the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, in the context of its outreach activities, to share information on relevant sources of finance for adaptation, including sources other than the UNFCCC Financial Mechanism.

109. In Decision 15/CP.26, paragraph 11, the COP requested the Group to continue to support the least developed countries in understanding the modalities for and ways of accessing relevant sources of financing, capacity-building and technology transfer for adaptation in accordance with the Group's mandate.

GEF response

110. This decision in paragraphs 10 and 11 is for the Least-developed Countries Expert Group (LEG).

111. In the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat attended 40th and 41st LEG meetings in October 2021 and March 2022, respectively. These meetings provided an opportunity for the GEF to encourage LDCs to consider applying for LDCF support in line with operational improvements outlined in the 2018-2022 Strategy.

K. Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (Decision 18/CP.26)

COP guidance

112. In Decision 18/CP.26, paragraph 6, the COP also invited multilateral and bilateral institutions and organizations, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, to provide financial support for activities related to implementing Action for Climate Empowerment.

GEF response

113. The GEF-8 Programming Directions prioritize multi-stakeholder dialogues, among others, as criteria and entry points for GEF investments at scale. GEF-8 will also launch the SGP 2.0 aiming to catalyze and mobilize civil society actors and local actions needed to address major drivers of environmental degradation and help deliver multiple benefits across the GEF's mandated thematic dimensions, while promoting sustainable development and improved livelihoods.

114. The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026) prioritizes fostering partnership for inclusion and a whole-of-society approach, which provides dedicated space to the wide range of stakeholders to enable their participation and recognize their role as genuine partners for change, not solely as beneficiaries or recipients.

L. Gender and climate change (Decision 20/CP.26)

COP guidance

115. In Decision 20/CP.26, paragraph 2, the COP invited Parties, United Nations entities, other stakeholders and implementing entities, in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities, to take stock of and map progress in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in line with the priority areas of the gender action plan.

GEF response

116. Gender responsiveness is a key principle underpinning the GEF-8 strategy. All GEF-8 integrated programs and related projects will include gender analyses and provisions for gender-responsive approaches, in line with the GEF policy on gender.

M. Glasgow Climate Pact (Decision 1/CMA.3)

CMA guidance

117. In Decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 17, the CMA welcomed the recent pledges made by many developed country Parties to increase their provision of climate finance to support adaptation in developing country Parties in response to their growing needs, including contributions made to the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund, which represent significant progress compared with previous efforts.

118. In Decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 19, the CMA called upon multilateral development banks, other financial institutions and the private sector to enhance finance mobilization in order to deliver the scale of resources needed to achieve climate plans, particularly for adaptation, and encouraged Parties to continue to explore innovative approaches and instruments for mobilizing finance for adaptation from private sources.

119. In Decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 47, the CMA urged the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, multilateral development banks and other financial institutions to further scale up investments in climate action and called for a continued increase in the scale and effectiveness of climate finance from all sources globally, including grants and other highly concessional forms of finance.

120. In Decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 48, the CMA re-emphasized the need for scaled-up financial resources to take into account the needs of those countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and in this regard encouraged relevant multilateral institutions to consider how climate vulnerabilities should be reflected in the provision and mobilization of concessional financial resources and other forms of support, including special drawing rights.

121. In Decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 51, the CMA emphasized the challenges faced by many developing country Parties in accessing finance and encouraged further efforts to enhance access to finance, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism.

122. In Decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 55, the CMA called upon developed country Parties, multilateral development banks and other financial institutions to accelerate the alignment of their financing activities with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

123. In Decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 64, the CMA urged developed country Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations and other bilateral and multilateral institutions, including non-governmental organizations and private sources, to provide enhanced and additional support for activities addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.
124. In Decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 73, the CMA decided to establish the Glasgow Dialogue between Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders to discuss the arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change, to take place each year at the first session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation until it is concluded at its sixtieth session (June 2024).
125. In Decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 81, the CMA welcomed decision 7/CP.26, in which the Global Environment Facility is encouraged, as part of the eighth replenishment process, to duly consider ways to increase the financial resources allocated for climate, and recognized that the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, established pursuant to decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 84, will continue to support developing country Parties, upon their request, in building their institutional and technical capacity in relation to the enhanced transparency framework.
126. In Decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 82, the CMA welcomed decision 12/CMA.3, in which the Global Environment Facility is requested to continue to facilitate improved access to the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency by developing country Parties, and encouraged the Global Environment Facility to work closely with other institutions and initiatives to enhance these efforts, such as the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance and the “COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action”.

GEF response

On contributions to the LDCF and SCCF and enhanced finance mobilization

127. The GEF expressed appreciation for the pledges to the LDCF while looking forward to additional contributions.

128. This decision in paragraph 19 is for multilateral development banks, financial institutions, and the private sector.

On scale and effectiveness of climate finance

129. Please refer to the response to paragraph 28 of decision 1/CP.26 above.

On considerations regarding vulnerabilities in the provision and mobilization of climate finance

130. The GEF noted this decision in its paragraph 48.

On access to GEF funds

131. The GEF will continue to regularly engage with developing country Parties to enhance access to GEF resources. For example, through the GEF Academy, the GEF provides an online and face-to-face curriculum of courses and learning designed to enhance the capacity of GEF partners and stakeholders to engage with the GEF.

132. The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026) has a dedicated program on outreach and capacity support for LDCs and SIDS to support planning and programming that will enhance their ability to articulate their climate adaptation priority needs in programs and projects that also address GEBs in synergy.

On alignment of financing with the goals of the Paris Agreement

133. This decision in its paragraph 55 is for developed country Parties, multilateral development banks and other financial institutions.

On support for activities addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, and the Glasgow Dialogue

134. Please refer to the response under paragraph 40 of decision 1/CP.26 above.

135. The GEF noted this decision in its paragraph 73.

On the eighth replenishment of the GEF

136. Resources available for programming in GEF-8 for the climate change focal area have increased compared to those available in GEF-7.

On the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency

137. GEF-8 will continue to facilitate access to the CBIT and coordination with other institutions through the CBIT Global Support Program (GSP). The CBIT GSP aims at providing global streamlined support, capacity building, and coordination to help developing countries meet enhanced transparency requirements under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

N. Guidance for operationalizing the modalities, procedures, and guidelines for the enhanced transparency framework referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement (Decision 5/CMA.3)

CMA guidance

138. In Decision 5/CMA.3, paragraph 42, the CMA decided to consider at its fourth session and at each session thereafter an item on "Reporting and review pursuant to Article 13 of the Paris Agreement: provision of financial and technical support to developing country Parties for reporting and capacity-building", which will include consideration of the support provided to developing country Parties for reporting and related capacity-building under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

139. In Decision 5/CMA.3, paragraph 43, the CMA recognized the need for enhanced support from various sources and channels, including the Global Environment Facility, for implementing the enhanced transparency framework.

140. In Decision 5/CMA.3, paragraph 44, the CMA welcomed the arrangements of the Global Environment Facility for providing financial support to developing country Parties for preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports, as requested in decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 8.

141. In Decision 5/CMA.3, paragraph 45, the CMA took note of decision 12/CMA.3 on matters related to guidance to the Global Environment Facility.

142. In Decision 5/CMA.3, paragraph 46, the CMA encouraged developing country Parties to prepare and submit project proposals in order to receive financial support from the Global Environment Facility for preparing their biennial transparency reports.

GEF response

143. The GEF acknowledged this decision while looking forward to the opportunity to provide any required update under the new agenda item on the provision of support for reporting and capacity-building under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.
144. The GEF noted this decision in its paragraph 43.
145. The GEF noted with appreciation this decision in its paragraph 44.
146. The GEF noted this decision in its paragraph 45.
147. The GEF is ready to support countries with the preparation of their first BTR through three modalities¹⁸. Countries can access resources at full cost for the BTR preparations, from the climate change focal area set-aside resources. If countries require additional resources, they can utilize resources from their respective STAR allocation.

O. New collective quantified goal on climate finance (Decision 9/CMA.3)

CMA guidance

148. In Decision 9/CMA.3, paragraph 17, the CMA invited Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, climate finance institutions, observers and observer organizations, and other stakeholders, particularly from the private sector, to submit their views on the objectives referred to in paragraph 15142 above and on the elements referred to in paragraph 16¹⁹.

GEF response

149. This decision is noted.

P. Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance Decision (10/CMA.3)

CMA guidance

150. In Decision 10/CMA.3, paragraph 2, the CMA invited Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, international financial institutions, and other stakeholders in the financial sector to submit via the submission portal their views regarding ways to achieve Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement, including options for approaches and guidelines for implementation, by 30 April 2022 and requested the Standing Committee on Finance to submit a synthesis for consideration by the

18 GEF, 2020, *Information Note on the Financing of the Biennial Transparency Reports for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement*, Council Document GEF/C.59/Inf.19.

19 Also decides that the consideration of the new collective quantified goal will be in line with decision 14/CMA.1 and take into account the needs and priorities of developing countries and include, inter alia, quantity, quality, scope and access features, as well as sources of funding, of the goal and transparency arrangements to track progress towards achievement of the goal, without prejudice to other elements that will also be considered as the deliberations evolve and taking into consideration the submissions referred to in paragraphs 17–18 below

Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session (November 2022).

GEF response

151. This decision is noted.

Q. Guidance to the Global Environment Facility (Decision 12/CMA.3)

CMA guidance

152. In Decision 12/CMA.3, paragraph 1 the CMA recommended that the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-sixth session transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance contained in paragraphs 2–10 below.

153. In Decision 12/CMA.3, paragraph 2 the CMA called upon developed country Parties to make financial contributions to the Global Environment Facility to contribute to a robust eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to support developing countries in implementing the Paris Agreement and encouraged additional voluntary financial contributions to the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility.

154. In Decision 12/CMA.3, paragraph 3 the CMA welcomed the actions taken by the Global Environment Facility to provide support to developing country Parties in accordance with Article 13, paragraphs 14–15, of the Paris Agreement for preparing their biennial transparency reports and building their institutional and technical capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.

155. In Decision 12/CMA.3, paragraph 4 the CMA also welcomes that the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, established pursuant to decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 84, will continue to support developing country Parties, upon their request, in building their institutional and technical capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework and encourages the Global Environment Facility, Parties and implementing agencies to work collaboratively to ensure that this support is delivered in a timely manner.

156. In Decision 12/CMA.3, paragraph 5 the CMA requested the Global Environment Facility to continue to facilitate improved access to the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency by developing country Parties.

157. In Decision 12/CMA.3, paragraph 6 the CMA also requested the Global Environment Facility to consider increasing its support for implementation of the enhanced transparency framework as part of its eighth replenishment process.

158. In Decision 12/CMA.3, paragraph 7 the CMA further requested the Global Environment Facility to contribute to the consideration of the support provided to developing country Parties referred to in decision 5/CMA.3, paragraph 42, by:

- (a) Estimating the cost to developing countries of implementing the enhanced transparency framework, which includes establishing and enhancing a reporting system, as well as the full agreed cost of reporting and the cost of capacity-building for reporting.
- (b) Considering how to adequately incorporate the costs referred to in paragraph 7(a) above into the set-aside of the eighth replenishment process of the Global Environment Facility, while taking the necessary measures to ensure, as appropriate, that the set-aside does not impact the allocation of

resources to developing countries under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources.

- (c) Reporting to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session (November 2022) on any actions taken to implement the guidance contained in paragraph 7(a–b) above and any changes to the estimated costs referred to in paragraph 7(a) above.
- (d) Reporting to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement on activities and provision of support under the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency and on the provision of support for reporting under the Paris Agreement, as well as monitoring and reporting on the timeliness of project review, approval and preparation, including disaggregated tracking of each element of project development (from project identification form approval to submission of chief executive officer approval request and disbursement through implementing agencies

159. In Decision 12/CMA.3, paragraph 8 the CMA requested the Global Environment Facility to consider combining the application processes for support for producing biennial transparency reports, including by considering raising the funding ceiling for expedited enabling activity projects, and for Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency projects, as appropriate, and by developing an expedited process for projects related to preparing biennial transparency reports.

160. In Decision 12/CMA.3, paragraph 9 the CMA encouraged the Global Environment Facility, Parties and implementing agencies to work collaboratively to ensure that financing for national inventory reports and biennial transparency reports is delivered in a timely manner, including by utilizing the bundled application modality and expedited procedures for enabling activities, and requested the Global Environment Facility to monitor the timeliness of project review, approval and preparation, including disaggregated tracking of each phase of project development (from project identification form approval to submission of chief executive officer approval request and disbursement through implementing agencies) and report to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session on the actions taken to implement the guidance contained in this paragraph.

161. In Decision 12/CMA.3, paragraph 10 the CMA also requested the Global Environment Facility to consider raising the funding ceiling for expedited enabling activities.

GEF response

162. Paragraph 1 is a decision for the COP.

On the eighth replenishment of the GEF

163. The GEF acknowledged the pledges for GEF-8 have reached a record replenishment of \$5.33 billion for the period 2022-2026, a 30 percent increase compared to the previous GEF cycle. More pledges could be made later in 2022.

On support to the implementation of the ETF

164. The GEF noted this decision in paragraph 3 and 4 with appreciation.

165. In the GEF-8 climate change focal area strategy, countries will have access to resources intended for Convention obligations, including CBIT support, from set-asides that do not draw on country allocations.

166. In the GEF-8 Programming Strategy, the GEF has increased the resources allocated to support countries in the implementation of the ETF. This support is provided from set-asides that do not draw on individual country allocations.

On the cost structure for the financing of biennial transparency reports

167. Following the informal consultation on BTRs held by the GEF in February 2022²⁰ to obtain feedback on the costing of BTRs and the operational procedures related to the support modalities for the first and subsequent reports, the GEF has revisited the costing structure for the BTRs. More information on the new costing structure is provided in the Information Document on the Update of the Cost Structure for the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for the Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement²¹.

168. There is no agreed definition of a reporting system. Nevertheless, the GEF analyzed relevant information on the reporting system and an additional addendum to the GEF report to COP 27 was submitted to the UNFCCC before COP 27. The addendum presents information provided in response to Decision 12/CMA.3 paragraph 7(a), which requested the GEF to estimate “the cost to developing countries of implementing the enhanced transparency framework, which includes establishing and enhancing a reporting system”. The addendum also summarizes the information presented during a workshop organized by the GEF on October 12, 2022, to discuss how the GEF, countries, and agencies are addressing issues related to establishing and enhancing the reporting system referred to in paragraph 7 (a) of decision 12/CMA.3^{22, 23}. Participants included government representatives, members from the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), the UNFCCC Secretariat, and relevant GEF Implementing Agencies.

169. As mentioned in the responses to paragraphs 5 and 6 above, in the GEF-8 Programming Strategy, the GEF has increased the set-aside resources allocated for the implementation of the ETF. These set-aside resources do not impact the allocation of resources to developing countries under the STAR.

On activities and provision of support under the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency

170. Updated information on the activities and support provided by the CBIT can be found in the CBIT Progress Reports, which are submitted to each GEF Council meeting as an information document²⁴.

171. The GEF will continue to report on the timeliness of project review, approval, and preparation, including disaggregated tracking of each element of project development.

On the combined support provided for producing biennial transparency reports and for Capacity-building for Transparency Initiative projects:

172. The possibility to submit a combined application to request support for two subsequent BTRs was contemplated in the current GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy and will be available for Parties in GEF-8.

173. The modalities, procedures, and guidelines for the ETF under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement and the GEF’s mandate to support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent BTRs were defined at COP 24, in December 2018. By that time, the GEF-7 negotiation process had been completed and no resources had been allocated specifically for BTR support in the replenishment package. Given the resources constraint that followed in GEF-7, the GEF was compelled to prioritize

20 Information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/events/third-informal-consultation-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports>

21 GEF, 2022, *Information Note on the Update of the Cost Structure for the Financing of Biennial Transparency Reports for the Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement*, Council Document GEF/C.62/Inf.15.

22 GEF, 2022, *Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Addendum, Part III: GEF’s Response to the COP Guidance. Reporting Systems Under the Enhanced Transparency Framework*.

23 *Workshop on Reporting Systems under the Enhanced Transparency Framework*, October 12, 2022.

24 GEF, 2022, *Progress Report on the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency*, Council Document GEF/C.62/Inf.05.

access for support for the first BTR for as many countries as possible, which limited the possibility to combine the applications for two BTRs for the same country. In GEF-8, considering the specific funding allocation for EAs under the CCM set-aside, which explicitly considered the GEF's mandate to support the preparation of the first and subsequent BTRs, application for combined requests will be considered.

On streamlined support to enabling activities

174. The GEF continues to use a simplified template for all EAs²⁵. As part of the request of GEF-8 replenishment participants to improve operational efficiency, the GEF Secretariat is already working to further streamline the template for EAs, as well as for FSPs and MSPs.
175. With regard to the funding ceiling, the current Guidelines on Project and Program Cycle (2020 Update)²⁶, specify that: "a single country EA project up to \$2 million is processed under the CEO expedited approval authority procedures, either as an expedited EA up to \$1 million or as an MSP above \$1 million but up to \$2 million". In consideration of the above, the current funding ceiling can already accommodate the combining of two subsequent BTRs in one single application.

On the timely preparation of BTRs and national GHG Inventories (GHGIs)

176. In the reporting period, the GEF has continued to work with GEF Agencies to ensure that financing for national GHGIs and BTRs is delivered in a timely manner. In the reporting period, the GEF has approved BTR support to 38 countries. In total, the GEF has approved BTR support to 48 countries. This includes UNEP's Umbrella Program approved by the sixty-second GEF Council Meeting, which will provide funding for up to 50 BTRs, 25 of which have already received a Letter of Endorsement from the respective GEF OFP. The GEF Secretariat is working closely with these countries and GEF Agencies to provide timely support, with the view to allow sufficient time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024.
177. Regarding the request to monitor the timeliness of each phase of the project development and to report to the COP/CMA, specific information will be developed and included in the GEF Report to COP 27.

On expedited enabling activities

178. Please see the response to Paragraph 8 of the decision outlined above.

R. Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund (Decision 13/CMA.3)

CMA guidance

179. In Decision 13/CMA.3, paragraph 4(t) the CMA noted the promotion of linkages of the Adaptation Fund with other bodies under the Convention, such as the Adaptation Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the Paris Committee on Capacity-building and the Standing Committee on Finance – the Adaptation Fund Board held discussions on linkages between the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund, including through a framework for promoting the scaling up of funded projects and the Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities.

GEF response

180. The Adaptation Fund continued to draw upon the cross-support services of the GEF Secretariat, supporting the technical review of project and program proposals submitted for the thirty-eighth meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board, which took place from April 5 to 8, 2022. The GEF and

25 Enabling Activity Form

26 GEF, 2020, Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, Council Document GEF/C.59/Inf.03.

Adaptation Fund have also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed, such as information exchange on the recent developments in their gender-related work.

S. Annual technical progress reports of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2020 and 2021 (Decision 18/CMA.3)

CMA guidance

181. In Decision 18/CMA.3, paragraph 2 the CMA invited Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Paris Agreement, United Nations organizations, observers and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations referred to in paragraph 1²⁷ of the Decision and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates.

GEF response

182. Please refer to the response to paragraph 2 of decision 12/CP.26 above.

T. Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (Decision 19/CMA.3)

CMA guidance

183. In Decision 19/CMA.3, paragraph 12 the CMA encouraged, recognizing the urgent need for scaling-up action and support, as appropriate, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for the implementation of relevant approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, the Executive Committee, on the basis of its recommendations, to:

- Continue engaging and strengthening its dialogue with the Standing Committee on Finance, including by providing input to the Standing Committee on Finance when, in accordance with its mandate, it provides information, recommendations and draft guidance relating to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate.
- Commence, continue and/or explore potential ways to enhance, as appropriate, collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to inform the work of the Executive Committee and its expert group on action and support.

GEF response

184. Paragraph 12 is for the Warsaw International Mechanism Executive Committee.

U. Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (Decision 22/CMA.3)

²⁷ Welcomes the annual technical progress reports of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2020 and 2021 and takes note of the recommendations contained in the 2021 report.

CMA guidance

185. In Decision also 22/CMA.3, paragraph 6 the CMA invited multilateral and bilateral institutions and organizations, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, to provide financial support for activities related to implementing Action for Climate Empowerment.

GEF response

186. Please refer to the response to paragraph 6 of decision 18/CP.26 above.

V. SBI 52-55 conclusions on Matters relating to the least developed countries²⁸

SBI 51 Conclusions

187. • In the SBI conclusions on Agenda item 11, paragraph 70 of the SBI 52-55 report, the SBI noted with appreciation the financial pledges, totaling USD 307 million, made by the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland to the Least Developed Countries Fund and urged additional contributions to the Fund.

GEF response

188. The GEF expressed its appreciation of the pledges to the LDCF while looking forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF to support climate adaptation and technology transfer.

W. SBI 52-55 conclusions on Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention

SBI 51 Conclusions

189. In the SBI 52-55 conclusions on Agenda Item 13(d) of the SBI 52-55 report, the SBI, having considered the progress of the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility in strengthening the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism:

- (a) Welcomed the progress made by the TEC, the CTCN, the GCF and the GEF in strengthening linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism as reported in their annual reports to the COP in response to decision 14/CP.22, paragraph 9.
- (b) Requested the secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of financial resources, an information note on activities undertaken by the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to strengthen linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism for consideration at the 56th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.
- (c) Agreed to continue consideration of this matter at the 56th session of the Subsidiary Body for

²⁸ Paragraph number of SBI conclusions is based on the report of the SBI 52-55.

Implementation with a view to recommending a draft decision thereon for consideration and adoption at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties.

GEF response

190. Please refer to the response to paragraph 16 of decision 7/CP.26 above.

X. Joint SBI 52-55 and SBSTA 52-55 conclusions on Koronivia joint work on agriculture²⁹

Joint SBSTA 50 and SBI 50 conclusions

191. In the Joint SBI 52-55 and SBSTA 52-55 conclusions on the Koronivia joint work on agriculture, on Agenda Item 8, paragraph 52, the SBI and the SBSTA welcomed the participation in four Koronivia workshops held in 2020 and 2021 of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism; the Adaptation Fund; the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund (both administered by the Global Environment Facility); and the constituted bodies under the Convention. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice also welcomed the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by these entities.

192. In the Joint SBI 52-55 and SBSTA 52-55 conclusions on the Koronivia joint work on agriculture on Agenda Item 8, in paragraph 53, the SBSTA and the SBI encouraged the continued involvement of constituted bodies and financing entities in the Koronivia joint work on agriculture, highlighting the potential for creating interlinkages that lead to enhanced action and improvements in implementation.

GEF response

193. The GEF noted this conclusion in paragraph 53.

On workshops set out in the Koronivia road map

194. The GEF continued to contribute to the Koronivia road map and attended the related meetings, according to the needs and invitations from the UNFCCC. The GEF Secretariat participated in the Koronivia Intersessional Workshop “Sustainable land and water management, including integrated watershed management strategies, to ensure food security” on June 1-16, 2021. The GEF presented its experience and views related to the themes of the workshop.

²⁹ Paragraph numbers of SBSTA/SBI conclusions are based on the reports of the SBSTA 52-55 and the SBI 52-55. The reports are available at <https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-52-55> and <https://unfccc.int/event/sbi-52-55>.

Madrid, Spain



III. COP 25 Decisions and GEF Responses

195. The twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) was held from 2-13 December 2019, in Madrid, Spain, presided over by the Government of Chile. The second session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 2) also took place in Madrid, Spain.

196. COP 25 and CMA 2 in 2019 provided specific guidance to the GEF, while the conclusions of SBI 51 and 50, as well as SBSTA 51 and 50, also contain matters of relevance to the GEF. Key topics include: appreciation for new contributions to the LDCF and the SCCF; improvement of efficiency in the GEF project cycle; continued support for technology through technology needs assessments (TNAs); progress on capacity-building activities, including those related to the enhanced transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement (Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, or CBIT) and biennial transparency reports (BTRs); increased collaboration with support provided by the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) for technology transfer activities; and smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country (LDC) status.

197. The reporting period for the GEF responses below is GEF fiscal years (FYs) 2020 and 2021, from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021.

A. National adaptation plans (Decision 7/CP.25)

COP guidance

198. In Decision 7/CP.25, paragraph 6, the COP notes that funding has been made available for developing country Parties under the Green Climate Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, and that other channels of bilateral, multilateral and domestic support have also contributed to enabling developing countries to advance their work in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans.

GEF response

199. The GEF support for the national adaptation plan (NAP) process has been provided by the LDCF and the SCCF. The GEF has also continued to support NAP processes through projects.

B. Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2019 (Decision 8/CP.25)

COP guidance

200. In Decision 8/CP.25, paragraph 2, the COP invited Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations organizations, observers and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations referred to in paragraph 1 above and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates.

GEF response

201. The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among others, the GEF continues to provide resources for the CBIT, TNAs and nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in an effort to enhance developing countries' ability to assess their needs and priorities and to support them to both develop and implement NDCs. The GEF also engages with developing country Parties through the Country Support Program that includes a range of initiatives that during the pandemic year have been held virtually. These include Constituency Meetings, Stakeholder Empowerment Series (webinars), Introduction Seminar, pre- and post-replenishment meeting briefings and daily contacts based on requests from the GEF Focal Points. In providing capacity-building support to developing countries, the GEF continues to collaborate with relevant initiatives and other capacity-building providers, including through fostering coordinated engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as part of the financial mechanism of the Convention, as well as through the NDC Partnership, to enhance synergies and coherence of the respective work programs.

C. Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance (Decision 11/CP.25)

COP guidance

202. In Decision 11/CP.25, paragraph 13, the COP looked forward to the inputs that may be provided by the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts to the work of the Standing Committee on Finance for its consideration in preparing elements of draft guidance for the operating entities.

GEF response

203. The GEF noted the decision in paragraph 13, which is for the Executive Committee.

D. Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility (Decision 13/CP.25)

COP guidance

204. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 1, the COP welcomed the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session, including the responses of the Global Environment Facility to previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties.

205. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 2, the COP also welcomed the work undertaken by the Global Environment Facility during its reporting period (1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019), including:

- (a) The approval of climate change projects and programmes approved during the reporting period under the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;
- (b) The approval of minimum requirements for Global Environment Facility Trust Fund agencies on anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism;
- (c) The composition of the Private Sector Advisory Group;
- (d) The implementation of the gender equality policy and the approval of the gender implementation strategy;
- (e) The approval of the policy on monitoring and the evaluation policy.

206. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 3, the COP welcomed with appreciation the contributions made by developed country Parties to the Least Developed Countries Fund during the reporting period, amounting to USD 184 million, and the contribution made by Switzerland to the Special Climate Change Fund during the reporting period amounting to USD 3.3 million, and encourages additional voluntary financial contributions to these funds to provide support for adaptation.

207. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 4, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to minimize the time between the approval of project concepts, the development and approval of the related projects, and the disbursement of funds by its implementing/executing agencies to the recipient countries of those projects.

208. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 5, the COP urged the Global Environment Facility to continue to report to the Conference of the Parties any change or update to the eligibility criteria for accessing the Global Environment Facility resources, including the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources country allocation, in its future reports to the Conference of the Parties.

209. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 6, the COP encouraged the Global Environment Facility, as part of the overall performance study of its seventh replenishment, to analyse any challenges faced and lessons learned by the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies in applying the updated policy on co-financing of the Global Environment Facility and to report back to the Conference of the Parties on the outcomes of the study.

210. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 7, the COP also encouraged the Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility country focal points, to promote the use of technology needs assessments to facilitate the financing and implementation of technology actions

prioritized by countries in their technology needs assessments, within the scope of its mandate and operational modalities.

211. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 8, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility to consider:

- (a) Exploring ways to include in the fourth phase of the global project on technology needs assessments the least developed countries and small island developing States that have never undertaken a technology needs assessment and have not been included in the fourth phase;
- (b) Relevant recommendations contained in the report prepared by the Technology Executive Committee on the updated evaluation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, within the scope of its mandate and its operational modalities.

212. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 9, the COP also invited the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its existing mandates and in collaboration with the Green Climate Fund, to report on lessons learned in supporting developing countries in collecting and managing information and data on adaptation.

213. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 10, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, in administering the Least Developed Countries Fund, to continue facilitating the smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status by continuing to provide approved funding through the Least Developed Countries Fund until the completion of projects approved by the Least Developed Countries Fund Council prior to those countries' graduation from least developed country status.

214. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 11, the COP took note of decision 7/CMA.2 and decides to transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement contained in paragraphs 12–13 below, in accordance with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 61.

215. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 12, the COP welcomed the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session, including the list of actions taken by the Global Environment Facility in response to the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

216. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 13, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, under its seventh replenishment and throughout its replenishment cycles, to adequately support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports in accordance with Article 13, paragraphs 14–15, of the Paris Agreement and decision 18/CMA.1.

217. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 14, the COP invited Parties to submit to the secretariat via the submission portal, no later than 10 weeks prior to the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (November 2020), their views and recommendations on elements to be taken into account in developing guidance to the Global Environment Facility.

218. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 15, the COP requested the Standing Committee on Finance to take into consideration the submissions referred to in paragraph 14 above when preparing its draft guidance to the Global Environment Facility for consideration by the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

219. In Decision 13/CP.25, paragraph 16, the COP also requested the Global Environment Facility to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps that it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision.

GEF response

220. The GEF noted with appreciation of recognition in paragraph 1.

221. The GEF noted with appreciation of recognition of the work undertaken in paragraph 2.

On contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the contribution to the Special Climate Change Fund, and additional voluntary financial contributions to these funds

222. The GEF appreciates the LDCF contributions by Germany of €100 million and by the Netherlands of €20 million confirmed at the 30th LDCF/SCCF Council meeting held in June 2021. In addition, the GEF appreciates additional contributions to the LDCF from Belgium, Finland, Qatar and Switzerland amounting to \$33.93 million confirmed at the 29th LDCF/SCCF Council meeting held in December 2020, and is ready to continue to work with countries to support their climate adaptation priorities with additional contributions announced by Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland. The GEF also appreciates contribution announcement by Switzerland to the SCCF at the 30th LDCF/SCCF Council meeting.

On efforts to minimize the time between the approval of project concepts, the development and approval of the related projects, and the disbursement of funds

223. The GEF continues its efforts to strengthen efficiencies in the project cycle. As part of this effort, the GEF has instituted a maximum time period of 12 months for medium-sized projects (MSPs), and 18 months for full-sized projects (FSPs) for the project to receive endorsement by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) after approval by the Council of the relevant Work Program, in line with the Project Cancellation Policy¹ approved by the Council in December 2018. As detailed in the GEF Monitoring Report 2019, presented to the 57th GEF Council Meeting in December 2019, the percentage of FSPs that were endorsed by the CEO within 18 months of the Council approval of the Project Identification Form (PIF) increased to 35 percent in FY19 from 28 percent in FY18.² Additionally, the average time from the endorsement by the CEO to the first disbursement decreased from 11.2 months in the fifth replenishment of the GEF (GEF-5) to 7.7 months in the sixth replenishment of the GEF (GEF-6). The GEF Monitoring Report 2019 provides further detailed explanation of additional measures for increasing the pace of preparation and implementation of GEF projects.³

224. As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the GEF provided an initial automatic three-month extension in March 2020⁴ and another three-month extension in April 2020⁵ (six months in total) to the standard deadlines applicable to the submission for endorsement or approval by the CEO, as well as the actual endorsements or approvals, in line with the Cancellation Policy approved by the Council in December 2018. The six-month extension applies to all projects and child projects under programs approved after March 1, 2019 to address challenges in, and mitigate risks of, the preparation of such projects.

225. As detailed in the GEF Monitoring Report 2020,⁶ presented to the 59th GEF Council meeting in December 2020, the overall disbursement ratio of ongoing portfolio projects has improved from 18 percent in FY19 to 25 percent in FY20. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the start of the projects, resulting in a decline in the share of projects able to disburse in less than 18 months after the endorsement or approval by the CEO from 78 percent to 47 percent. In December 2020, in light of the extraordinary circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the GEF Council approved an exceptional authorization for the CEO to grant exceptions to the Project Cancellation Policy, as follows: a) the CEO may grant extensions to

1 GEF, 2018, *Project Cancellation Policy*, Document OP/PL/2

2 GEF, 2019, *The GEF Monitoring Report 2019*, Council Document GEF/C.57/03, page 14

3 GEF, 2019, *The GEF Monitoring Report 2019*, Council Document GEF/C.57/03, paragraph 34

4 Further information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/extension-deadlines-under-gef-policy-project-cancellation-march-23-2020>

5 Further information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/extension-deadlines-under-gef-policy-project-cancellation-april-23-2020>.

6 GEF, 2020, *The GEF Monitoring Report 2020*, Council Document GEF/C.59/03/Rev.01.

cancellation deadlines for all project types for a total of up to 24 months, replacing the references to extensions of 12 months and six months in paragraphs 5(d) and 6(d), respectively, of the Cancellation Policy; and b) this authorization is effective through the final day of the 60th Council meeting in June 2021.⁷ This provided Agencies and recipient countries the extra time to prepare quality projects, as recipient countries continued to go through several lockdowns, including restrictions to international travel, access to offices and gathering of people. The GEF Council further requested the Secretariat to continue to monitor the impacts of the pandemic on GEF operations, report to the Council and take necessary actions within its authority. On September 25, 2020, the GEF issued an internal guidance “Project Design and Review Considerations in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis and the Mitigation of Future Pandemics”⁸ to provide guidance to enable countries to address COVID-19 risks and create opportunities for green recovery.

On report to the COP

226. The GEF will continue to report to the COP, should such change or update occur in the future.

On overall performance study of its seventh replenishment

227. Progress Report on the Implementation of the Updated Co-Financing Policy⁹ was released at the 59th GEF Council meeting in December 2020. The report found out that the implementation of the updated GEF Co-Financing Policy, together with the comprehensive GEF-7 policy framework on monitoring and results, has provided valuable new insight into co-financing mobilized by GEF projects. The following are the main findings of the report: GEF co-financing has become more diverse, both in terms of number of different sources, and types of co-financing, indicating broader reach in terms of partnerships and potential impacts:

- Investments account for more than 70 percent of the co-financing mobilized by GEF project financing;
- Loans from multilateral development banks continue to play a major role in co-financing GEF projects and they account for more than a third of the investments;
- Based on the indicative information on private sector co-financing, it is mostly driven by private sector interest in non-grant instruments (NGIs) and impact programs (IPs);
- Co-financing is documented more clearly and consistently throughout the GEF project cycle, facilitated by the GEF Portal;
- Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting fiscal risks, there are potential impacts on the level and type of co-financing mobilized by GEF projects, but it is still too early to estimate any trends. Furthermore, the Seventh Overall Performance Study (OPS 7) is expected to be completed in FY22.¹⁰ Relevant findings will be reported once they become available.

On Global Environment Facility country focal points

228. The GEF continues to work with the focal points of GEF recipient countries to ensure that requests for GEF funding are in line with national priorities identified as part of the UNFCCC process, including TNAs, in line with the scope of its mandate and operational modalities. The GEF is ready to continue receiving country-driven, technology-related project proposals, addressing priorities as identified in the TNAs.

- (a) The GEF has continued to work closely with its partners to support the development of TNAs for

7 GEF, 2020, *The Impact of COVID19 on Project Preparation and Implementation: Overview of Responses from Across the GEF Partnership*, Council Document GEF/C.59/11.

8 The guidance is available at: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_COVID_Project_Design_Review_Considerations_20200925.pdf

9 GEF, 2020, *Progress Report on the Implementation of the Updated Co-Financing Policy*, Council Document GEF/C.59/Inf.07.

10 GEF, 2019, *Four-Year Work Program and Budget of The GEF Independent Evaluation Office – GEF-7*, Council Document GEF/C.56/03/Rev.01.

all developing countries, including LDCs and small island developing States (SIDS) that choose to undertake them. In the GEF-7, set-aside resources continue to be available to LDCs and SIDS to support the development of TNAs. The GEF has worked in collaboration with the Agency of the fourth phase of the global TNA project to endeavor to include all LDCs and SIDS that wish to participate that (i) have not yet undertaken a TNA and/or (ii) have not been included in the fourth phase.¹¹ As a result, two additional countries, Barbados and Lesotho, were included in the fourth phase of the TNA project, which includes 17 LDCs and SIDS.

- (b) The GEF has continued and will continue to work with the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and other partners to consider relevant recommendations contained in the TEC's updated evaluation of the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer (PSP), as appropriate, consistent with the GEF's mandate and operational modalities.

On lessons learned in supporting developing countries in collecting and managing information and data on adaptation

229. The GEF continues to work with the focal points of GEF recipient countries to ensure that the GEF continues to provide support through the LDCF and the SCCF to developing countries in collecting and managing information and data on CCA, in collaboration with the GCF. Several LDCF and SCCF projects include focus on systems for generating, collecting and managing information and data to strengthen climate adaptation and resilience, in coordination with the GCF. This also continues to involve support for formulation of NAPs and other CCA planning processes, which includes collecting and managing information and data on CCA. The application of lessons learned, including as it relates to CCA, is an explicit objective of the Long-Term Vision (LTV) on Complementarity, Coherence and Collaboration between the GCF and the GEF. Reporting on lessons learned in collaboration with the GCF has continued to be carried out in various ways, including the progress reports submitted to the LDCF/SCCF Council meetings, constituency workshops, country consultations, and at other events.

On the smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status

230. The GEF proactively engaged with Vanuatu prior to its graduation from its LDC status in December 2020 to ensure that it accessed the maximum amount available under the LDCF in the GEF-7 period (\$10 million per LDC), which it did successfully. The GEF made similar efforts with Angola, which had been expected to graduate from its LDC status during the GEF-7 period as well. Funds approved through the LDCF for graduating LDCs are secured until project completion.

On the guidance from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement contained in paragraph 12 that Welcomes the report of the GEF, and paragraph 13 that requests the GEF to support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports

231. Please see the responses to the guidance transmitted from the CMA to the COP, as included in related paragraphs 12 and 13.

232. The GEF noted with appreciation of recognition in paragraph 12.

On the support to developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports

233. The GEF is ready to support developing country Parties in preparing their BTRs. The GEF has held consultations on how to meet the needs for the BTRs with existing resources under the GEF-7. The GEF also continues to provide support to developing country Parties in transparency-related capacity-building in accordance with the Paris Agreement and relevant decisions through the CBIT. On June 18, 2020, the GEF held a virtual informal consultation meeting on financial support for BTRs to discuss support needs, possible modalities and timing with partners. The meeting was attended by 45 participants, including country representatives, and representatives from the LDC Group, UNFCCC Secretariat, the United

11 The fourth phase of the TNA project was approved by the Council on June 13, 2019 and CEO approved in July 2020

Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The discussion focused on considerations for costing BTRs, supporting BTRs in conjunction with National Communications (NCs), avoiding duplication of support in the transition to BTRs, preliminary options for supporting the first BTR based on existing modalities, and potential resource implications. Meeting information is available on the GEF website.¹² The GEF will use the provided feedback to further develop programming modalities and guidelines for BTRs and will continue to seek feedback.

234. The second informal consultations on financial support for BTRs were held on November 17, 2020,¹³ with participation of national government representatives, members from the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), the UNFCCC Secretariat, and relevant GEF Agencies. These informal consultations helped inform the development of the modalities for supporting the first BTRs. As a result, the GEF published the Information Note on the Financing of Biennial Transparency Report for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement,¹⁴ which further develops the programming modalities and guidelines for financing of BTRs. Specifically, the GEF has made available three modalities for supporting the preparation of the first BTR:

- (i) Modality 1: Countries can access up to \$484,000 for the preparation of a stand-alone BTR;
 - (i) Modality 2: Countries can access up to \$517,000 for the preparation of combined BTR and NC; and
 - (i) Modality 3: Countries can access additional financing of \$200,000 maximum, to top-up an ongoing enabling activity (EA) project.
- (i) The GEF CEO officially informed the UNFCCC Secretariat, Council members and operational focal points (OFPs) on the modalities for BTR financing in February 2021 and provided a visual aid in the form of a decision tree to help illustrate the options available and their timing.¹⁵
 - (i) The GEF also provided an update to Parties on June 5, 2021 during UNFCCC subsidiary body meetings on the provision of financial and technical support and responded to questions from Parties.¹⁶
 - (i) In addition, the GEF has carried out awareness-raising and outreach activities on the support available for BTRs using various channels. For example, the GEF participated in a webinar organized by the Independent Association of Latin America and the Caribbean (AILAC) and UNEP on the transition from the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) framework under the Convention to the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement on March 11, 2021. The GEF also participated in a webinar organized by the Global Support Program (GSP) for NCs, biennial update reports (BURs) and NDCs on preparation of BTRs and related funding opportunities for the Western Balkan and Eastern European countries on April 27, 2021, and in the virtual meeting of the Group of Friends on MRV/transparency framework for developing countries on May 10, 2021.

235. Paragraph 14 is an invitation to Parties.

236. Paragraph 15 is a request to the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF).

On the annual report to the Conference of the Parties

12 Information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/events/informal-consultation-meeting-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports-under-paris>.

13 Information is available at: <http://www.thegef.org/events/second-informal-consultation-financial-support-biennial-transparency-reports>.

14 GEF, 2020, *Information Note on the Financing of Biennial Transparency Report for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement*, Council Document GEF/C.59/Inf.19.

15 Decision tree for choosing modality for first BTR support from GEF is available at: http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/events/GEF_Second_Informal_Consultation_BTR_Decision_Tree.pdf

16 <https://unfccc.int/documents/276638>

237. The present report includes information on the additional steps taken from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 (FY21) to implement the guidance received from COP 25.

E. Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism (Decision 14/CP.25)

COP guidance

238. In Decision 14/CP.25, paragraph 5, the COP welcomed the engagement and collaboration of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and encourages their continued and enhanced collaboration.

GEF response

239. The GEF continues to collaborate with the TEC and the CTCN. An MSP, titled Piloting Innovative Financing for Climate Adaptation Technologies in Medium-sized cities from the LDCF and the SCCF through Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation with the CTCN as the executing entity, was approved in FY20. The project has experienced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic but is expected to be reviewed for endorsement by the CEO by the end of 2021.¹⁷

F. Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts and its 2019 review (Decision 2/CMA.2)

CMA guidance

240. In Decision 2/CMA.2, paragraph 36, the CMA invited Parties to make use of available support relevant for averting, minimizing and addressing impacts related to extreme weather events, slow onset events, non-economic losses and human mobility and for comprehensive risk management from a wide variety of sources, public and private, domestic bilateral and multilateral, under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including through the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, to the extent consistent with their mandates.

241. In Decision 2/CMA.2, paragraph 37, the CMA requested the Executive Committee to further engage and strengthen its dialogue with the Standing Committee on Finance by providing input in line with decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5(c)(ii), to the Standing Committee on Finance when, in accordance with its mandate, it provides information, recommendations and draft guidance relating to the operating entities of the financial mechanisms under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as appropriate.

GEF response

242. Paragraph 36 is for Parties.

243. Paragraph 37 is for the Executive Committee.

G. Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance Decision

¹⁷ The GEF Agency, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), submitted a request to extend the submission for endorsement by the CEO to May 2021.

(5/CMA.2)

CMA guidance

244. In Decision 5/CMA.2, paragraph 13, the CMA looked forward to the inputs that may be provided by the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts to the work of the Standing Committee on Finance for its consideration in preparing elements of draft guidance for the operating entities.

GEF response

245. This decision is for the Executive Committee.

H. Guidance to the Global Environment Facility (Decision 7/CMA.2)

CMA guidance

246. In Decision 7/CMA.2, paragraph 1 the CMA recommended that the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance contained in paragraphs 2–3 below, in accordance with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 61.

247. In Decision 7/CMA.2, paragraph 2, the CMA welcomed the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session, including the list of actions taken by the Global Environment Facility in response to the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

248. In Decision 7/CMA.2, paragraph 3, the CMA.2 requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, to adequately support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports under its seventh replenishment and throughout its replenishment cycles in accordance with Article 13, paragraphs 14–15, of the Paris Agreement and decision 18/CMA.1.

GEF response

249. Paragraph 1 is a decision for the COP.

250. The GEF noted with appreciation of recognition in paragraph 2.

On the support to developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports

251. Please see the response to paragraph 13 of Decision 13/CP.25 above.

I. Joint SBSTA 51 and SBI 51 conclusions on Koronivia joint work on agriculture¹⁸

¹⁸ Paragraph numbers of SBSTA/SBI conclusions are based on the reports of the SBSTA 51 and the SBI 51. The reports are available at <https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-51> and <https://unfccc.int/event/sbi-51>

Joint SBSTA and SBI Conclusions

252. In the joint SBSTA 51 and SBI 51 conclusions on Agenda Item 6, paragraph 21 of the SBSTA51 report and on Agenda item 6, paragraph 33 of the SBI report, the SBSTA and the SBI further welcomed the participation in the workshops of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (the GEF and the GCF), the Adaptation Fund, the GEF-administered Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund, and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They noted with appreciation the work already undertaken on issues related to agriculture by those entities, and recalled inviting them to contribute to the work and participate in the workshops set out in the Koronivia road map.

GEF response

253. The GEF continued to contribute to the Koronivia road map and attend the related workshops, according to the needs and invitations from the UNFCCC. In the reporting period, the GEF participated in two workshops of the Koronivia road map: i) "Improved livestock management systems, including agropastoral production systems and others" on November 24-25, 2020; and ii) "Socio-economic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector" on December 1-2, 2020. In addition to the workshops mandated in the Koronivia road map, the GEF also attended the first part of the inter-sessional workshop focused on "Sustainable land and water management, including integrated watershed management strategies, to ensure food security" on June 1-16, 2021. On these three occasions, the GEF presented its experience and views related to the themes of the workshops.

J. SBI 51 conclusions on Matters relating to the least developed countries¹⁹

SBI 51 Conclusions

254. In the SBI conclusions on Agenda item 11, paragraph 48 of the SBI 51 report, the SBI noted with appreciation the financial pledges, totaling USD 160 million, made at the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019 by the Governments of Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden, the financial pledge of 7.5 million Canadian dollars made by the Government of Canada at the 2019 G7 Summit, and the financial pledge of USD 16.6 million made by the Government of Belgium to the Least Developed Countries Fund, and urged additional contributions to the Fund.

GEF response

255. As mentioned in response to paragraph 3 of Decision 13/CP.25 above, the GEF appreciates the contributions by Germany of €100 million and the Netherlands of €20 million confirmed at the 30th LDCF/SCCF council meeting in June 2021. In addition, the GEF appreciates contributions of Belgium, Finland, Qatar and Switzerland, amounting to \$33.9 million, in this reporting period, and is ready to continue to work with countries to support climate adaptation priorities with additional contributions announced by Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland. The GEF also appreciates contribution announcement by Switzerland to the SCCF at the 30th LDCF/SCCF Council meeting.

K. SBI 51 conclusions on Poznan strategic program on technology

¹⁹ Paragraph number of SBI conclusions is based on the report of the SBI 51.

SBI 51 Conclusions

256. In the SBI 51 conclusions on Agenda sub-item 13(c), paragraph 64 of the SBI 51 report, the SBI welcomed the information on progress in the implementation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer contained in the report of the GEF to COP 25 and noted the related challenges and lessons learned.
257. In the SBI 51 conclusions on Agenda sub-item 13(c), paragraph 65 of the SBI 51 report, the SBI also welcomed the continued support provided by the GEF for technology development and transfer on approval by the GEF Council of 8 proposed projects with technology transfer elements for climate change mitigation and 18 proposed projects for adaptation during the GEF reporting period.
258. In the SBI 51 conclusions on Agenda sub-item 13(c), paragraph 66 of the SBI 51 report, the SBI further welcomed the approval by the GEF Council of the fourth phase of the global project on TNAs, whereby support is being provided to 15 LDCs and SIDS for conducting or updating their TNAs. The SBI noted that some LDCs and SIDS have not been included in the fourth phase of the project.
259. In the SBI 51 conclusions on Agenda sub-item 13(c), paragraph 67 of the SBI 51 report, the SBI noted the importance of implementing the technology action plans resulting from the TNA process, and encouraged Parties to consider using the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources for implementing the outcomes of TNAs and technology action plans.
260. In the SBI 51 conclusions on Agenda sub-item 13(c), paragraph 68 of the SBI 51 report, the SBI noted and considered the progress, challenges and lessons learned in relation to the global CTCN project supported by the GEF.
261. In the SBI 51 conclusions on Agenda sub-item 13(c), paragraph 69 of the SBI 51 report, the SBI welcomed the ongoing collaboration between the CTCN and the pilot regional climate technology and finance centres supported by the GEF, and encouraged the CTCN to consult with the GEF and relevant multilateral development banks to find ways to harness the lessons learned in a manner that benefits future projects.
262. In the SBI 51 conclusions on Agenda sub-item 13(c), paragraph 72 of the SBI 51 report, the SBI recommended that the COP invite the GEF to consider:
- (a) Exploring ways to include in the fourth phase of the global project on TNAs the LDCs and SIDS that have never undertaken a TNA and have not been included in the phase;
 - (b) Relevant recommendations contained in the evaluation report referred to in paragraph 70 above, within the scope of its mandate and its operational modalities.

GEF response

263. The GEF noted with appreciation of recognition in paragraph 64.
264. The GEF noted with appreciation of recognition in paragraph 65.

²⁰ Paragraph numbers of SBI conclusions are based on the SBI 51 report.

265. The GEF noted with appreciation of recognition in paragraph 66. Opportunities were provided for all LDCs and SIDS that had not yet undertaken a TNA to join the fourth phase. The fourth phase, involving 17 LDCs and SIDS, was endorsed by the CEO in July 2020 and has since begun implementation.

On implementing the technology action plans resulting from the TNA process support

266. Please see the response to paragraph 8 of decision 13/CP.25 above.

267. The GEF noted this conclusion in paragraph 68.

On collaboration between the CTCN

268. The GEF noted with appreciation of recognition. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person meetings have been limited. The last in-person meeting the GEF had with the CTCN was at COP 25 for the 5th CTCN-GEF Project Steering Committee meeting, during which the two entities discussed the possibilities for harnessing lessons learned and further developing partnership. The GEF continues to attend the CTCN Advisory Board meetings, as appropriate. The GEF approved an MSP with CTCN engagement from the LDCF and the SCCF through the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation in FY20. The project has experienced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic but is expected to be reviewed for endorsement by the CEO by the end of 2021.

On the fourth phase of the global project on TNAs and relevant recommendations contained in the evaluation report referred to in paragraph 70 above

269. The GEF worked with its partners to support the development of TNAs by LDCs and SIDS that chose to undertake them. Two additional countries were included in the fourth phase of the TNA project, which includes the participation of 17 LDCs and SIDS.

270. The GEF continues to work with the TEC and other partners to consider relevant recommendations contained in the TEC's updated evaluation of the PSP. Please see the response to paragraph 8 of decision 13/CP.25 above for more detailed information.

L. Joint SBSTA 50 and SBI 50 conclusions on Koronivia joint work on agriculture²¹

Joint SBSTA 50 and SBI 50 conclusions

271. In the Joint SBSTA 50 and SBI 50 conclusions on Agenda item 5, paragraph 42 of the SBSTA 50 report, and on Agenda item 8, paragraph 44 of the SBI 50 report, the SBSTA and the SBI welcomed the report on the first Koronivia road map in-session workshop, on topic 2(a) (modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work), which was held in conjunction with SB 49. The SBSTA and the SBI considered the workshop report and agreed to welcome the presentation made by the GCF on its work on issues relating to agriculture, and welcome the subsequent clarification by the secretariat on the process for Parties to submit their views to the Standing Committee on Finance, in line with existing procedures, on elements to be taken into account in developing guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism.

272. In the SBSTA 50 conclusions on Agenda item 5, paragraph 44 of the SBSTA 50 report, and on Agenda item 8, paragraph 46 of the SBI 50 report, the SBSTA and the SBI welcomed the participation in the workshops of observers and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (GEF and GCF), the Adaptation Fund, the GEF-administered Least Developed Countries Fund, and the constituted bodies under the Convention. They noted with appreciation the work already undertaken on issues related to

²¹ Paragraph numbers of SBSTA/SBI conclusions are based on the reports of the SBSTA 50 and the SBI 50. The reports are available at <https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-50> and <https://unfccc.int/event/sbi-50>.

agriculture by those entities, and recalled inviting them to contribute to the work and participate in the workshops set out in the Koronivia road map.

GEF response

273. The GEF noted this conclusion in paragraph 42.

On workshops set out in the Koronivia road map

274. Please see the response to paragraph 21 of the SBSTA 51 report above.

M. SBI 50 Conclusions on Matters relating to the least developed countries²²

SBI Conclusions

275. In the SBI 50 conclusions on Agenda item 10, paragraph 71 of the SBI 50 report, the SBI took note of the information note on LDCF support for graduating LDCs prepared by the GEF.

276. In the SBI 50 conclusions on Agenda item 10, paragraph 72 of the SBI 50 report, the SBI decided to recommend that in its decision on guidance to the GEF, COP 25 request the GEF, in administering the LDCF, to continue facilitating the smooth transition of countries graduating from LDC status by continuing to provide approved funding through the LDCF until the completion of projects approved by the LDCF Council prior to those countries' graduation from LDC status.

GEF response

On LDCF support for graduating

277. An information document was prepared for the 27th meeting of the LDCF/SCCF Council held in December 2019, which further specified LDCF support for graduating LDCs.²³

On facilitating the smooth transition of countries graduating from LDC status

278. As mentioned in response to paragraph 10 of decision 13/CP.25 above, funds approved through the LDCF for graduating LDCs are secured until project completion.

²² Paragraph numbers of SBI conclusions are based on the SBI 50 report.

²³ GEF, 2019, *Updated Information Note on Least Developed Countries Fund Support for Graduating Least Developed Countries*, LDCF/SCCF Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.27/Inf.05.

N. SBI 50 Conclusions on Development and transfer of technologies: Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer²⁴

SBI Conclusions

279. In the SBI 50 conclusions on Agenda item 11, paragraph 78 of the SBI 50 report, the SBI welcomed the information on progress in the implementation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer contained in the report of the GEF to COP 24 and noted the related challenges and lessons learned.

280. In the SBI 50 conclusions on Agenda item 11, paragraph 79 of the SBI 50 report, the SBI welcomed the continued support provided by the GEF for technology development and transfer, including innovation. It also welcomed the ongoing collaboration between the regional climate technology transfer and finance centres and the CTCN. It encouraged the GEF, the regional centres and the CTCN to continue to collaborate with a view to providing further support to developing country Parties for scaling up their technology-related action for enhanced mitigation and adaptation action, in a balanced manner.

281. In the SBI 50 conclusions on Agenda item 11, paragraph 80 of the SBI 50 report, the SBI noted the information provided in the report referred to in paragraph 78 above on the collaboration between the GEF focal points and national designated entities for technology development and transfer in response to an invitation from SBI 47,49 and encouraged strengthened collaboration so as to enhance coherence between the support provided by the GEF and that provided by the CTCN for technology transfer activities. It also encouraged the GEF and the CTCN to facilitate the collaboration, as appropriate.

GEF response

282. The GEF noted with appreciation of recognition in paragraph 78 of the SBI 50 report.

On continued collaboration

283. The GEF continues to collaborate with the regional centers and the CTCN, to support developing countries on technology-related needs and activities for enhanced CCM and CCA action.

On strengthened collaboration

284. The GEF continues to respond to invitations to consult with the CTCN on the identification of ways to enhance information-sharing among national designated entities and GEF OFPs. The GEF will continue to receive and share information on collaboration between GEF focal points and national designated entities (NDEs) for technology development and transfer and provide this information in its reports to the COP. The GEF has also invited the CTCN to find ways to participate in GEF ECWs and other meetings to engage with GEF OFPs on this matter. Also, as mentioned in response to paragraph 5 of Decision 13/CP.25, the GEF has approved an MSP, as part of the Challenge Program on Adaptation Innovation, and is currently experiencing delay for the CEO endorsement due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The GEF Agency of this project is UNIDO, which is also the co-host of the CTCN. The executing entity for this project will be the network members / Consortium partners of the CTCN.

²⁴ Paragraph numbers of SBI conclusions are based on the SBI 50 report.

Katowice, Poland



IV. COP 24 Decisions and GEF Responses

1. The twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) was held from 2-15 December 2018, in Katowice, Poland presided over by the Government of Poland. The third part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1.3) also took place in Katowice, Poland.
2. COP 24 provided specific guidance to the GEF, while conclusions from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) 49 and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA) 49 also contain matters of relevance for the GEF. Key topics include: appreciation for the seventh replenishment of the GEF (GEF-7); increased integration of climate change priorities into other focal areas and the Impact Programs (IPs); establishment of the private sector advisory group; continuation of capacity-building activities, including those related to the enhanced transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement (CBIT); and the development of improved fiduciary standards, including anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorism finance policies.
3. The reporting period for the GEF responses below is GEF fiscal year (FY) 2019, from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

A. Preparations for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (Decision 1/CP.24)

COP guidance

4. In Decision 1/CP.24, paragraph 8, the COP welcomes with appreciation the pledges and the announcements of Parties, including pledges to the Green Climate Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Adaptation Fund, and of the international financial institutions, which provide further clarity to and predictability of climate finance flows to 2020.

GEF response

5. The GEF appreciates voluntary contributions pledged to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) to support climate adaptation.

B. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (Decision 4/CP.24)

COP guidance

6. In Decision 4/CP.24, paragraph 14, the COP requested the Standing Committee on Finance, in preparing on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, for consideration by the Conference of Parties, starting at its twenty-sixth session (November 2020), and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, starting at its third session (November 2020), to collaborate, as appropriate, with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the subsidiary and constituted bodies, multilateral and bilateral channels, and observer organizations.

GEF response

7. The GEF continues to work closely with the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF).

C. Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility (Decision 6/CP.24)

COP guidance

8. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 1, the COP welcomed the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and its addendum, including the responses of the Global Environment Facility to guidance from the Conference of the Parties.
9. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 2, the COP also welcomed the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (July 2018 to June 2022).
10. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 3, the COP recognized with concern the decrease in allocation to the climate change focal area, including the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources, compared with the sixth replenishment.
11. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 4, the COP urged all Parties that have not made pledges for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to do so as soon as possible.
12. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 5, the COP acknowledged the increased integration of climate change priorities into other focal areas and the impact programmes in the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, as well as the increased focus on innovation and enhanced synergies with other focal areas.
13. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 6, the COP highlighted the importance of enhancing country ownership in the impact programmes of the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility.
14. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 7, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals are duly followed in an efficient manner.

15. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 8, the COP looked forward to the projected delivery of greenhouse gas emission reductions in the seventh replenishment period, which is twice the amount planned for the sixth replenishment.
16. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 9, the COP acknowledged the updated policy on co-financing of the Global Environment Facility, which sets out an ambition for the overall portfolio of the Global Environment Facility to reach an increased ratio of co-financing to its project financing.
17. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 10, the COP recognizes that the Global Environment Facility does not impose minimum thresholds and/or specific types or sources of co-financing or investment mobilized in its review of individual projects and programmes.
18. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 11, the COP welcomes the inclusion of support for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency in the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, which enhances predictability of funding for the Initiative.
19. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 12, the COP requests the Global Environment Facility to continue to manage the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency to fund a diversity of countries and regions, taking into account each country's capacity, in line with priorities of support as contained in the programming directions of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency.
20. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 13, the COP invites the Global Environment Facility to enhance the information in its reports to the Conference of the Parties on the outcomes of the collaboration between the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer's climate technology and finance centres and the Climate Technology Centre and Network.
21. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 14, the COP requests the Global Environment Facility to continue to monitor the geographic and thematic coverage, as well as the effectiveness, efficiency and engagement, of the Global Environment Facility Partnership, and to consider the participation of additional national and regional entities, as appropriate.
22. In Decision 6/COP.24, paragraph 15, the COP welcomes the establishment of the private sector advisory group.
23. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 16, the COP encourages a balanced composition of the private sector advisory group in terms of gender and geographical coverage.
24. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 17, the COP welcomes the Global Environment Facility Council's decision to begin the process of developing improved fiduciary standards, including anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorism finance policy and requests the Global Environment Facility to include updates on this work in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-fifth session (December 2019).
25. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 18, the COP requests the Global Environment Facility to review and, if necessary, update or adopt policies for preventing sexual harassment and the abuse of authority with the aim of protecting the staff of the Global Environment Facility secretariat as well as its partner organizations against unwanted sexual advances, preventing inappropriate behaviour and abuse of power and providing guidelines for reporting incidents.
26. In Decision 6/CP.24, paragraph 21, the COP also requests the Global Environment Facility to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps that it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision.

GEF response

GEF seventh replenishment

27. Through a reinforced focus and enhanced efficiency using synergistic programming, the GEF expects to deliver 1.5 billion metric tons CO₂ eq in greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions in GEF-7. This GHG reduction target is double the GEF-6 corporate target, despite a 36 percent decrease in overall funding for this focal area in GEF-7 compared to GEF-6. The GEF-6 target for GHG emission reduction benefits has been exceeded by 189 percent. The GEF-7 target will be achieved through both focal areas investments and IPs.
28. The GEF is monitoring the progress towards achieving the target of delivering 1.5 billion metric tons of CO₂ eq in GHG emission reductions during GEF-7 and continues to report on the progress made through the GEF Corporate Scorecard presented at each GEF Council.
29. The GEF continues to focus on innovation, synergies, and integration of climate change priorities.

Country ownership

30. The importance of enhancing country ownership is recognized by the GEF. On November 15, 2018, correspondence was sent to all GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) inviting Expressions of Interest to participate in the GEF-7 IPs. Each Expression of Interest required endorsement by the GEF OFP, confirming the country's interest in participating in the IP as well as the amount of System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) resources the country intended to use for the specific IP. To further enhance transparency and safeguard country ownership, following a decision of the 56th GEF Council, a report on the selection processes of lead Agencies and the recipient countries in the IPs was prepared by the GEF Secretariat and shared with Council.¹

Review of funding proposals

31. The GEF continues to follow its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals in an efficient manner.

Co-financing policy

32. The GEF is monitoring the progress in the implementation of the updated policy on co-financing. Information on the level of co-financing leveraged to date is included in Part III of the GEF Report to COP 25 for both climate change mitigation and adaptation.²

CBIT

33. The GEF appreciates positive feedback on the CBIT and will continue to support the countries in the GEF-7 period from the GEF Trust Fund (GEFTF) as agreed in the replenishment.
34. In line with the Paris Agreement and its decision, all developing country Parties have access to the CBIT, upon request. Per the Council-approved CBIT Programming Directions, "the CBIT will seek to fund a diversity of countries and regions, taking into account each country's capacity. Proposals will be prioritized based on demonstrated responsiveness to Paris Agreement transparency requirements under Article 13. Proposals will also be prioritized for those countries that are in most need of capacity-building assistance for transparency-related activities, in particular small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs)."³

1 GEF, 2019, 56th GEF Council Meeting, Joint Summary of the Chairs, Decision on Agenda Item 13 (2nd decision). Work Program for GEF Trust Fund.

2 GEF, 2019, Report of the GEF to the 25th session of the COP to UNFCCC.

3 GEF, 2016, Programming Directions for the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency, Council Document GEF/C.50/06.

35. All proposals received from Parties that have ratified/acceded to the Paris Agreement have been reviewed and all have been approved once technically cleared. The CBIT is supporting a diverse set of countries and regions. As of June 30, 2019, the GEF has supported CBIT projects in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean as follows:

- (i) Africa: 16 projects with \$25.4 million
- (ii) Asia: 10 projects with \$15.1 million
- (iii) Eastern Europe and Central Asia: 7 projects with \$8.9 million
- (iv) Latin America and the Caribbean: 14 projects with \$21.5 million
- (v) Global: 4 projects with \$7.2 million

Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer

36. The GEF continues to provide information to the COP on the outcomes of collaboration between the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer's climate technology and finance centres and the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) in its annual report to the COP. Relevant information is included in Part III, Section 4 of this report, which focuses on technology transfer.

GEF Partnership

37. The GEF Council has taken note of the GEF-7 policy recommendation requesting the Secretariat continue to monitor the geographic and thematic coverage, as well as the effectiveness, efficiency, and engagement of the GEF Partnership. The GEF Secretariat will report on its findings at the 57th Council meeting in December 2019.⁴

Private sector engagement

38. Gender and geographical coverage have been key considerations of the private sector advisory group. The composition of the private sector advisory group is presented in the list below:⁵

- (i) Ms. Andrea Alvares, Vice President of Marketing, Innovation and Sustainability, Natura; On behalf of Mr. Guilherme Leal, Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the Board of Natura Cosmetics, Brazil. Sector: Natural resources, non-timber forest products, other consumer goods.
- (ii) Mr. Yoshihiro Ikegawa, Managing Corporate Executive Officer of Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings Corporation, Japan; On behalf of the Chairperson, Mr. Yoshimitsu Kobayashi. Sector: Chemicals.
- (iii) Ms. Darian McBain, Global Director of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability, Thai Union Group, Thailand; On behalf of the CEO, Mr. Thiraphong Chansiri. Sector: Fisheries.
- (iv) Mr. Robert Metzke, Global Head of Sustainability of Royal Philips, Netherlands; On behalf of the CEO, Mr. Frans van Houten. Sector: Technology, Electronics, and other consumer goods.
- (v) Mr. Jeff Turner, Vice President for Corporate Sustainability of Royal DSM, Netherlands; On behalf of the CEO and Chairperson, Mr. Feike Sijbesma. Sector: Food and Nutrition.
- (vi) Ms. Helen Crowley, Head of Sustainable Sourcing and Innovation, Kering, France; On behalf of the CEO, Mr. François-Henri Pinault. Sector: Consumer goods, Jewelry, Natural resources.
- (vii) Mr. Kevin Rabinovitch, Global VP Sustainability, Mars Incorporated, USA; On behalf of the CEO, Mr.

4 GEF, 2018, Strengthening the GEF Partnership, Council Document GEF/C.54/08.

5 GEF, 2019, Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) Composition, Council Document GEF/C.56/Inf.05.

Grant Reid. Sector: Agriculture, Food, Natural Resources

(viii) Mr. Christopher Stewart, Head of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability of Olam International, Singapore; On behalf of the CEO, Mr. Sunny Verghese. Sector: Agriculture, Food, Natural Resources.

(ix) Mr. Serge Rajaobelina, CEO of the Livelihoods Fund at Fanamby, Madagascar. Sector: Ecotourism, non-timber forest products, agriculture, natural resources - SME.

(x) Mr. Ajay Vir Jakhar, Chairman of Bharat Krishak Samaj, India. Sector: Agriculture, Food and nutrition - SME.

(xi) Mr. Bey Soo Kiang, Vice-Chairman of Royal Golden Eagle (RGE), Indonesia; On behalf of the Chairman, Mr. Anderson Tanoto. Sector: Agriculture, Food and Nutrition.

(xii) Mr. Ademola Adesina, CEO of Rensource Energy, Nigeria. Sector: Energy and cities.

Fiduciary standards

39. During the reporting period, the Council approved minimum requirements for GEF Agencies on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML-CFT) and requested Agencies to certify that they meet those minimum requirements or present a time-bound action plan to achieve compliance.⁶ Following the approval of the minimum standards, GEF Agencies commenced a process of self-certification to ensure a timely roll-out of the new minimum requirements on AML-CFT. In June 2019, the GEF Council reviewed the Status of Agencies' Compliance with Minimum Requirements on AML-CFT.⁷

40. Furthermore, during the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat has been carrying out a comprehensive review of the GEF's fiduciary minimum standards for GEF partner Agencies, with a view to presenting an updated policy for Council consideration in December 2019.⁸ If approved, an updated policy on minimum fiduciary standards would require a complete, third-party assessment of Agencies' compliance, including on AML-CFT.

Sexual harassment policies

41. World Bank Group's (WBG) Staff Rules and its Code of Conduct apply to GEF Secretariat staff, who are contractually employees of the WBG. The WBG's Code of Conduct defines sexual harassment as "any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favor, or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature that interferes with work, is made a condition of employment, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment."⁹ The Code sets out that harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment and bullying, is unacceptable. It also sets out that: "The WBG does not expect staff to tolerate sexual harassment from managers, colleagues, or any other WBG stakeholders. Likewise, sexual harassment by staff members toward WBG stakeholders—including clients, partners, vendors, contractors, and conference participants—will not be tolerated."

Reporting on steps taken to implement COP guidance

42. The GEF Report to COP 25 includes information on the steps taken to implement the guidance received from COP 24.¹⁰

D. National Adaptation Plans (Decision 8/CP.24)

6 GEF, 2018, Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies, Council Document GA/PL/02.

7 GEF, 2019, Status of Agencies' Compliance with Minimum Requirements on AML-CFT, Council Document GEF/C.56/07/Rev.01.

8 GEF, 2019, Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies, Council Document GEF/C.56/07/Rev.01.

9 World Bank Group, 2013, Code of Conduct.

10 GEF, 2019, Report of the GEF to the 25th session of the COP to UNFCCC.

COP guidance

43. In Decision 8/CP.24, paragraph 9, the COP notes that funding has been made available for developing country Parties under the Green Climate Fund, the Least Developed Countries Funds, and the Special Climate Change Fund for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, and that other channels of bilateral, multilateral and domestic support have also contributed significantly to enabling developing countries to advance their work in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans.
44. In Decision 8/CP.24, paragraph 11, the COP welcomes the approval by the Least Developed Countries Fund of 11 proposals, as of 30 September 2018, from the least developed countries for funding for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans amounting to \$55 million.

GEF response

45. The GEF appreciated the positive acknowledgement of the support provided by the LDCF to countries.

E. Review of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (Decision 12/CP.24)

COP guidance

46. In Decision 12/CP.24, paragraph 4, the COP invited the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to consider implementing the relevant recommendations referred to in paragraph 1¹¹ above when implementing their further activities relevant to the work of the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

GEF response

47. The GEF has been and will continue considering, in collaboration with the CTCN, the relevant recommendations within its mandate. For example, the GEF Secretariat personnel met with the CTCN, including at COP 24, SBI 50, and the 17th and 18th Technology Executive Committee (TEC) Meetings in an effort to encourage collaboration between the Poznan Strategic Program (PSP) regional climate technology and finance centres and the CTCN. The CTCN has been encouraged to utilize GEF National Dialogues and Extended Constituency Meetings as entry points to facilitate further coordination with GEF Operational Focal Points to explore potential cooperation in a country-driven manner.

¹¹ Paragraph 1: Notes the management response of the United Nations Environment Programme on the relevant findings and recommendations of the independent review of the effective implementation of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, in response to decision 14/CP.23, paragraph 7.

F. Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism (Decision 13/CP.24)

COP guidance

48. In Decision 13/CP.24, paragraph 6, the COP took note of the collaboration of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, constituted bodies under the Convention and other relevant organizations.

GEF response

49. The above guidance is noted.

G. Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention (Decision 14/CP.24)

50. In Decision 14/CP.24, paragraph 1, the COP welcomed the information provided by the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund on their actions in strengthening the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism in their annual reports to the Conference of the Parties in response to decision 14/CP.22, paragraph 9.
51. In Decision 14/CP.24, paragraph 2, the COP acknowledged the ongoing coordination between the national designated entities for technology development and transfer and the national designated authorities of the Green Climate Fund as well as the Global Environment Facility focal points, and encouraged enhanced coordination in this area.
52. In Decision 14/CP.24, paragraph 5, the COP welcomed the support provided for technology development and transfer by the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund through projects and programmes, including for projects resulting from technology needs assessments.
53. In Decision 14/CP.24, paragraph 6, the COP invites developing country Parties to seek support from the Climate Technology Centre and Network to develop and submit technology-related projects, including those resulting from technology needs assessments and from the technical assistance of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism for implementation, in accordance with their respective policies and processes.
54. In Decision 14/CP.24, paragraph 7, also invited the Climate Technology Centre and Network to consult with the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility to identify ways to enhance information-sharing among national designated entities, national designated authorities and Global Environment Facility focal points.
55. In Decision 14/CP.24, paragraph 9, the COP requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its fifty-third session (November 2020), to take stock of progress in strengthening the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism with a view to recommending a draft decision on

this matter, including on the consideration of a conclusion on this matter, for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-sixth session (November 2020).

Coordination

56. The GEF appreciates the acknowledgement of the ongoing coordination.
57. The GEF continues to support technology development and transfer in GEF-7. Supporting innovation and technology transfer is a strategic objective under the respective strategies of the climate change mitigation and adaptation focal areas. Resources from the GEF play a key role in piloting emerging innovative solutions, including technologies, management practices, supportive policies and strategies, and financial tools which foster the development and transfer of technology and innovation. The GEF will continue to support Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) for LDCs and SIDS through the global set aside under the climate change mitigation focal area.

On Parties seeking support from the CTCN and submitting technology-related projects

58. The GEF stands ready to receive country-driven, technology-related project proposals, addressing priorities as identified in the TNAs and CTCN technical assistance.

Enhancing information sharing among national designated entities and national designated authorities

59. This guidance is relevant for the CTCN. The GEF will respond to invitations to consult with the CTCN to discuss the identification of means to enhance information-sharing among national designated authorities and GEF OFPs.

On taking stock of progress in strengthening the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism

60. This guidance is addressed to the SBI.

H. Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) (Decision 15/CP.24)

COP guidance

61. In Decision 15/CP.24, paragraph 2, the COP invited Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations organizations, observers and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations in the annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2018 and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates.

GEF response

62. The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among others, the GEF continues to provide resources for the CBIT, TNAs, and other initiatives such as expanded constituency workshops (ECWs), in an effort to enhance developing countries' abilities to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into action. The GEF is also a member of the NDC Partnership to this effect.

I. Least Developed Countries Work Programme (Decision 16/CP.24)

COP guidance

63. In the 16/CP.24, paragraph 4, the COP noted that support for the work programme should come from a variety of sources, including the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, and other bilateral and multilateral sources within their respective mandates, and the private sector, as appropriate.

GEF response

64. The above guidance is noted.

J. Matters relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement (Decision 3/CMA.1)

CMA guidance

65. In Decision 3/CMA.1, paragraph 7, the CMA confirmed that the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund shall serve the Paris Agreement.

GEF response

66. The GEF is committed to serving the Paris Agreement through the LDCF and the SCCF, in addition to the GEFTF.

K. Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21 (Decision 4/CMA.1)

CMA guidance

67. In Decision 4/CMA.1, paragraph 1, the CMA reaffirms and underscores that, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement, support shall be provided to developing country Parties for the implementation of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, including to continue to enhance the capacity of developing country Parties in preparing, communicating, and accounting for their nationally determined contributions (NDCs).
68. In Decision 4/CMA.1, paragraph 2, the CMA encourages the relevant operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and constituted bodies under the Convention serving the Paris Agreement to continue to provide, within their mandates, support for capacity-building as referred to in paragraph 1 above.

GEF response

69. The GEF continues to make resources available for the preparation of NDCs. In addition, through its CBIT support, the GEF is supporting countries to build capacity to meet enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, which includes accounting for and enhanced measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) measures for their NDCs.

L. Further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, including, inter alia, as a component of nationally determined contributions, referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 10, and 11, of the Paris Agreement (Decision 9/CMA.1)

CMA guidance

70. In Decision 9/CMA.1, paragraph 20, the CMA invites the Global Environment Facility, in line with its existing mandate, to consider channeling support to developing country Parties for the preparation and submission of their adaptation communications, as a component of or in conjunction with other communications or documents, including a national adaptation plan, a nationally determined contribution as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, and/or a national communication.
71. In Decision 9/CMA.1, paragraph 21, the CMA encouraged the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund, the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, in line with their existing mandates and governing instruments, to continue channeling support to developing country Parties for the implementation of their adaptation plans and actions in accordance with the priorities and needs outlined in their adaptation communication.

GEF response

72. The GEF noted the decision in paragraph 20.
73. The GEF, through the LDCF and the SCCF, continues to support eligible countries to implement priorities identified in their national adaptation plans and actions.

M. Matters referred to in paragraphs 41,42, and 45 of decision 1/CP.21 (Decision 11/CMA.1)

CMA guidance

74. In Decision 11/CMA.1, paragraph 25, the CMA took note of the resources available through the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism for strengthening developing country Parties' institutional capacity for programming their priority climate actions and for tracking and reporting climate finance.
75. In Decision 11/CMA.1, paragraph 28, the CMA invited operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, in line with their mandates, to seek to ensure that the provision of financial support to developing country Parties is balanced between adaptation and mitigation activities.

GEF response

76. The GEF noted the decision in paragraph 25.
77. The GEF supports adaptation through the LDCF and the SCCF, and mitigation through the GEFTF. Efforts are being made to program available resources effectively.

N. Modalities, procedures and guidelines for transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement (Decision 18/CMA.1)

CMA guidance

78. In Decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 8, the CMA urged and requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, throughout its replenishment cycles, to support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports.
79. In Decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 9, the CMA encouraged the Global Environment Facility to consider options for improving the efficiency of the process for providing support for reporting under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, in particular for addressing the challenges in the application process, including by potentially providing an avenue for Parties to apply for funding for more than one report through the same application in each replenishment period.
80. In Decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 10, the CMA urged the Global Environment Facility and its implementing and executing agencies and encourages the Global Environment Facility Council to consider options for improving the efficiency of the process for providing support for reporting under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, including through better streamlining of the processes related to applications, implementation plans and signing of grant agreements.
81. In Decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 11, the CMA requested the Global Environment Facility to continue to support the operation of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency as a priority reporting-related need.

GEF response

82. This new guidance in paragraph 8 is noted, and the GEF has started consultations on how to meet the needs for the biennial transparency reports.

On potentially providing an avenue for Parties to apply for funding for more than one report through the same application in each replenishment period

83. Some Parties have utilized the available programming modality to access resources for two Biennial Update Reports (BURs) as one project. The GEF stands ready to assess the feasibility of this request when there is further clarity on the reporting requirement under Article 13.

On better streamlining of the processes related to applications, implementation plans and signing of grant agreements

84. The GEF is in the process of assessing possible options. This report to the COP also contains information on the timelines of support provided to countries through CBIT projects approved to date, to provide information on the efficiency of process for support provision.¹²

On CBIT support

85. The GEF continues to support the operation of the CBIT in GEF-7 as a priority reporting-related need through set-aside resources that do not draw on country allocations.

O. Joint SBSTA and SBI 49 Conclusions on the Koronivia joint work on agriculture

Joint SBSTA and SBI Conclusions

86. In the Joint SBSTA and SBI 49 Conclusions on Agenda item 8, paragraph 23, the SBSTA and the SBI also invited the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund to contribute to the work of the Koronivia road map and attend the workshops under the Koronivia road map.

GEF response

87. The GEF stands ready to contribute to the Koronivia road map and attend the related workshops, according to the needs and invitations from UNFCCC. GEF Secretariat personnel participated in the Koronivia workshops in June 2019 and participated as panelists in two sessions titled “Improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management” and “Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience.”

¹² Please refer to Part III, Section 3.c of the GEF’s Report to COP 25.

Bonn, Germany



V. COP 23 Decisions and GEF Responses

1. The twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) was held from 6-17 November 2017, in Bonn, Germany, presided over by the Government of Fiji. The second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1.2) also took place in Bonn, Germany. Parties welcomed the operationalization of the CBIT, called for a robust GEF-7, and welcomed the GEF Council's decision to begin the process of updating its minimum agency standards and fiduciary policies, and the GEF Council's approval of the policy on ethics and conflict of interest.
2. COP 23 also provided specific guidance to the GEF on key topics, including: enhancing private sector engagement; fostering innovation and investment by supporting priority technology projects; and continuing capacity-building activities. Conclusions from the SBI 47 and SBI 48 sessions, as well as the Subsidiary Body for SBSTA 47 session also contain matters of relevance for the GEF.¹
3. The reporting period is GEF FY 2018, from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

A. Fiji Momentum for Implementation (Decision 1/CP.23)

COP guidance

4. In Decision 1/CP.23, paragraph 17, the COP decided to convene a stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties, which will apply the format of the 2016 facilitative dialogue and consider, inter alia:
 - i) The inputs of the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, the constituted bodies under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism [...]

GEF response

5. The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, provided input to the stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition at COP 24.²

1 SBI 47 and SBSTA 47 were held from November 6 to 15, 2017, in Bonn, Germany. SBI 48 was held from April 30 to May 10, 2018 in Bonn, Germany.

2 The GEF's submission can be found at the UNFCCC website : <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GEF%20on%20pre-2020.pdf>

B. Long-term climate finance (Decision 6/CP.23)

COP guidance

6. In Decision 6/CP23, paragraph 10, the COP requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies, and bilateral, regional, and other multilateral channels, to explore ways and means to assist developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action.

GEF response

7. The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among other efforts, the GEF continues to provide resources for the CBIT, technology needs assessments (TNAs), and other initiatives such as expanded constituency workshops (ECWs), in an effort to enhance the abilities of developing countries to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into action.

C. Review of the functions of the Standing Committee on Finance (Decision 8/CP.23)

COP guidance

8. In Decision 8/CP23, paragraph 9, the COP encouraged Parties and other constituted bodies under the Convention to continue to provide submissions for the preparation of draft decisions on guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, based on the reports of the operating entities, in a timely manner to the Standing Committee on Finance.

GEF response

9. The above guidance is noted.

D. Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility (Decision 10/CP.23)

COP guidance

10. In Decision 10/CP23, paragraph 2, the COP welcomed the decision of the GEF Council to begin the process of updating its minimum agency standards and fiduciary policies.
11. In Decision 10/CP23, paragraph 3, the COP also welcomed the GEF Council's approval of the GEF's policy on ethics and conflict of interest.

12. In Decision 10/CP.23, paragraph 4, the COP reiterated its call, in decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 2, to ensure a robust seventh replenishment in order to assist in providing adequate and predictable funding, taking into consideration the Paris Agreement as well as the request of the COP to the GEF contained in decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 3.
13. In Decision 10/CP.23, paragraph 5, the COP requested the GEF to enhance the consultation process with developing country Parties and other stakeholders in the context of the GEF replenishment process.
14. In Decision 10/CP.23, paragraph 6, the COP, noting the importance of the existing allocation for climate change, requested the GEF to further consider the needs and priorities of developing countries in the allocation for the climate change focal area in its seventh replenishment period.
15. In Decision 10/CP.23, paragraph 7, the COP requested the GEF to continue implementing in its seventh replenishment period its established policies for grants and concessional funding, in support of developing country Parties, in line with the provisions of the Convention, relevant decisions of the COP and the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF.
16. In Decision 10/CP.23, paragraph 8, the COP welcomed the operationalization of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency and projects approved during the reporting period, and requested the GEF to provide adequate support to assist developing country Parties, in line with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 86.
17. In Decision 10/CP.23, paragraph 9, the COP noted the GEF Council decision GEF/C.50/07 and its conclusions, and invited the GEF to further consider ways to improve its access modalities for developing country Parties, including small island developing States and the least developed countries.
18. In Decision 10/CP.23, paragraph 10, the COP requested the GEF, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient manner.
19. In Decision 10/CP.23, paragraph 11, the COP encouraged the GEF to further enhance engagement with the private sector, including in its technology projects.
20. In Decision 10/CP.23, paragraph 12, the COP invited the GEF to allocate provisions in the climate change focal area of its seventh replenishment for supporting developing country Parties in undertaking technology needs assessments and piloting priority technology projects to foster innovation and investment.
21. In Decision 10/CP.23, paragraph 13, the COP also invited the GEF to include information in its report to the COP on: (a) the collaboration between the GEF focal points and the national designated entities for technology development and transfer, as communicated by the Climate Technology Centre and Network to the GEF; and (b) whether and how Parties have used their System for Transparent Allocation of Resources for piloting the implementation of the technology needs assessment results.
22. In Decision 10/CP.23, paragraph 16, the COP also requested the GEF to include in its annual report to the COP information on the steps that it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision.

GEF response

GEF seventh replenishment process

23. In the reporting period, 28 countries jointly endorsed a \$4.1 billion financial support package for GEF-7. According to the GEF-7 resource allocation framework, the climate change focal has been notionally

allocated \$802 million, which will support a corporate mitigation target of 1,500 million metric tons of CO₂ eq.

24. The consultation process for the GEF-7 replenishment included active developing country representation and participation through regional constituency representatives covering all regions. In addition, several developing country Parties also participated as donors in the replenishment negotiations. The GEF Council endorsed the GEF-7 Policy Recommendations, Programming Directions, and Replenishment Resolution at its meeting in June 2018.
25. The GEF-7 framework is structured to address fundamental COP decisions relating to the Paris Agreement, and to further support developing countries' needs and priorities in line with the GEF's role as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC. The GEF-7 Climate Change Focal Area Strategy supports developing countries in their efforts to shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways. The Strategy emphasizes three fundamental objectives:
 - (i) Promoting innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs;
 - (ii) Demonstrating mitigation options with systemic impacts; and
 - (iii) Fostering enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies.
26. In GEF-7, these objectives will be addressed through country-driven investments in the climate change focal area and specific Impact Programs. The GEF-7 notional resource allocation framework includes \$802 million for climate change mitigation, including \$511 million country allocation from the STAR and \$291 million from STAR set-asides. Needs and priorities of developing countries were taken into consideration in the refinement of the resource allocation framework through developing country representation in the replenishment process and analyses of developing country plans and reports under various multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) for which the GEF serves as financial mechanism.
27. In GEF-7, the GEF will continue implementing its established policies for grants and concessional funding, in support of developing country Parties, in line with the provisions of the Convention, relevant decisions of the COP, and the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF. The GEF-7 Programming Directions include both grant and non-grant instruments, as in previous GEF replenishment cycles, to enable the GEF to utilize instruments tailored to countries' needs and priorities and country-specific contexts.

CBIT

28. CBIT projects in GEF-7 are supported through set-aside resources, and do not draw on country allocations. Countries also continue to have access to set-asides for their Convention obligations, including the NCs and BURs, up to the agreed full-cost amounts. In addition, country allocations will be available to deliver other enabling activities and above the agreed full-cost amount.

Access modalities for developing country Parties

29. The GEF-7 replenishment recognized the needs of all GEF recipient countries, particularly those of LDCs and SIDS. The replenishment thus includes an increase in the weight of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita index in the resource allocation system for GEF-7, which will ensure an enhanced emphasis on the poorest and most vulnerable countries. In line with GEF-6, LDCs continue to receive a higher minimum allocation floor in GEF-7 for biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation STAR allocations, compared to non-LDCs. Upon request by the GEF replenishment process participants, the GEF Secretariat also presented for Council consideration an updated results architecture, which was approved by Council in June 2018, with a view to promoting simplification, with fewer, more relevant indicators and more streamlined reporting on project and program-level results.

30. In addition, the new GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF (2018-2022) recognizes the specific needs of SIDS and LDCs for adaptation support.³
31. Furthermore, the GEF will continue to support developing country Parties, including SIDS and LDCs in accessing funding from the GEF, through the ECWs and regional/national portfolio and programming workshops during GEF-7.

Review of funding proposals

32. The GEF continues to follow its policies and procedures relating to the consideration and review of funding proposals in an efficient manner.

Engagement with the private sector

33. One of the three objectives of the GEF-7 climate change mitigation focal area is to promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs. In GEF-7, partnership with the private sector to promote technology transfer and deployment will be a key priority. Resources from the GEF play a key role in piloting emerging, innovative solutions, including technologies, management practices, supportive policies and strategies, and financial tools that foster private sector engagement in technology and innovation.
34. The objective to promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs has four entry points:
 - (i) De-centralized renewable power with energy storage;
 - (ii) Electric drive technologies and electric mobility;
 - (iii) Accelerating energy efficiency adoption; and
 - (iv) Cleantech innovation.
35. These four entry points have been prioritized to be innovative, align with NDCs, and be complementary to other financial mechanisms.
36. The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2018-2022) also emphasizes the importance of engagement of the private sector and includes an objective to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for climate change adaptation. Resources from the LDCF and SCCF play a key role in tailoring relevant resilience technologies to national and local circumstances in the most vulnerable developing countries. LDCF and SCCF support seeks to be catalytic in testing and adapting technologies and innovative practices to specific conditions and capacity, creating favorable policies and strategies, providing systemic support to innovation through incubation and accelerators, piloting financial tools, risk transfer mechanisms — including risk insurance, climate risk pooling and other risk sharing solutions — and strengthening private sector engagement in climate change adaptation.

³ GEF, 2018, GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF and Operational Improvements, Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.24/03.

37. As noted in the Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS6) by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO), "The GEF engages with a wide variety of private sector entities that vary in their industry focus, size, and approach to environmental issues using a mix of intervention models. The range extends from multinational corporations; through large domestic firms and financial institutions; to micro, small, and medium enterprises and smallholders/individuals." GEF-7 therefore will create opportunities to involve the private sector in new programs through two pillars:

- (i) Expanding the use of non-grant instruments; and
- (ii) Working with the private sector as an agent for market transformation.

Technology needs assessments

38. One of the three objectives of the GEF-7 climate change focal area is to promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs. In GEF-7, partnership with the private sector to promote technology transfer and deployment is a key priority. GEF resources play a key role in piloting emerging innovative solutions, including technologies, management practices, supportive policies and strategies, and financial tools that foster private sector engagement for technology and innovation.

39. Support for TNAs is eligible for SIDS and LDCs in GEF-7 from the set-aside resources.

Collaboration between the GEF focal points and the National Designated Entities for technology development and transfer

40. In the reporting period, the Climate Technology Centre requested from National Designated Entities (NDEs) information regarding their collaboration with the GEF OFPs on matters relating to the development and transfer of climate technologies. In total, 69 NDEs responded to the survey. Of these respondents, 64 percent noted that they have information regarding the GEF portfolio in their respective countries. 49 percent of NDEs indicated that they meet regularly with the GEF OFPs to support coordination at the national level, and of these, half meet at least every three months. Sixty percent of respondents stated that, as NDEs, they did not participate in the GEF portfolio formulation exercise in their countries and thus did not effectively contribute to defining the priority sectors for GEF funding. They suggested that NDEs had much to contribute to climate technology elements in the portfolio formulation exercises. Finally, the survey responses highlighted that four sub-regional meetings organized by the CTCN provided a good opportunity for NDEs, GEF OFPs, and Nationally Designated Authorities (NDAs) of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to meet and discuss matters of common interest and share their experiences. In the reporting period, for climate change mitigation, 27 projects with technology transfer objectives were approved with \$108 million in GEF funding and \$402.9 million in co-financing. For climate change adaptation, eight projects to promote technologies for adaptation were approved with \$48 million from the LDCF and \$1.1 million from the SCCF, and \$177.9 million of co-financing.

Utilization of the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources for piloting the implementation of the technology needs assessment results

41. Under the GEF-6 Programming Directions, support to TNAs for SIDS and LDCs was provided through set-aside resources, while TNAs for other countries were supported using GEF-6 STAR allocations. In the reporting period, no national TNA project proposals were received.

Reporting on steps taken to implement COP guidance

42. The GEF has taken steps to implement the guidance, as highlighted in this section and described further in its report to the COP.

E. Sixth review of the Financial Mechanism (Decision 11/CP.23)

COP guidance

43. In Decision 8/CP.23, paragraph 2, the COP took note of the efforts made by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to enhance complementarity and coherence between them and between the operating entities and other sources of investment and financial flows.
44. In Decision 8/CP.23, paragraph 3, the COP requested that the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism continue to enhance complementarity and coherence.

GEF response

Complementarity and coherence between the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism

45. The GEF continues to work closely with the GCF to enhance complementarity and coherence.
46. In the reporting period, efforts to enhance complementarity with the GCF have continued, in response to COP guidance. The GEF and GCF Secretariats organized their first joint side event at COP 23 (16 November 2017) on “Strengthening Collaboration to Support Countries in Implementing the Paris Agreement,” co-chaired by the GEF Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson and the GCF Executive Director. The GEF Secretariat also hosted a delegation from the GCF Secretariat in Washington, DC for the GCF-GEF Technical Workshop on 7 February 2018 to further advance the action plan. Technical staff from both Secretariats agreed on a list of nine next steps, details of which can be found in the GEF report to COP 24. The GCF and GEF secretariats also participate in a joint programming pilot exercise with interested developing countries, as appropriate. The GCF and GEF secretariats further co-organized the “Informal Ministerial Dialogue on GCF and GEF Coordinated Engagement” on 26 June 2018 at the Sixth GEF Assembly in Da Nang, Viet Nam, to discuss coordinated national engagements and enhancing linkages and synergies between GEF and GCF projects.

F. Review of the effective implementation of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (Decision 14/CP.23)

COP guidance

47. In Decision 14/CP.23, paragraph 2, the COP welcomed with appreciation the support provided by Parties and the GEF, and the financial and in-kind contributions from UNEP, UNIDO and other consortium partners of the CTCN in supporting the operationalization and activities of the CTCN.

GEF response

48. The above guidance is noted.

G. Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism (Decision 15/CP.23)

COP guidance

49. In Decision 15/CP.23, paragraph 16, the COP welcomed the engagement of the CTCN with the GEF and multilateral development banks regarding collaborative activities, including the implementation of technical assistance requests with scalable investment potential.

GEF response

50. The above guidance is noted.

H. Fourth review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition (Decision 17/CP.23)

COP guidance

51. In Decision 17/CP.23, paragraph 1, the COP recognized that:...(b) Parties included in Annex I to the Convention and the GEF, within its mandate, have provided adequate resources and assistance for the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition established under decision 3/CP.7.
52. In Decision 17/CP.23, paragraph 3, the COP invited Parties included in Annex II to the Convention and other Parties in a position to do so, the GEF, multilateral and bilateral agencies, international organizations, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and the private sector, or any further arrangements, as appropriate and within their mandates, to continue to provide support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition that are currently receiving support.

GEF response

53. The GEF continues to provide support for capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition that are currently receiving support, including through regular projects and programs, as well as for NCs, BURs, and CBIT. In the reporting period, the GEF approved two projects in Belarus and two projects in Ukraine, including: \$1.0 million for capacity building for emissions trading and strengthened Measurement, Reporting, and Verification in Belarus; \$0.9 million for preparation of the Seventh NC on the Implementation of the UNFCCC and the Third BUR in Belarus; \$1.7 million for the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme for small and medium-sized enterprises in Ukraine; and \$2.0 million for the integrated natural resources management in degraded landscapes in the forest-steppe and steppe zones in Ukraine.

I. SBI 47 Conclusions on Matters relating to the least developed countries

SBI conclusions

54. In the SBI 47 Conclusions on Agenda item 10, paragraph 57, the SBI noted with appreciation the financial pledge of EUR 50 million made by Germany to the Least Developed Countries Fund and urged additional contributions to the fund.

GEF response

55. The GEF appreciates the continued strong support from Germany to the LDCF.

J. SBI 47 Conclusions on National Adaptation Plans

SBI conclusions

56. In the SBI 47 Conclusions on Agenda item 11, paragraph 65, the SBI noted the approval, as of 30 October 2017, by the GCF of 10 out of 38 funding proposals through the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme to support the formulation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), as well as the approval by the GEF of funding proposals from four countries to support the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

GEF response

57. The GEF continues to support projects for NAP formulation and implementation, as included in the newly approved GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF (2018-2022).

K. SBI 47 Conclusions on Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer

SBI conclusions

58. In the SBI 47 Conclusions on Agenda item 14(b), paragraph 86, the SBI welcomed the report of the GEF, including the information on progress in relation to the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer (PSP) and related challenges and lessons learned.

59. In the SBI 47 Conclusions on Agenda item 14(b), paragraph 91, the SBI welcomed the midterm evaluations of the pilot projects of the fourth replenishment of the GEF included in the report referred to in paragraph 86 above. It reiterated its encouragement to the GEF to share the midterm evaluations of the PSP climate technology transfer and finance centres and the aforementioned pilot projects as soon as available in order to the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) to update the evaluation report on the PSP.

GEF response

60. The GEF will continue to share midterm evaluations of the PSP climate technology transfer and finance centres and the pilot projects.

L. SBSTA 47 Conclusions on Research and systematic observation

SBSTA conclusions

61. In the SBSTA 47 Conclusions on Agenda item 8, Paragraph 55, recalling its conclusions from SBSTA 45, the SBSTA...(c) Encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to take advantage of support available via

the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism as well as other relevant organizations and channels, as appropriate, to support the Global Climate Observation System regional workshops and projects identified in the resulting implementation plans.

GEF response

62. The above guidance is noted.

M.SBI 48 Conclusions on Matters relating to least developed countries

SBI conclusions

63. In the SBI 48 conclusions on Agenda Item 12, paragraph 4 of the draft decision on the Least Developed Countries Work Programme, the SBI noted that support for the work programme should come from a variety of sources, including the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, and other bilateral and multilateral sources within their respective mandates, and the private sector, as appropriate.

GEF response

64. The GEF, in particular the LDCF, stands ready to continue to support the LDC work programme, as reflected in the new GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF (2018-2022).

N. SBI 48 Conclusions on Review of the effective implementation of the Climate Technology Centre and Network

SBI conclusions

65. In the SBI 48 conclusions on Agenda Item 14(b), paragraph 4 of the draft decision on the Review of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the SBI also invited the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to consider implementing the relevant recommendations referred to in paragraph 1 when implementing their further activities relevant to the work of the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

GEF response

66. The GEF has been implementing the recommendations, including, inter alia, by building stronger linkages with the CTCN and the GCF.

O. SBI 48 Conclusions on ways of enhancing the implementation of education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information so as to enhance actions under the Paris Agreement

SBI conclusions

67. In the SBI 48 conclusions on Agenda item 18, paragraph 11 of the draft decision on the ways of enhancing the implementation of education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information so as to enhance actions under the Paris Agreement, the SBI invited Parties, multilateral and bilateral institutions, private sector and other potential sources to support activities related to the implementation of Article 12 of the Paris Agreement.

GEF response

68. The GEF provides support to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information relating to the implementation of Article 12 of the Paris Agreement through its regular projects and programs, in line with its mandate.



VI. COP 22 Decisions and GEF Responses

1. The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) was held from 7-18 November 2016, in Marrakech, Morocco. With entry into force of the Paris Agreement on 4 November 2016, the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement (CMA) was also held in Marrakech. Parties welcomed the GEF Council decisions to establish the CBIT Trust Fund, and to ensure that CBIT support will be included in the GEF-7 (July 2018 to June 2022), complementing existing GEF support.
2. COP 22 provided specific guidance to the GEF on key topics, including: GEF participation in UNFCCC committees and constituted bodies, such as the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB), support for NAPs, and the CBIT. Conclusions from the SBI 45th/46th sessions also contain matters of relevance for the GEF.
3. The reporting period is GEF FY 2017, from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

A. Paris Committee on Capacity-building (Decision 2/CP.22)

4. In Decision 2/CP.22, "Paris Committee on Capacity-building", paragraph 3, Annex 'Terms of reference for the Paris Committee on Capacity-building', the COP invited six representatives from bodies established under the Convention and from the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to participate in all the meetings of the PCCB in line with the annual theme of the Committee.

GEF response

5. The GEF participated in the first meeting of the PCCB held in Bonn, Germany in May 2017. A GEF representative gave a presentation on the GEF experiences in supporting capacity-building, and provided inputs on previous COP guidance on matters relating to capacity-building.² The GEF will participate in future PCCB meetings, as requested.

B. Review and Report of the Adaptation Committee (Decision 5/CP.22)

COP 22 guidance

6. In Decision 5/CP.22, paragraph 3, the COP noted with appreciation the ongoing and planned collaboration between the Adaptation Committee (AC) and other constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the Convention, including the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), the Standing Committee on Finance, the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss

1 SBI 45 was held from 7–14 November 2016 in Bab Ighli, Marrakech, Morocco. SBI 46 was held from 8–18 May 2017 in Bonn, Germany.

2 http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/capacity_building/items/10260.php

and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, the Adaptation Fund, the GEF, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and the PCCB, in order to enhance the process to formulate and implement NAPs and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), the implementation of the relevant mandates contained in decision 1/CP.21 and access by developing country Parties to adaptation finance, in particular from the GCF, as appropriate.

GEF response

7. The GEF will continue to collaborate with the AC and other constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the Convention.

C. National Adaptation Plans (Decision 6/CP.22)

COP 22 guidance

8. In Decision 6/CP.22, paragraph 8, the COP welcomed the support provided by the GEF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs.
9. In Decision 6/CP.22, paragraph 9, the COP noted with concern that 12 funding proposals seeking to support elements of countries' work in the process to formulate and implement NAPs were technically cleared by the GEF but, as at 10 November 2016, were awaiting funding under the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF).
10. In Decision 6/CP.22, paragraph 10, the COP encouraged developed country Parties to contribute to the LDCF and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and invited additional voluntary financial contributions to the LDCF, the SCCF, and other funds under the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, recognizing the importance of the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

GEF response

11. The GEF, through the LDCF, has processed 22 climate change adaptation projects for approval since COP 22, with a total LDCF funding amount of \$158.3 million and mobilizing an additional \$550.1 million in indicative co-financing. Projects are in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Guinea, Haiti, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Nepal, Niger, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Tuvalu, Uganda, and Vanuatu. Several of these projects are entirely or partly dedicated to supporting NAP processes.
12. In the reporting period, five donor countries and one sub-national contributor to the LDCF and SCCF made additional pledges totaling \$38.2 million.

D. Report of the GEF to the Conference of the Parties and guidance (Decision 11/CP.22)

13. The COP, *recalling* Decision 8/CP.21, welcoming the report of the GEF to the COP and its addenda reports, including on the technical review of the program priorities of the LDCF, noting the draft decision on the guidance to the GEF prepared by the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), as contained in its report to the COP, and the SCF 2016 biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows as context for the provision of the following guidance:

COP 22 guidance

14. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 1, the COP emphasized the need for the GEF to consider lessons learned from past replenishment periods and to take into account the entry into force of the Paris Agreement in its deliberations on the strategy for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEFTF) in order to continue to increase the effectiveness of its operations.
15. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 2, the COP called upon developed country Parties, and invited other Parties that make voluntary financial contributions to the GEF, to ensure a robust seventh replenishment, in order to assist in providing adequate and predictable funding taking into consideration the Paris Agreement.
16. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 3, the COP requested the GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, in its seventh replenishment programming, to continue to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), in accessing resources in an efficient manner.
17. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 4, the COP also requested the GEF, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient manner.
18. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 5, the COP took note of the projected shortfall of resources from the sixth replenishment of the GEF due to exchange rate movements, and the decision of the Council of the GEF on item 6 on the agenda of the 51st meeting of the Council.
19. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 6, the COP requested the GEF to continue its efforts, as appropriate and as needed, to minimize the potential consequences of the projected shortfall referred to in paragraph 5 above for its support to developing countries, aiming to fulfil the relevant programming directions of the sixth replenishment of the GEF.
20. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 7, the COP also welcomed the pledges made by several countries to make voluntary contributions to the CBIT and the signing of the first contribution agreement by a country and encouraged others that have pledged to make voluntary contributions to finalize their contribution agreements.
21. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 8, the COP requested the GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, to continue providing in its annual reports, inter alia, information on the establishment and operation of the CBIT, including its programming and implementation modalities, on the voluntary contributions pledged and provided, and on the implementation of Decision 9/CP.18.
22. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 9, the COP welcomed the GEF's continued engagement and coordination with the CTCN through the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer and the regional technology transfer and financing centres, as well as actions taken by the GEF in response to the recommendations by the TEC following the evaluation of the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer.
23. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 10, the COP urged the GEF and recipient countries to continue exploring with the CTCN ways to support climate technology-related projects through country allocations of the sixth replenishment of the GEF.
24. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 11, the COP requested the GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, to take into consideration climate risks in all its programmes and operations, as appropriate, keeping in mind lessons learned and best practices.

25. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 12, the COP encouraged the GEF to continue its efforts to encourage countries to align, as appropriate, their GEF programming with priorities as identified in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), where they exist, during the seventh replenishment, and to continue to promote synergies across its focal areas.
26. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 13, the COP welcomed the conclusions of the “Program evaluation of the LDCF” by the GEF’s IEO.
27. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 14, the COP requested the GEF, as the operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention entrusted with the operation of the LDCF, to continue to enhance capacity development in the LDCs for the development of project proposals with a focus on identifying potential funding sources, both national and international, and enhancing long-term domestic institutional capacities.
28. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 15, the COP encouraged the GEF to continue to track, review and report on the sustainability of project outcomes from the LDCF and the SCCF.
29. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 16, the COP welcomed the initial assessment of the accreditation pilot and noted its conclusions.
30. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 17, the COP requested the GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, in light of the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, to continue streamlining project approval processes and providing enhanced support, including enabling activities, to developing country Parties, including the LDCs and SIDS, as appropriate, in the context of national climate strategies and plans.
31. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 18, the COP welcomed the successful roll-out of the non-grant instrument pilot and encouraged further expansion of the pilot with a view to increasing the leverage and impact of GEF financing.
32. In Decision 11/CP.22, paragraph 19, the COP also requested the GEF to include in its annual report to the COP information on the steps that it has taken to implement the guidance provided to it in this decision.

GEF response

Lessons learned for GEF-7

33. The GEF is committed to serve the Paris Agreement as its financial mechanism, and to fulfil its role as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC. In its GEF-7 strategy development process, the GEF is taking into account relevant evaluations conducted by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), such as the Climate Change Focal Area study, and other analyses. The ongoing Sixth Review of the Financial Mechanism is also expected to provide information on the GEF’s effectiveness. Various stakeholders, including UNFCCC Secretariat representatives, have been engaged in the replenishment process and have provided input and suggestions to refine the programming directions and policy. The GEF Secretariat has also proposed, through the draft Programming Directions for GEF-7, to allocate an adequate and predictable resource flow towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement, to be deliberated further in the replenishment process. The GEF will provide further information on the replenishment negotiations as they evolve.

Assisting LDCs and SIDS

34. The GEF Secretariat has proposed, through the draft Programming Directions for GEF-7, to continue to assist developing countries, in particular LDCs and SIDS, in accessing resources in an efficient manner, specifics of which will be deliberated further in the replenishment process. The GEF will provide further information on the replenishment process as it evolves.

Policies and procedures on review

35. The GEF is ensuring, through its regular due diligence processes and strong governance model, that its policies and procedures relating to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient manner.

Minimizing shortfall consequences

36. The GEF has been working on an ongoing basis to minimize potential consequences of the projected shortfall referred to in paragraph 5 of Decision 11/CP.22. The Work Program presented to the Council for decision at its 52nd meeting in May 2017 reflects this consideration, aiming to maintain the balance among the original allocations in the GEF-6 replenishment decision, assisting LDCs and SIDS in accessing resources and supporting core obligations to the conventions for which the GEF is a/the financial mechanism.

CBIT

37. The GEF appreciates the COP acknowledgement of GEF efforts in timely establishment and operationalization of the CBIT. The CBIT has been included in the draft GEF-7 Programming Directions document, to be deliberated further during the replenishment process.
38. Information on these matters is provided in Part II, Section 3 of the GEF Report to COP 23.

CTCN

39. The GEF has continued exploring with the CTCN the support to climate technology-related projects through the STAR country allocations of GEF-6. The GEF Secretariat actively participated in workshops with the CTCN, as well as the 14th meeting of the TEC in March 2017, and provided further information on GEF-6 programming to interested Parties, as appropriate.

Climate risk

40. The GEF Agencies, Secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) are working to ensure that climate-related risks are considered in the design and review of all GEF-financed projects and programs. Nevertheless, as recognized in the proposed Policy Agenda for GEF-7, a more systematic approach that builds on best available risk information is needed.³ The GEF Secretariat, in consultation with GEF Agencies, is reviewing the ways in which the GEF could improve the consideration of climate change and natural disaster risks for the successful implementation and sustainability of all GEF-financed projects and programs. This work will be carried out in conjunction with the review and update of the GEF's minimum standards on environmental and social safeguards, requested by the GEF Council at its 52nd meeting in May 2017.⁴

NDCs

41. The GEF has proposed to include NDCs and synergies across focal areas in the draft GEF-7 Programming Directions, to be deliberated further during the replenishment process. The GEF will provide further information on this process as it evolves.

Capacity development for LDCs

42. The GEF has been consulting with the Chair of the LDC Group and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the guidance is implemented in its agreed form.

Sustainability

43. The GEF Secretariat has been consulting with the GEF's IEO on the tracking of sustainability of project outcomes under the LDCF and the SCCF and continues to track the sustainability of project outcomes from the LDCF and the SCCF.

3 GEF/R.7/02, GEF-7 Programming Directions and Policy Agenda (<https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/GEF-7%20Programming%20and%20Policy%20Document%20.pdf>)

4 Joint Summary of the Chairs: 52nd GEF Council Meeting, 23-25 May 2017.

Streamlining project approval processes and providing enhanced support

44. The GEF has continued to provide funding for enabling activities in a streamlined fashion, in the context of national climate strategies and plans. The GEF is working to reflect this guidance in GEF-7 as well.

Non-grant instrument pilot

45. The GEF Secretariat has proposed to further expand the non-grant instrument pilot with a view to increasing the leverage and impact of GEF financing, in the draft Programming Directions for GEF-7, to be deliberated further during the replenishment process. The GEF will provide further information on this process as it evolves.

Reporting on steps taken to implement COP guidance

46. The GEF has included in this report further information on the steps taken to implement the guidance provided to it in Decision 11/CP.22.

E. Sixth review of the Financial Mechanism (Decision 12/CP.22)

COP 22 guidance

47. In Decision 12/CP.22, [...] recognizing that the review of the Financial Mechanism should inform the replenishment processes of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism [...]

GEF response

48. The review of the Financial Mechanism will be used to inform the seventh replenishment of the GEF.

F. Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention (Decision 14/CP.22)

COP 22 guidance

49. In Decision 14/CP.22, paragraph 1, the COP welcomed with appreciation the progress made by the TEC, the CTCN and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism in further elaborating the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism, including through an in-session workshop.
50. In Decision 14/CP.22, paragraph 8, the COP encouraged the TEC, the CTCN and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to enhance the involvement of relevant stakeholders as they undertake actions to strengthen the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism.
51. In Decision 14/CP.22, paragraph 9, the COP invited the TEC, the CTCN, and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to provide information on their actions in strengthening the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism in their annual reports to the COP for guidance on further actions if needed.

GEF response

52. The GEF organized a side event⁵ during the SB 46 sessions in May 2017, and invited stakeholders of the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer, as well as TEC members, to share innovative financing tools and prioritize activities to enhance technology transfer. The GEF also organized a meeting among the CTCN and implementing agencies (regional development banks) of the Poznan Strategic Programme to enhance their collaborative activities on the margins of the 52nd meeting of the GEF Council in May 2017.
53. Information on strengthening the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism is included in the GEF Report to COP 23, including, inter alia, as it relates to GEF support for the CTCN.

G. Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism (Decision 15/CP.22)

COP 22 guidance

54. In Decision 15/CP.22, paragraph 12, the COP encouraged the GEF and the Climate Technology Centre and Network to enhance their collaboration with respect to exploring new ways of supporting climate technology-related requests for technical assistance.
55. In Decision 15/CP.22, paragraph 13, the COP underlined the importance of well-functioning and strengthened collaboration between the national designated authorities for the GCF, the focal points for the GEF, and the national designated entities for technology development and transfer.

GEF response

56. The GEF Secretariat met with the CTCN on the margins of the SB 46 meeting in May 2017 to share the current status of the project to support the CTCN and exchange information on emerging opportunities to respond to requests from developing countries taking into account country-drivenness and alignment with NDCs.

H. Gender and climate change (Decision 21/CP.22)

SBI 43 conclusions

57. In Decision 15/CP.22, paragraph 21, the COP requested the Financial Mechanism and its operating entities to include in their respective annual reports to the COP information on the integration of gender considerations into all aspects of their work.

GEF response

58. The GEF's Policy on Gender Mainstreaming was approved in 2011. In 2014, the GEF Council also approved the Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) to support the implementation of the Policy on Gender and to enhance gender mainstreaming across the GEF's operations and governance. Furthermore, the GEF

5 <http://www.thegef.org/events/bonn-climate-change-conference>

Secretariat established the GEF Gender Partnership (GGP) to serve as an ongoing platform for consultation and space to exchange information, share lessons learned and collaborate on other GEAP work products and events. The GGP is now formally operational with active participation of gender focal points from each GEF Agency, secretariats of the conventions, and representatives of the GEF Network of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG) and other key partners. Further information on the GEF's efforts and initial results in integrating gender considerations into all aspects of its work is provided in the GEF's Report to the 23rd Session of the COP to the UNFCCC.⁶

I. Report of the Adaptation Fund Board (Decision 2/CMP.12)⁷

CMP 12 guidance

59. In Decision 2/CMP.12, paragraph 2, the CMP decided to renew the interim institutional arrangements with the GEF as the interim secretariat of the Adaptation Fund Board for an additional three years, from 30 May 2017 to 30 May 2020.

GEF response

60. Noted.

J. SBI 45 Conclusions on Provision of financial and technical support

61. In the SBI 45 conclusion on Agenda Item 4c, paragraph 30, the SBI welcomed the information provided by the GEF⁸ in its report to COP 22 on: (a) The establishment of the CBIT, including its programming and implementation modalities, and the voluntary contributions pledged by several countries; (b) The financial support provided for the preparation of national communication (NCs) and biennial update reports (BURs) by non-Annex I Parties; (c) the Global Support Programme (GSP) for Preparation of NCs and BURs by non-Annex I Parties, especially regarding the development and implementation of the 2016 work programme thereof.
62. The SBI noted with appreciation the successful efforts of the GEF to take swift action in the establishment of the CBIT through voluntary contributions. The SBI welcomed the pledges made by several countries to make voluntary contributions to the CBIT. It also welcomed the signing of the first contribution agreement by a country and encouraged others that have pledged to make voluntary contributions to finalize their contribution agreements. The SBI noted that the CBIT efforts will be included in the next replenishment of the GEF.
63. The SBI encouraged the GEF, subject to the availability of financial resources in the CBIT Trust Fund, to approve the first set of CBIT projects as early as possible. It also encouraged developing countries to submit project proposals to access financial resources from the CBIT Trust Fund.

6 <https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Final%20COP%202023%20Report%20August%203.pdf>

7 <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cmp12/eng/08a01.pdf#page=5>

8 http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/in-session/application/pdf/sbi_45_-_gef__intervention_fts-4.pdf

GEF response

64. The GEF appreciates the SBI's positive acknowledgement. As of 30 September 2017, the GEF approved CBIT projects amounting to \$16 million in Cambodia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, South Africa, Uganda, and Uruguay, in addition to the funding approval for a Global Coordination Platform to share lessons learned and engage with partners to enhance transparency, and a Global Capacity-building Towards Enhanced Transparency in the AFOLU Sector project. Further information on the projects approved and progress by the GEF in operationalizing the CBIT to date is provided in the GEF Report to COP 23.

K. SBI 45 Conclusions on Matters relating to the Least Developed Countries

65. In the SBI 45 conclusion on Agenda Item 8, paragraph 57, the SBI further welcomed the efforts of the GCF and the GEF secretariats, as well as other organizations, regional centres and networks in organizing special sessions related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs during the NAP Expo.

66. In the SBI 45 conclusion on Agenda Item 8, paragraph 63, the SBI noted that, as at 10 November 2016, 13 project proposals for the implementation of NAPAs and for the process to formulate and implement NAPs that were previously technically cleared by the GEF, amounting to \$87 million, had been approved by the GEF Council and were ready for implementation. An additional 35 technically cleared projects, seeking \$231.4 million from the LDCF, have yet to be funded.

67. In the SBI 45 conclusion on Agenda Item 8, paragraph 64, the SBI welcomed the follow-up project under the LDCF of the NAP GSP for LDCs through which all LDCs that were not supported under the first project will have the opportunity to access one-to-one support for their process to formulate and implement NAPs tailored to their specific needs and circumstances.

68. In the SBI 45 conclusion on Agenda Item 8, paragraph 65, the SBI noted with appreciation the new pledges to the LDCF of EUR 24 million for the years 2016-2018 that were made during the LDCF/SCCF Council meeting in October 2016.

69. In the SBI 45 conclusion on Agenda Item 8, paragraph 66, the SBI urged additional contributions to the LDCF and other funds under the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, recognizing the importance of the full implementation of NAPAs and successfully undertaking the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

GEF response

LDCF funding

70. The GEF, through the LDCF, has processed 22 climate change adaptation projects for approval since COP 22, with a total LDCF funding amount of \$158.3 million and mobilizing an additional \$550.1 million in indicative co-financing, including in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Guinea, Haiti, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Nepal, Niger, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Tuvalu, Uganda, and Vanuatu. Several of these projects are entirely or partly dedicated to supporting NAP processes (see Part III, Sub section 2d of the GEF's Report to the 23rd Session of the COP to the UNFCCC.)

L. SBI 45 Conclusions on Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer

71. In the SBI 45 conclusion on Agenda Item 12c, paragraph 81, the SBI welcomed the report of the GEF on the progress made in carrying out the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer, including the actions taken by the GEF in response to the recommendations of the TEC.
72. In the SBI 45 conclusion on Agenda Item 12c, paragraph 82, the SBI welcomed the new structure of the report referred to above. It encouraged the GEF to continue elaborating on the challenges and lessons learned in carrying out the Poznan Strategic Programme as part of its future progress reports.
73. In the SBI 45 conclusion on Agenda Item 12c, paragraph 83, the SBI welcomed the approval by the GEF Council of 31 projects with technology transfer objectives for climate change mitigation and 10 projects for climate adaptation during the GEF reporting period. It further welcomed the progress of the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer pilot projects.
74. In the SBI 45 conclusion on Agenda Item 12c, paragraph 84, the SBI welcomed the ongoing collaboration between the CTCN and the regional technology transfer and finance centres supported by the GEF under the Poznan Strategic Programme, including the collaboration on responses to developing country requests for technical assistance. It encouraged the GEF and the CTCN to continue enhancing their collaboration. It further encouraged Parties to enhance collaboration between their GEF focal points and their national designated entities for technology development and transfer.

GEF response

75. The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, participated in the first meeting of the PCCB held in Bonn, Germany in May 2017, and gave a presentation on the GEF experience in supporting capacity-building. The GEF will participate in future PCCB meetings, as requested.

M. SBI 45 Conclusions on Paris Committee on Capacity-building

76. In the SBI 45 conclusion on Agenda Item 14c, paragraph 92, the SBI agreed that representatives of the following operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the constituted bodies established under the Convention will be invited to participate in the first meeting of the PCCB [...]: (a) The GEF; [...].

GEF response

77. The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, participated in the first meeting of the PCCB held in Bonn, Germany in May 2017, and gave a presentation on the GEF experience in supporting capacity-building. The GEF will participate in future PCCB meetings, as requested.

N. SBI 46 Conclusions on Matters relating to least developed countries

78. In the SBI 46 conclusion on Agenda Item 8, paragraph 6, the SBI noted the new pledges to the LDCF of \$7.1 million, made between November 2016 and April 2017.

79. In the SBI 46 conclusion on Agenda Item 8, paragraph 7, the SBI noted that, as at 9 May 2017, total LDCF funding approved during the GEF FY 2017 amounted to \$154.6 million, and that cumulative funding approvals since the establishment of the LDCF were \$1.22 billion.
80. In the SBI 46 conclusion on Agenda Item 8, paragraph 8, the SBI noted that, as at 9 May 2017, 23 project proposals for the implementation of NAPAs submitted by the LDCs, accounting for a total of \$146.1 million, had been technically cleared by the GEF Secretariat and were awaiting allocation of resources from the LDCF.
81. In SBI 46 conclusion on Agenda Item 8, paragraph 9, the SBI urged additional contributions to the LDCF.

GEF response

82. The above conclusions are noted.

Paris, France



VII. COP 21 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) was held from 30 November to 11 December 2015, in Paris, France. Decisions at COP 21 include the adoption of the Paris Agreement and guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance and Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) 43/44¹ conclusions are included in its report to COP 22². The reporting period is GEF fiscal year (FY) 2016, from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

A. The Paris Agreement and Decision 1/CP.21

2. The landmark Paris Agreement, and Decision 1/CP.21 adopting the Paris Agreement, outlined an enhanced role for the GEF to serve the agreement, and guided the GEF to support a range of new topics.

Paris Agreement guidance

3. The Paris Agreement confirmed in Article 9, paragraph 8 that the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, including its operating entities, shall serve as the financial mechanism of the Agreement.
4. The Paris Agreement, in Article 9, paragraph 9, agreed that 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.
5. In Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 58, the COP decided that the Green Climate Fund (GCF) 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 (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), administered by the Global Environment Facility, shall serve the Agreement.
6. In Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 15, the COP reiterated 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.
7. In Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 54, the COP recognized 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 (REDD+); as well as alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches

1 SBI 43 was held from 1–4 December 2015 in Lima, Peru. SBI 44 was held from 16–26 May 2016 in Bonn, Germany.

2 GEF responses to COP 21 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 22 was compiled (15 August 2015), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 22 is available at <http://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-22nd-session-cop-unfccc>

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.

8. In Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 61, the COP recommended that the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement shall provide guidance to the entities entrusted with the operation of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention on the policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria related to the Agreement for transmission by the Conference of the Parties.
9. Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 62, the COP decided that the guidance to the entities entrusted with the operations of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention in relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, including those agreed before adoption of the Agreement, shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Agreement.
10. In Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 64, the COP urged 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 developing States, as appropriate.
11. In Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 84, the COP decided 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.
12. In Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 86, the COP urged and requested 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.
13. In Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 88, the COP 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.
14. In Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 110, the COP encouraged 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.

GEF response

15. The GEF is committed to serve the Paris Agreement as its financial mechanism.

Financial resources

16. 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 (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in the context of their national climate strategies and plans.

17. The GEF Council, at its 48th meeting in June 2015, approved additional measures to improve the project cycle by expediting the preparation of the stock of delayed projects and releasing funds allocated to cancelled projects. In particular, the Council approved a one-time cancellation by 30 June 2016 of overdue (i) full-sized projects (FSPs) whose Project Identification Forms (PIFs) were approved prior to the October 2014 Council meeting; and (ii) medium-sized projects (MSPs) whose PIFs were approved prior to June 2015.
18. 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.

Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

19. The GEF continues to make resources available for the preparation of the (I)NDCs. A component has been added to the Global Support Program for National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) to provide technical assistance to countries to prepare their (I)NDCs.
20. 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, submitted their INDCs to the UNFCCC ahead of COP 21. Details of the GEF support for INDCs are available³ on the GEF website.

Forests

21. The GEF supports activities for the implementation of policy approaches and positive incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, as well as alternative approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests.
22. As of June 2016, recipient countries have utilized \$189 million of the sustainable forest management incentive⁴ available under GEF-6. Total GEF financing under GEF-6 for sustainable forest management therefore amounts to \$566 million by June 2016.⁵ 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 \$601 million as at June 2016.

Country-driven strategies

23. The GEF 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 LDCs and SIDS, as appropriate.
24. The GEF holds Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs) that provide opportunities to discuss GEF programming and strategy at the national and regional level, and to strengthen readiness of recipient countries to access resources. The GEF invited political and operational focal points, agencies, and other key partners to participate in these ECWs. In FY 2016, the GEF held 14 ECWs that covered 133 countries. The GEF provided resources to cover the cost of participation in ECWs by UNFCCC national focal points, along with other multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) focal points, GEF operational focal points and political focal points, to enable their active participation in ECWs.

³ <https://www.thegef.org/gef/INDC>

⁴ The sustainable forest management incentive, as approved by the GEF Council through the GEF-6 Programming Directions, also supports national strategies to reduce emissions from deforestation which foster intra-governmental and cross-sector integration, including those being developed through REDD+ readiness and support for REDD+ Phase II initiatives.

⁵ These projects and programs with sustainable forest management incentive are expected to lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of approximately 656 Mt CO₂ eq.

Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)

25. On 7 June 2016, the GEF Council approved a new CBIT Trust Fund along with programming and implementation modalities.⁶
26. The GEF Secretariat engaged governments, agencies, and civil society in operationalization of the CBIT through: three consultative dialogues in April and August 2016 in Washington DC, and a briefing session on the CBIT with Parties and stakeholders during the May 2016 UNFCCC meetings in Bonn, Germany.
27. Following the GEF Council approval, in August 2016 the World Bank's role as the Trustee of the CBIT Trust Fund was approved. The CBIT Trust Fund was established in September 2016, in accordance with the World Bank's applicable policies and procedures.
28. The Standard Provisions of the Contribution Agreement, applicable to all contributors, have been finalized. The United States signed the first Contribution Agreement in the amount of \$5 million on 23 September 2016. The Trustee has been working with other donors to finalize contribution agreements.
29. The GEF CEO formally notified all GEF Operational Focal Points, GEF Agencies and GEF Council members on 30 August 2016 on the establishment of the Initiative and invited countries to consider the new support opportunities accorded through the CBIT Trust Fund.
30. The GEF Secretariat updated templates for project submissions to include the CBIT, uploaded them onto the GEF website, and included this information in the CEO's notification on 30 August 2016.
31. The GEF Secretariat has given technical feedback on many CBIT concepts and proposals. Additional information on the operationalization of CBIT was submitted as addendum to the GEF Report to COP 22.

Technical examination process on mitigation

32. The GEF Secretariat has actively participated in the technical expert meetings during SBI 44 in May 2016.⁷

B. Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility (Decision 8/CP.21)

COP 21 guidance

33. In Decision 8/CP.21, "Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility", paragraph 3, the COP invited 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.
34. In Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 6, the COP noted that the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility is carrying out a review of the Least Developed Countries Fund.
35. In Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 7, the COP encouraged 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).

⁶ https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/EN_GEF.C.50.05_CBIT_TF_Establishment_0.pdf and https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/EN_GEF.C.50.06_CBIT_Programming_Directions_0.pdf

⁷ Please refer to the UNFCCC website for audio recordings or presentations made at the Technical Expert Meetings on the Value of Carbon (http://unfccc.int/focus/mitigation/technical_expert_meetings/items/9629.php) and Transport (http://unfccc.int/focus/mitigation/technical_expert_meetings/items/9629.php).

36. In Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 8, the COP requested 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: undertaking pilot concrete climate change activities that are particularly relevant for the least developed countries; and enhancing longer-term institutional capacity to design and execute those activities.
37. In Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 9, the COP urged 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.
38. In Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 10, the COP welcomed the exploration of innovative non-grant instruments by the Global Environment Facility, and encouraged the Global Environment Facility to work with its agencies, recipient countries and the private sector to submit proposals.
39. In Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 11, the COP also welcomed the approval of projects by the Global Environment Facility to support 46 developing country Parties in preparing their intended nationally determined contributions, and encouraged the Global Environment Facility to continue such support.
40. In Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 12, the COP requested 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 its operational policies and guidelines, starting in 2016.
41. In Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 14, the COP welcomed the efforts to date of the Global Environment Facility to engage with the Green Climate Fund and encouraged both entities to further articulate and build on the complementarity of their policies and programmes within the Financial Mechanism of the Convention.
42. In Decision 8/CP.21, paragraph 16, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to include, in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties, information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision and other relevant decisions of the COP.

GEF response

Sustainable forest management

43. 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.
44. As at June 2016, recipient countries have utilized \$189 million of the sustainable forest management incentive available under GEF-6. See paragraphs 21 and 22 above for further details.

Technical Review of the Programming Priorities of the LDCF

45. The Program Evaluation of the LDCF by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office has been completed and is available⁸ on the GEF Independent Evaluation Office's website.
46. The GEF Secretariat took a number of steps in the technical review, including: (i) consulting informally and formally with relevant stakeholders in least developed countries; and (ii) preparing a document on the Technical Review. The Technical Review of the Programming Priorities of the LDCF is presented in an addendum to the GEF report to COP 22 and is available⁹ online.

8 <http://www.gefio.org/evaluations/least-developed-countries-fund-ldcf-2016>

9 <http://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-22nd-session-cop-unfccc>

Expanded network of agencies

47. The GEF Secretariat works with all GEF Agencies and recipient countries to ensure that these countries can take full advantage of the expanded network of agencies. The GEF network includes 18 Agencies: Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Inter-American Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Bank Group, Conservation International, Development Bank of Latin America, Development Bank of Southern Africa, Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, Brazilian Biodiversity Fund, International Union for Conservation of Nature, West African Development Bank, and World Wildlife Fund - US.
48. As explained in paragraph 24 above, the GEF regularly holds ECWs where political and operational focal points and other key partners can discuss and plan GEF programming and strategy at the national and regional level. The GEF invites all its GEF Agencies and the expanded network of agencies to participate in these ECWs. In FY 2016, the GEF held 14 ECWs that covered 133 countries.
49. The GEF provides resources to cover the cost of participation in ECWs by UNFCCC national focal points, along with other MEA focal points, GEF operational focal points and political focal points, to enable their active participation in ECWs and to strengthen readiness of recipient countries to access and program resources.

Non-grant instruments

50. 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.
51. The GEF Secretariat received formal requests for non-grant projects 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.
52. Since the beginning of GEF-6, the GEF has awarded eight non-grant projects covering multiple focal areas, including six projects that directly deliver climate change mitigation benefits, receiving a total of \$74.6 million in GEF financing and leveraging \$1.5 billion in co-financing. In the reporting period, three non-grant projects with climate change benefits were approved by the GEF Council, drawing on \$43.7 million in GEF financing and leveraging \$1.2 billion in co-financing.

Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

53. The GEF continues to make available support to countries to prepare and update their INDCs. The ongoing Global Support Program provides capacity building, tools and methodologies for the refinement of (I)NDCs. The GEF Secretariat will continue its efforts to assist countries in improving the quality of their reports.
54. The GEF is encouraging governments to consider aligning their GEF-6 programming with (I)NDC planning and reporting. The GEF is working with national governments towards this consideration, through national dialogues, bilateral discussions, expanded constituency workshops, as well as through project reviews.
55. The GEF's efforts on the (I)NDC support will be aligned with the CBIT which will build capacity on transparency. This linkage will assist developing countries to monitor and report their progress in national greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions, and track progress made in implementation of NDCs.

Complementarity in climate finance

56. GEF's experiences may be useful to build on the complementarity within the Financial Mechanism of the Paris Agreement. Collaboration with the multilateral development banks, Climate Investment Funds, Adaptation Fund, private sector entities, and others has highlighted areas of engagement where the GEF provides added value based on its unique role, strengths, and experience for over two decades. These areas include:

- i) Early policy lock-in and regulatory reform to support governments in catalyzing partners to invest in low-emission, climate-resilient technologies;
- ii) 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;
- iii) 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;
- iv) 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
- v) De-risking partner investments by applying guarantees and equity instruments to re-direct private sector investments into low-emission, climate-resilient business models.

57. The GEF stands ready to continue to engage with the GCF to further articulate complementarity, respond to COP guidance, and to help countries meet the mitigation and adaptation needs in their NDCs in a coordinated way. For instance, during this reporting period, the GEF Secretariat has held several discussions with the GCF Secretariat on possible entry points for co-financing projects and programs, acknowledging that GEF and GCF financing is based on the principle of country ownership and recipient country demand. Please refer to the GEF Report to COP 22, Part III, for further details.

Reporting to the COP

58. The GEF is herewith reporting on steps taken to implement the guidance provided in decision 8/CP.21 and other relevant decisions of the COP.

C. Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention (Decision 13/CP.21)

COP 21 guidance

59. In Decision 13/CP.21, "Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention", paragraph 8, the COP Requested 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.

GEF response

60. The GEF 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 5–8 April 2016 in Bonn, Germany and consulted with TEC on the draft agenda of the in-session workshop held during SBI 44 in May 2016. The GEF also actively participated in the in-session workshop¹⁰ as a speaker and panelist.

D. Capacity-building under the Convention (Decision 14/CP.21)

COP 21 guidance

61. In Decision 14/CP.21, paragraph 8, the COP invited representatives of the relevant Convention bodies, operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and relevant experts and practitioners to integrate into their work programmes the lessons and outcomes of the Durban Forum.

62. In Decision 14/CP.21, paragraph 10, the COP invited United Nations agencies and multilateral organizations to provide information to the secretariat for the capacity-building portal.

GEF response

Durban Forum

63. The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, is working to integrate lessons learned and outcomes the Durban Forum into GEF's work programs and activities.

64. Capacity-building is supported as an integral aspect of GEF programming. During calendar year 2015, the GEF Trust Fund, LDCF and SCCF portfolios supported 85 (55 mitigation and 30 adaptation) stand-alone and multi-focal projects with various capacity-building components as defined by the UNFCCC, in the form of technical assistance and investments. The total GEF funding towards supporting these capacity-building activities for 2015 amounted to approximately \$189.0 million.

¹⁰ The GEF Secretariat's presentation on 'GEF supporting activities for technology development and transfer including the Poznan strategic program', as well as the panel discussion participation, are available online: http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/bonn_may_2016/events/2016-05-21-10-00-in-session-workshop-on-linkages-between-the-technology-mechanism-and-the-financial-mechanism-of-the-convention

Capacity-building portal

65. 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).

E. Terms of reference for the intermediate review of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention (Decision 15/CP.21)

COP 21 guidance

66. In Decision 15/CP.21, "Terms of reference for the intermediate review of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention", paragraph 3, the COP requested 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.

GEF response

67. 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. The GEF Secretariat has reported on its support towards implementing the Doha work programme to the UNFCCC Secretariat ahead of SBI 44. From 2012 to 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.

F. Alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests (Decision 16/CP.21)

COP 21 guidance

68. In Decision 16/CP.21, paragraph 6, "Alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests", the COP noted 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 management of forests.

GEF response

69. The GEF continues to provide financial resources for alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests. See paragraphs 21 and 22 above for further details.

G. SBI 43/44 Conclusions on Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention; Provision of financial and technical support

SBI 43 conclusions

70. Under Agenda Item 4(c), Provision of financial and technical support, the SBI invited the Global Environmental Facility 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.
71. The SBI invited 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).
72. The SBI invited further invited the GEF to continue to provide detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of Biennial Update Reports (BUR), including 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.

SBI 44 conclusions

73. Under Agenda Item 4(b), Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention; Provision of financial and technical support. The SBI invited 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.
74. The SBI invited 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).
75. The SBI further invited the GEF to continue to provide detailed, accurate, timely and complete 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 secretariat.

GEF response

76. GEF continues to provide full-cost funding for National Communications (NCs). These GEF resources, separate from the country resource allocations (STAR), are up to \$500,000 for NCs per country. Through the Global Support Program, implemented in conjunction by UNDP and UNEP, the GEF supports technical backstopping, capacity building, knowledge management activities for NCs, BURs, and INDCs.
77. 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 Secretariat, for consideration at SBI 44.¹¹ An addendum to the GEF report to the COP 22 includes a status report¹² on submission of BURs.

11 See document FCCC/SBI/2016/INF.2 (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbi/eng/inf02.pdf>)

12 <https://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-22nd-session-cop-unfccc>

78. The GEF Secretariat continues to coordinate closely with GEF Agencies on the preparation and submission of project proposals for BURs, including outreach and capacity building events on accessing funds for BURs.
79. Information on an approximate date of completion of the draft NCs and an approximate date for submission to the secretariat of the NCs has been provided to the UNFCCC Secretariat for consideration at SBI 45 as an addendum¹³ to the report of the GEF to COP 22.

H. SBI 43 Conclusions on Development and Transfer of Technologies and Implementation of the Technology Mechanism — Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer

SBI 43 conclusions

80. Under Agenda Item 10(b), Development and Transfer of Technologies and Implementation of the Technology Mechanism - Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer, the SBI invited Parties, the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and other relevant entities working on technology development and transfer to act upon the recommendations contained in their report and encouraged the GEF and other relevant financial entities to consider them.
81. The SBI encouraged the GEF to share the midterm evaluations of the Poznan Strategic Programme 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.

GEF response

82. The GEF continues to support technology transfer and innovation, encompassing mitigation and adaptation, as well as Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs), as elaborated in its annual report to the COP.
83. During the reporting period, 31 climate change mitigation projects with technology transfer objectives were approved with \$188.7 million of GEF funding and \$5.9 billion in co-financing.
84. The GEF Secretariat continues to share experiences and lessons learned in regard to the Poznan strategic program. The GEF Secretariat attended a workshop and a side event organized by the Agencies, and also organized a session at the eleventh meeting of the TEC together with the technology transfer and finance centres, on sharing experiences and lessons on the Poznan strategic program by the national executing organizations of pilot projects and the implementing agency of the public-private partnership project.
85. The GEF Secretariat also continues to support the dialogue and coordination among the CTCN and the regional centres, by organizing regular consultative meetings among the partners and CTCN at the margin of GEF Council meetings.

¹³ <https://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-22nd-session-cop-unfccc>

I. SBI 44 on Matters Relating to the Least Developed Countries

SBI 44 conclusions

86. Under Agenda Item 8, Matters Relating to the Least Developed Countries, the SBI invited Parties and relevant organizations to continue to provide support for the implementation of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) work programme which focuses on advancing adaptation and coordination goals of vulnerable countries.

GEF response

87. The GEF, including through the LDCF, continues to provide support for the implementation of the LEG work programme. The GEF report to COP 22 contains further information on support provided under the LDCF.

Lima, Peru



VIII. COP 20 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 20) was held from 1–12 December 2014 in Lima, Peru. Decisions at COP 20 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance and Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) 41/42¹ conclusions are included in its report to COP 21². The reporting period is GEF fiscal year (FY) 2015, from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

A. Lima Call for Climate Action (Decision 1/CP.20)

COP 20 guidance

2. In Decision 1/CP.20 on “Lima Call for Climate Action”, paragraph 15, the COP reiterated 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.

GEF response

3. 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 to countries to prepare their INDCs.
4. As of June 2015, the GEF has approved projects supporting the following 45 countries in preparing their INDCs: 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, 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.

1 SBI 41 was held from 1–8 December 2014 in Lima, Peru. SBI 42 was held from 1–11 June 2015 in Bonn, Germany.

2 GEF responses to COP 20 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 21 was compiled (18 August 2015), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 21 is available at < <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/04.pdf>>.

B. Report of the Adaptation Committee (Decision 4/CP.20)

COP 20 guidance

5. In Decision 4/CP.20 on “Report of the Adaptation Committee”, paragraph 4, the COP requested Parties, operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and other relevant entities working on adaptation to consider the recommendations contained in chapter V of the report of the Adaptation Committee, as included in the annex [to that decision].

GEF response

6. With regard to generating interest in, demand for and leadership of the NAP process at the national level, and making available support for the NAP process better known; during the reporting period the GEF Secretariat attended two regional training workshops organized by the NAP Global Support Program (NAP GSP) in partnership with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), where it shared information on the support provided through the LDCF and the SCCF towards the NAP process. Similar contributions were made at the 26th meeting of the LEG; the LEG side event at COP 20; the Adaptation Committee (AC) workshop on the means of implementation for enhancing adaptation action; the second and third NAP Expos; and the AC-LEG workshop on experiences, good practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs on the process to formulate and implement NAPs.
7. With a view to enhancing coordination, collaboration and coherence, the LDCF-financed NAP GSP has continued to foster partnerships with a growing number of bilateral and multi-lateral agencies that provide financial and technical support towards the NAP process in developing countries. The GEF Secretariat attended the second meeting of the NAP Task Force of the Adaptation Committee, where considerable emphasis was placed on coordination and coherence in the support provided by bilateral and multi-lateral funds and agencies.
8. Finally, with regard to learning, monitoring and evaluation, the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change (document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.16/03) and the associated, updated results-based management framework for adaptation to climate change (document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.17/05) are closely aligned with the recommendations of the AC, including, for instance, by taking into account relevant country circumstances and needs, assigning different roles to national-level assessments vis-à-vis subnational or project-based assessments of adaptive capacity, and by supporting a positive learning environment. LDCF and SCCF-financed projects and programs also ensure that resources are allocated to effective monitoring and evaluation systems as part of the projects and programs. The FY 2014 Annual Monitoring Review of the LDCF and the SCCF (document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.18/04) describes portfolio-level outcomes and lessons that are highly relevant to the NAP process.

C. Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility (Decision 8/CP.20)

COP 20 guidance

9. In Decision 8/CP.20 on “Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility”, paragraph 5, the COP encouraged the Global Environment Facility to continue to cooperate with all its implementing and project agencies as well as

recipient countries in order to improve its project cycle, taking into account the report of the fifth overall performance study of the Global Environment Facility and the recommendations contained therein.

10. In Decision 8/CP.20, paragraph 6, the COP also encouraged the Global Environment Facility to continue to increase the overall transparency and openness of its operations, particularly with regard to the disclosure of information on the status of the implementation of projects and programmes, the project-level accountability of its implementing agencies and with respect to the timely disbursement of funds, as well as the advice provided to countries on co-financing.
11. In Decision 8/CP.20, paragraph 8, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to ensure that gender mainstreaming is implemented both within its portfolio and within its structure.
12. In Decision 8/CP.20, paragraph 10, the COP encouraged the Global Environment Facility to improve the communication of its co-financing policy so that it is better understood, and appropriately applied by accredited project agencies and the implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility, while acknowledging the potential impacts of this policy on developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, and African States.
13. In Decision 8/CP.20, paragraph 11, the COP also encouraged the Global Environment Facility to finalize the accreditation of project agencies and to share, in its next report to the Conference of the Parties, lessons learned and progress made in its pilot accreditation of project agencies, particularly in the least developed countries, small island developing States and African States.
14. In Decision 8/CP.20, paragraph 12, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to continue to work with its implementing agencies to further simplify its procedures and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the process through which Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention receive funding to meet their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention.
15. In Decision 8/CP.20, paragraph 15, the COP also requested the Global Environment Facility to include, in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties, information on the steps that it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision.

GEF response

Project Cycle

16. The GEF Council, at its 47th meeting in October 2014, approved an updated Project Cancellation Policy to further improve its project cycle, as proposed by the GEF Secretariat in Council document GEF/C.47/07 on 'Improving the GEF Project Cycle'.
17. At its 48th meeting in June 2015, the GEF Council approved additional measures to improve the project cycle (document GEF/C.48/04)³ by expediting the preparation of the stock of delayed projects. In particular, the Council approved a one-time cancellation by 30 June 2016 of overdue (i) full-sized projects (FSPs) whose Project Identification Forms (PIFs) were approved prior to the October 2014 Council meeting; and (ii) medium-sized projects (MSPs) whose PIFs were approved prior to the June 2015 Council meeting. In addition, the Council approved an amendment to the Project Cancellation Policy previously approved in the October 2014 Council meeting to include provisions for cancellation of overdue medium-sized projects that are approved after June 2015 Council, as set out in Annex II to that decision.

3 https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/EN_GEF.C.48.04_Expediting_the_Preparation_of_the_Stock_of_Delayed_Projects.pdf

Transparency

18. The GEF fully discloses information on the status of the implementation of projects and programs as part of its annual monitoring exercise, and its reporting to the COP. The GEF Secretariat presented the fiscal year 2014 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) II to the GEF Council at its meeting on 2–4 June 2015, and has made it publically available on its website (document GEF/C.48/03).
19. Furthermore, the GEF Secretariat is committed to increase the overall transparency and openness of its operations and has made available, on the GEF website information on the conflict-resolution services provided by the GEF and newly developed Guidelines to Implement the GEF's Policy on Public Involvement (document GEF/C.47/Inf.06).
20. The GEF Secretariat has undertaken focused efforts to communicate and explain the content of the GEF's revised Co-financing Policy, approved by the GEF Council in May 2014. First, it posted the approved Policy as a stand-alone document (GEF Policy FI/PL/01)⁴ on its dedicated webpage for Policies and Guidelines. The Secretariat conducted training on the Co-Financing Policy at all meetings under the GEF's Country Support Program, including at the Extended Constituency Workshops, Constituency Meetings, and National Dialogues. These meetings are attended by national GEF focal points and national focal points (or their representatives) of the UNFCCC and other conventions that the GEF serves, as well as representatives of civil society, the GEF Agencies, and accredited GEF Project Agencies. The GEF Secretariat also trains newly accredited GEF Project Agencies on this Policy. Co-financing as defined in this Policy is voluntary, as elucidated in the Policy stating that the GEF Secretariat "will not impose minimum thresholds and/or specific co-financing sources in the review of individual projects or work programs since co-financing may not always be achievable or relevant."

Gender Mainstreaming

21. The GEF Gender Equality Action Plan (document GEF/C.47/09)⁵ has been endorsed by the GEF Council in October 2014 to ensure comprehensive implementation of the Policy on Gender Mainstreaming within the GEF and its programs and will positively reinforce gender equality throughout project and program design and implementation. Furthermore, a gender expert has been hired to support implementation of the GEF Gender Equality Action Plan and the GEF Secretariat has coordinated outreach activities to the country-level partners.

Co-Financing

22. The GEF Secretariat has undertaken focused efforts to communicate and explain the content of the GEF's revised Co-financing Policy, approved by the GEF Council in May 2014. First, it posted the approved Policy as a stand-alone document (GEF Policy FI/PL/01) on its dedicated webpage for Policies and Guidelines.
23. The Secretariat conducted training on the Co-Financing Policy at all meetings under the GEF's Country Support Program, including at the Extended Constituency Workshops, Constituency Meetings, and National Dialogues. These meetings are attended by national GEF focal points and national focal points (or their representatives) of the UNFCCC and other conventions that the GEF serves, as well as representatives of civil society, the GEF Agencies, and accredited GEF Project Agencies. The GEF Secretariat also trains newly accredited GEF Project Agencies on this Policy.
24. Mindful of the circumstances of GEF recipient countries, particularly LDCs, SIDS and African States, the GEF Secretariat applies the Policy in a flexible manner when reviewing project and program submissions. Co-financing as defined in this Policy is voluntary, as elucidated in the Policy stating that the GEF Secretariat "will not impose minimum thresholds and/or specific co-financing sources in the review of individual projects or work programs since co-financing may not always be achievable or relevant."

4 https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/Co-financing_Policy.pdf

5 https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/25_EN_GEF.C.47.09_Gender_Equality_Action_Plan.pdf

Accreditation

25. The GEF Accreditation Pilot was completed in May 2015. Among the 16 entities that applied, eight applicants were found by the independent GEF Accreditation Panel to be in compliance with the GEF's minimum fiduciary standards and environmental and social safeguards, including gender mainstreaming. They were approved for accreditation to become GEF Project Agencies. With these additions the number of GEF Agencies and Project Agencies total 18.
26. These eight agencies comprised the following three national entities:
- (i) The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA);
 - (ii) Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO);
 - (iii) Foreign Economic Cooperation Office of China (FECO);
- as well as two regional entities:
- (i) West African Development Bank (BOAD);
 - (ii) Development Bank of Latin America (CAF);
- and three international civil society organizations (CSOs):
- (i) World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF-US);
 - (ii) Conservation International (CI); and
 - (iii) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
27. The GEF accreditation process was designed and implemented as a pilot, allowing the GEF to assess the resources and time needed to fully accredit new agencies and to determine how new agencies may enhance the GEF's impact.
28. The Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF (GEF IEO) recently conducted a process evaluation of the accreditation pilot, highlighting lessons learned from the pilot's design and implementation (document GEF/ME/C.48/Inf.03)⁶. Overall, the evaluation found that the implementation of the GEF accreditation process was satisfactory, that it has been designed and implemented transparently and that the GEF Project Agencies that have gone through the accreditation process have gained from the process through improvements in their systems, standards and institutional capacity. The evaluation also noted that sufficient arrangements were in place to ensure that the GEF Accreditation Panel is functionally and behaviorally independent, adding to the credibility of the process. The evaluation also found that the Secretariat was very prompt in responding to questions and in clarifying areas of uncertainty for both the applicants and the Accreditation Panel throughout implementation; and that easy availability of forms and relevant documents and timely reporting of progress to the Council has made the process more transparent. In addition, the evaluation found that implementation of the accreditation process has been slower than expected primarily because of the high level of accreditation standards and design issues that became apparent during implementation.
29. The GEF Secretariat's Management Response to the findings of the IEO evaluation are available on the GEF website (document GEF/ME/C.48/03)⁷.

6 https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/EN_GEF.ME_C.48.Inf_03_Eval_Accr_Process.pdf

7 https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/EN_GEF.ME_C.48.03_Management_Response_to_the_SAER.pdf

30. As recognized by the evaluation, the Secretariat has been giving considerable attention to onboarding of the Project Agencies through training and upstream consultations on development of project proposals. Three such training events have already been undertaken with very positive feedback from participants. These measures are likely to help the GEF Project Agencies in being efficient and effective in developing and implementing GEF projects.

Procedures

31. The GEF is exploring ways to further simplify its procedures and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the process through which Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention receive funding to meet their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention.
32. The GEF has supported various types of enabling activities, including NCs, BURs, and National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs). They fulfill essential communication requirements to the UNFCCC, and provide information to enable policy and decision-making.
33. Since its inception, the GEF has funded 315 NCs and BURs with \$378.2 million in funding from the GEF Trust Fund (GEFTF).
34. During the reporting period, the GEF financed, through the GEFTF, 12 enabling activities in the amount of \$22.8 million. In particular, the GEF has financed umbrella projects that cover many countries and play a significant role in providing support for NCs. Annex 2 lists projects and programs for CCM and enabling activities approved under the GEFTF during the reporting period.

Guidance

35. The GEF has, in its annual report to the COP 21, provided information on the steps taken to implement the guidance.

D. Fifth review of the Financial Mechanism (Decision 9/CP.20)

COP 20 guidance

36. In Decision 9/CP.20 on "Fifth review of the Financial Mechanism", paragraph 3, the COP acknowledged the executive summary of the technical paper on the fifth review, as contained in the annex, including the conclusions and recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Finance.
37. In Decision 9/CP.20, paragraph 4, the COP encouraged the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to address, as appropriate, these recommendations in their future work, particularly with regard to the complementarity between the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism.

GEF response

38. The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, incorporates the recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) in its fifth review of the Financial Mechanism. To that effect, the GEF is engaging with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the funds under the Convention to collaborate with the view to taking advantage of the complementarity of their respective policies and program.
39. In the reporting period, the GCF has been in the process of accrediting Agencies and was yet to approve financing for projects. Therefore, collaboration and information exchange during the reporting year focused on several foundational and policy elements:

- i. Dialogue and engagement: The GEF CEO and Chairperson and the GCF Executive Director held several dialogues and bilateral discussions throughout the reporting period, building a positive collaborative relationship. Secretariat personnel at the technical and managerial levels are in constant communication on a wide range of topics, from mitigation and adaptation strategies, status of resource allocation and modalities, private sector engagement, financial instrument experience and policies, templates, co-financing policy, project cycle, and Agency relations, among others. The Secretariat staff members also attend as observers in respective GEF Council and GCF Board meetings.
 - ii. Accreditation: One of the key milestones for the GCF to enable project financing was the Agency accreditation. To help inform the GCF process, the GEF Secretariat provided detailed information and updates on GEF safeguard policies and Agency compliance.
 - iii. Gender: The GEF and GCF Secretariats are closely collaborating on the development of their respective gender policy and action plans. The GEF gender focal point has discussed and shared GEF's gender experiences and policy foundation in workshops organized by the GCF. The May 2015 workshop, held at the GEF premises with the Adaptation Fund engagement to discuss gender-responsive indicators for the GCF, provided an opportunity to share GEF's gender core indicators. This also builds on close collaboration between the GEF and the Climate Investment Fund (CIF).
40. The GEF stands ready to continue to engage with the GCF to articulate the complementarity, responding to COP guidance, and to help countries meet their mitigation and adaptation needs in a coordinated way.

E. Further guidance to the Least Developed Countries Fund (Decision 10/CP.20)

COP 20 guidance

41. In Decision 10/CP.20, "Further guidance to the Least Developed Countries Fund", paragraph 7, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention entrusted with the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund, to continue to support the remaining activities contained in the least developed countries work programme.
42. In Decision 10/CP.20, paragraph 8, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention entrusted with the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund, to share, in its next report, lessons learned and progress made in its pilot accreditation of Global Environment Facility national project agencies.
43. In Decision 10/CP.20, paragraph 9, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention entrusted with the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund, to include, in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties, information on specific actions that it has undertaken to implement the remaining elements of the least developed countries work programme, including the updating and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action, with a view to the Conference of the Parties determining, at its twenty-first session, appropriate further guidance to be provided to the Global Environment Facility.
44. In Decision 10/CP.20, paragraph 10, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention entrusted with the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund, to enhance communication with its implementing agencies and to encourage its implementing agencies to enhance their communication with countries to facilitate a timely implementation of other elements of the least developed countries work programme including national adaptation programmes of action.

GEF response

Least Developed Countries Fund Activities

45. The LDCF-financed FSP 'Building capacity for LDCs to participate effectively in intergovernmental climate change processes' (\$4.5 million) was launched in March 2015. The project will focus on the elements of the LDC work program on (i) "strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing, national climate change secretariats and/or focal points to enable the effective implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, in the least developed country Parties"; and (ii) "providing training, on an ongoing basis, in negotiating skills and language, where needed, to develop the capacity of negotiators from the least developed countries to participate effectively in the climate change process". Other elements are being addressed in the context of NAPA implementation, as specified below.
46. With regard to public awareness, LDCF projects systematically incorporate activities that "[promote] public awareness [...] to ensure the dissemination of information on climate change issues" (decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 14 [a]). Of the 121 FSPs and MSPs that had, as at 16 April 2015, been endorsed or approved by the GEF CEO, 78 are providing training to more than 590,000 people on various aspects of climate change in 41 LDCs. Total LDCF funding approvals associated with these 78 projects amount to \$433.6 million. Specifically, during the period corresponding to the fifth replenishment cycle of the GEF (GEF-5), LDCF projects and programs reported on funding amounts associated with each strategic outcome in the GEF's 2010-14 Programming Strategy on Adaptation. During GEF-5, some four per cent of total funding approvals were associated with "strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes".
47. The "development and transfer of technology, particularly adaptation technology" (decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 14 [b]) represents an important means through which LDCF projects implement NAPA priorities. All NAPA implementation projects contribute towards the demonstration, deployment and/or dissemination of clearly identifiable adaptation technologies; and many also strengthen the enabling environments for technology transfer through policy and regulatory reform. During GEF-5, 20 per cent of LDCF financing was identified as directly targeting the transfer of adaptation technology, one of three strategic objectives of the GEF's adaptation program at the time.
48. The GEF, through the LDCF, provides considerable support towards "strengthening [...] the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support implementation of national adaptation programmes of action". Hydro-meteorological and climate information services are featured as a priority in several NAPAs and, as a result, 11 per cent of all LDCF financing, or \$98.4 million, has been directed towards enhancing such services as a priority. Altogether hydro-meteorological and climate information services are supported through 63 projects in 37 LDCs, with total associated funding approvals amounting to \$326.6 million.

Pilot Accreditation of Global Environment Facility National Project Agencies

49. Please refer to response above on the GEF Accreditation Pilot (Paragraph 25), including the accreditation of national GEF Project Agencies.

National Adaptation Programmes of Action

50. Please refer to GEF Report to COP 21, Part III, Section 3b.

Communication with Implementing Agencies

51. The GEF Secretariat has communicated to its implementing agencies the request of the COP and encouraged a timely implementation of other elements of the least developed countries work program, including the NAPAs.

F. Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (Decision 21/CP.20)

COP 20 guidance

52. In Decision 21/CP.20, "Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation", paragraph 3, the COP urged Parties included in Annex II to the Convention which are in a position to do so, through multilateral agencies, including the Global Environment Facility within its mandate, relevant intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, other partnerships and initiatives, bilateral agencies and the private sector, or through any further arrangements, as appropriate, to provide financial, technological, technical and capacity-building support to Parties included in Annex I to the Convention whose special circumstances are recognized by the Conference of the Parties in order to assist them in implementing their national strategies, actions and plans on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and developing their low-emission development strategies or plans in accordance with decision 1/CP.16.

GEF response

53. The GEF has commenced funding operations under its sixth replenishment cycle since July 2014. The GEF has provided considerable financial, technological, technical and capacity-building support in response to decision 1/CP.16.
54. During the reporting period, the GEFTF portfolio supported 91 climate change mitigation stand-alone and multi-focal area (MFA) projects with various capacity-building components per definition by the UNFCCC, in the form of technical assistance and investments, as described in detail in the GEF report to COP 21 (see for instance Part III, sections 2, 4 and 5). The GEF is committed to continuing to provide support for eligible countries to build their capacities to meet the challenges of climate change. Eligible countries include non-annex I countries as well as some annex I countries that are GEF eligible. Turkey, for instance, has a country resource allocations (STAR) of \$15.7 million for climate change activities under the GEF's sixth replenishment cycle, which can be used to implement national strategies, actions and climate change plans, and to develop their low-emission development strategies or plans in accordance with decision 1/CP.16 (see Annex I of the GEF report to COP 21).

G. SBI 41/42 Conclusions on Reporting from Non-Annex I Parties — Provision of financial and technical support

SBI 41 conclusions

55. Under Agenda Item 4(c), Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention – Provision of financial and technical support, in Paragraph 2, the SBI invited the GEF to continue providing detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties, including information on the dates of approvals of funding and disbursement of funds.

56. The SBI also invited the GEF to continue providing information on an approximate date of completion of the draft national communications and an approximate date of submission to the secretariat of the national communications, for consideration by SBI 43 (November–December 2015).
57. Under Agenda Item 4(c), paragraph 3, the SBI further invited the GEF to continue providing detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including information on the dates of requests for funding, approvals of funding and disbursement of funds, as well as an approximate date of submission to the secretariat of the BURs, for consideration by SBI 42 (June 2015).
58. Under Agenda Item 4(c), paragraph 6, the SBI encouraged GEF agencies to continue to facilitate the preparation and submission of project proposals by non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their BURs.
59. Under Agenda Item 4(c), paragraph 7, the SBI invited the GEF to provide, in its report to COP 21 (November–December 2015), information on the procedures available to facilitate access by non-Annex I Parties to funding for the preparation of their national communications and multiple BURs with one application.

SBI 42 conclusions

60. Under Agenda Item 4(b), Provision of financial and technical support, paragraph 2, the SBI invited the GEF to continue providing detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including information on the dates of requests for funding, approval and disbursement of funds, and an approximate date of submission of BURs to the secretariat, for consideration at SBI 43 (November-December 2015).

GEF response

National Communications

61. The GEF continues to provide full-cost funding for NCs, and all requests to support NCs have been met by the GEF. The GEF has set-aside resources, separate from the STAR allocation, so that each country can access up to \$500,000 for NCs. Since its report to COP 20, the GEF has supported 48 additional countries in their preparation of national communications and BURs. In addition, through the Global Support Program, implemented in conjunction by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the GEF is supporting technical backstopping, capacity building, and information sharing and knowledge management activities for NCs, BURs, and INDCs.
62. The GEF Secretariat has reported to SBI 43 on the provision of financial and technical support for NCs.⁸

Biennial Update Reports

63. The GEF Secretariat has reported to SBI 42 on the requested information, as contained in document FCCC/SBI/2015/INF.7 on 'Information provided by the Global Environment Facility on its activities relating to the preparation of biennial update reports'.⁹
64. The GEF Secretariat has reported to SBI 42 on 'Information provided by the Global Environment Facility on its activities relating to the preparation of biennial update reports', as contained in document FCCC/SBI/2015/INF.7.¹⁰

8 <https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/Status%20of%20National%20Communications%20from%20Parties%20not%20included%20in%20Annex%20I%20to%20the%20Convention.pdf>

9 <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/sbi/eng/inf07.pdf>

10 <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/sbi/eng/inf07.pdf>

65. Information on an approximate date of completion of BURS and an approximate date of submission to the secretariat of the BUR is contained in Annex 8 of the GEF report to COP 21.
66. The GEF Secretariat has reported to SBI 43 on the provision of financial and technical support for BURs.¹¹

Access to Funding for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports

67. There are currently four options for non-Annex I countries to access GEF resources for NCs and BUR: (i) Parties can work with a GEF agency of their choice; (ii) Parties can be part of an UNEP umbrella project for NCs; (iii) Parties can access resources up to \$500,000 via direct access from the GEF Secretariat (not from the country's STAR allocation); and (iv) those Parties that wish to do FSPs and require additional resources, can use their STAR allocation. In GEF-6, the GEF continues to provide resources for NCs and BURs.

H. SBI 41 Conclusions on Matters relating to the Least Developed Countries

SBI 41 conclusions

68. Under Agenda Item 7, Matters relating to the least developed countries, paragraph 7, the SBI invited the Global Environment Facility to continue to explore ways of simplifying access to the LDCF.

GEF response

69. The GEF continues to simplify and expedite access to the LDCF. At its 48th meeting in June 2015, the GEF Council took further steps to expedite the preparation of GEF projects, including projects financed through the LDCF. As at 30 June 2015, 174 LDCF projects with associated funding commitments amounting to \$643.1 million had been fully developed and approved or endorsed by the GEF CEO. These projects – representing 69 per cent of total LDCF funding approvals – were closed, under implementation or ready to enter implementation.
70. At its 48th meeting, the GEF Council also noted that four additional agencies had received approval from the Accreditation Panel to progress to the final stage of the process to become accredited as GEF Project Agencies. For further information on the Accreditation Pilot, please also refer to response above.

I. SBI 41/42 Conclusions on the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer

SBI 41 conclusions

71. Under Agenda Item 12(b), Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, paragraph 2, the SBI noted the consultations between the GEF and the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and the progress made on aligning the implementation of the element of the Poznan strategic programme related to support for climate technology centres and a climate technology network with the operationalization and activities of the CTCN, which were carried out in response to an invitation from SBI

11 <https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/Information%20provided%20by%20the%20Global%20Environment%20Facility%20on%20its%20activities%20relating%20to%20the%20preparation%20of%20national%20communications%20and%20biennial%20update%20reports.pdf>

72. Under Agenda Item 12(b), the SBI also noted the areas of collaboration between the regional technology transfer and finance centres supported by the GEF under the Poznan strategic programme and the CTCN and invited the GEF to report on this collaboration as part of its future progress reports.

SBI 42 conclusions

73. Under Agenda Item 8, Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, paragraph 2, the SBI welcomed the collaboration between the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and the regional technology transfer and finance centres supported by the GEF under the Poznan strategic programme [and] invited the GEF to provide more detailed information on its ongoing collaboration with the CTCN in its future progress reports.
74. Under Agenda Item 8, paragraph 3, the SBI invited the GEF to provide financial support to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention that have not yet conducted their technology needs assessments (TNAs) under the Poznan strategic programme so that they may do so, in accordance with decision 11/CP.17, paragraph 2.

GEF response

75. The GEF Secretariat has reported to SBI 42 on the collaboration between the regional technology transfer and finance centres supported by the GEF under the Poznan strategic programme and the CTCN, as contained in document FCCC/SBI/2015/INF.4.
76. The GEF Secretariat has also been providing updates on the progress made on the CTCN support, regional and national centre support, as well as lessons learned on the Poznan strategic programme to the UNFCCC Secretariat to facilitate its review.
77. To foster collaboration and the sharing of lessons learned, the GEF Secretariat held a side event at the 11th TEC meeting in September 2015 in Bonn, Germany, on 'Poznan Strategic and Long-term Programs on Technology Transfer Dialogue: Seven Years of Experiences and Lessons Learned'.
78. GEF report to COP 21 provides detailed information on GEF's ongoing collaboration with the CTCN, especially at the level of project financing.
79. The GEF has prepared an addendum¹² to its report to COP 21 on the collaboration between the CTCN and the Regional Technology Transfer and Finance Centres supported by the GEF, for the period August to October 2015. The addendum informs on several collaborating activities including workshops and meetings attended by the CTCN and the regional development banks which are implementing projects during the reported period. It also reported their collaboration on technical assistance requested from the countries.
80. The GEF Secretariat, through various outreach channels such as Extended Constituency Workshops (ECWs), National Dialogues and communications with Agencies, informs on support opportunities related to TNAs.
81. The GEF-6 Strategy sets forth that SIDS and LDCs are eligible for GEF focal area set-side funding for TNAs.
82. The GEF has supported, and will continue to support, all GEF-eligible countries to develop NCs and BURs, which may include TNA support activities.

12 <https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/Collaboration%20between%20the%20CTCN%20and%20Network%20and%20the%20Regional%20Technology%20Transfer%20and%20Finance%20Centers%20supported%20by%20the%20GEF.pdf>

J. SBI 42 Conclusions on Article 6 of the Convention

SBI 42 conclusions

83. Under Agenda Item 10, Article 6 of the Convention, paragraph 6, the SBI invited Parties, admitted observer organizations and other stakeholders to submit to the secretariat, by 19 February 2016, information on the steps they have taken to implement the Doha work programme, such as efforts to consider the linkages between Article 6 activities, implementation of policies and measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and on emerging gaps and needs, as well as recommendations on further steps for improving the effective implementation of the Doha work programme.

GEF response

84. 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 will submit, by February 2016, detailed information on these steps to the UNFCCC Secretariat.
85. In the last two years, at least \$38 million have been provided by the GEF in support of the Doha work programme towards education, training and public awareness.

Warsaw, Poland



IX. COP 19 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 19) was held from 11–22 November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland. Decisions at COP 19 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance and Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) 39/40¹ conclusions are included in its report to COP 20². The reporting period is GEF fiscal year (FY) 2014, from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

A. Further advancing the Durban Platform (Decision 1/CP.19)

COP 19 guidance

2. In Decision 1/CP.19 on “Further advancing the Durban Platform”, paragraph 2, the COP decided, in the context of its determination to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties at its twenty-first session and for it to come into effect and be implemented from 2020 to:
 - i) To invite all Parties to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions, in the context of adopting a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2 and to communicate them well in advance of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (by the first quarter of 2015 by those Parties ready to do so) in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency and understanding of the intended contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions.
 - ii) To request the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action to identify, by the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties, the information that Parties will provide when putting forward their contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions, referred to in paragraph 2(b) above.
 - iii) Urge and request 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 related activities referred to in paragraphs 2(b) and 2(c) above as early as possible in 2014.

GEF response

3. The GEF has made available resources for countries to prepare their NDCs, and has participated in various meetings and workshops to encourage countries to utilize the available GEF resources for this purpose. A

1 SBI 39 was held from 11–16 November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland. SBI 40 was held from 4–15 June 2014 in Bonn, Germany.

2 GEF responses to COP 19 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 20 was compiled (15 August 2014), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 20 is available at <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/cop20/eng/02.pdf>>.

component has been added to the Global Support Program (GSP) for National Communications (NCs) and BURs to provide technical assistance to countries to prepare their intended NDCs for the 2015 Agreement. In June 2014, the GEF approved projects for Azerbaijan, Côte d'Ivoire, Iraq, Thailand, Tunisia, Timor Leste and Yemen to prepare their intended NDCs.

B. Report of the GEF to the COP and guidance to the GEF (Decision 6/CP.19)

COP 19 guidance

4. In Decision 6/CP.19 on "Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility", paragraph 3, the COP requests the Global Environment Facility to clarify the concept of co-financing and its application in the projects and programs of the Global Environment Facility.
5. In Decision 6/CP.19, paragraph 4, the COP requests the Global Environment Facility to further specify the steps that it has undertaken in response to the request contained in decision 9/CP.18, paragraph 1(c).
6. In Decision 6/CP.19, paragraph 5, the COP further requests the Global Environment Facility to include, in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its twentieth session (December 2014), information on the modalities that it has established in response to paragraph 5 of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility.
7. In Decision 6/CP.19, paragraph 8, the COP emphasizes the need for the Global Environment Facility to consider lessons learned from past replenishment periods in its deliberations on the strategy for the sixth replenishment in order to continue to increase the effectiveness of its operations.
8. In Decision 6/CP.19, paragraph 9, the COP calls upon developed country Parties, and invites other Parties that make voluntary financial contributions to the Global Environment Facility, to ensure a robust sixth replenishment in order to assist in providing adequate and predictable funding.
9. In Decision 6/CP.19, paragraph 10, the COP requests the Global Environment Facility to give due consideration in its sixth replenishment period to funding for Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries in order to enable them to address their urgent needs and to comply with their obligations under the Convention.
10. In Decision 6/CP.19, paragraph 11, the COP also requests the Global Environment Facility to support, within its mandate, the implementation of country-driven projects identified in the technology needs assessments prepared by developing country Parties.
11. In Decision 6/CP.19, paragraph 12, the COP encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue with its voluntary National Portfolio Formulation Exercise, which has been proved to enhance coordination and coherence at the national level.
12. In Decision 6/CP.19, paragraph 14, the COP also encourages the Global Environment Facility to finalize the accreditation of new project agencies and assess the possibilities for further expanding the direct access modality.
13. In Decision 6/CP.19, paragraph 15, the COP invites the Global Environment Facility and all of its implementing agencies and recipient countries to continue to work together to improve institutional arrangements, giving special consideration to expediting the project cycle.

14. In Decision 6/CP.19, paragraph 16, the COP encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue to increase the overall transparency and openness of its operations.
15. In Decision 6/CP.19, paragraph 17, the COP also encourages the Global Environment Facility to strengthen its collaborative efforts with the Standing Committee on Finance.
16. In Decision 6/CP.19, paragraph 18, the COP requests the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps that it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision.

GEF response

Co-financing

17. The GEF Secretariat has, in consultation with the GEF Agencies, developed a proposal for a new co-financing policy, which was approved by the GEF Council at its 46th meeting on 25–26 May 2014. The GEF Secretariat's new policy adopts a clearer definition of co-financing for GEF Trust Fund projects, and includes revised requirements for GEF-financed projects during different stages in the GEF project cycle. The document also describes the GEF's approach to mobilizing co-financing during the GEF-6 period (July 2014 to June 2018)³.

National Adaptation Plans

18. On 21 March 2014, the LDCF/ Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) Council approved an SCCF grant amounting to \$4.93 million towards the full-sized project "*Global: Assisting Non-LDC Developing Countries with Country-driven Processes to Advance National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)*".
19. The program seeks to strengthen institutional and technical capacities to allow non-Least Developed Country (LDC) developing countries to integrate Climate Change Adaptation into their medium- and long-term development planning processes in a continuous, progressive and iterative manner. The project has three main components, aiming to: (i) enhance the capacities of non-LDC Parties to advance medium- and long-term adaptation planning in the context of their development policies, strategies, plans and budgets; (ii) develop and disseminate tools and approaches to support the NAP process; and (iii) promote the exchange of lessons and knowledge through South-South and North-South cooperation.
20. Consistent with the decision taken by the LDCF/SCCF Council at its 14th meeting in June 2013, the GEF Secretariat also invited developing countries to put forward proposals under the SCCF for medium-sized projects (MSPs), full-sized projects (FSPs) and programmatic approaches that would contribute towards the preparation of their NAP processes, consistent with the objectives, principles and scope of the process, as defined in decision 5/CP.17 and specified in document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.14/06, 'Operationalizing Support to the Preparation of the NAP Process in Response to Guidance from the UNFCCC COP'.
21. The GEF, through its existing portfolio of SCCF projects and programs, is already providing significant support towards the objectives of the NAP process, and future support will build on the progress made to date. GEF support, through the SCCF, towards the preparation of the NAP process in non-LDC developing countries is further elaborated in the GEF's submission to the SBI of 26 March 2014, which is available on the UNFCCC website.⁴

Project proposals

22. As indicated in paragraph 5 of the MOU between the COP and the GEF Council, the GEF Council approves the GEF work program consisting of project proposals, taking into consideration comments from GEF Council members, relevant Convention secretariats, Scientific and Technical Advisory

3 This document (*GEF Policy FI/PL/01*) can be found at the following link: <<http://www.thegef.org/gef/policy/co-financing>>.

4 <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/smsn/igo/156.pdf>>.

Panel (STAP), representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs), and other stakeholders. Project proposals need to be endorsed by a country's GEF operational focal point (OFP) before they are submitted to the GEF Secretariat; projects often emerge from a country planning exercise, involving stakeholders, to identify priorities for GEF programming. Project proposals submitted to the GEF Secretariat are also shared with the appropriate Convention secretariats for comments to be transmitted to the GEF Secretariat; Convention secretariats are also invited to participate in the GEF Operations Committee meetings that finalize work programs prior to submissions of GEF project proposals to the GEF Council. Collaborating with recipient countries, the GEF agencies respond to these comments and take actions during project preparation to improve project designs and other implementation arrangements. Furthermore, the GEF Secretariat works with the agencies to ensure that all proposed projects are in compliance with eligibility criteria, GEF policies, and focal area strategies. To date, the GEF Council has not been requested to provide clarification on a specific funding decision on the basis of compliance with the policies, program priorities and eligibility criteria established by the COP in the context of the Convention; or to reconsider such a decision. The GEF Council will provide further clarification on any funding decision in accordance with the MOU with the COP, should the COP request it.

GEF-6

23. At the November 2012 Council meeting, the GEF Council requested the Trustee of the GEF, in cooperation with the GEF Chief Executive Officer (CEO), to initiate discussions on GEF-6. GEF-6 was informed by an independent overall performance study (OPS5), which was undertaken by the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF (GEF IEO). OPS5 provided a comprehensive evaluation that assessed the performance, institutional effectiveness, and impact of the GEF, and also identified potential improvements. To help inform the replenishment process, the first report of OPS5 was presented at the first replenishment meeting. The progress report was presented at the second replenishment meeting. The final OPS5 report was presented at the third replenishment meeting and circulated to facilitate the considerations of lessons learned in the GEF-6 strategy deliberations during the replenishment process.
24. The fourth and final meeting of the replenishment process was held in April 2014, at which donor pledges were finalized, with a total of \$4.43 billion. The 'Summary of Negotiations' and the core replenishment documents (Programming document, Policy recommendations and draft Replenishment Resolution) were endorsed by the GEF Council at its 46th meeting in May 2014. The Council requested the GEF (CEO) to transmit the Summary of Negotiations and the core replenishment documents to the World Bank's Executive Directors for consideration and adoption of the Replenishment Resolution. The financing period under GEF-6 will begin when the World Bank Executive Directors adopt the GEF-6 Replenishment Resolution. This Resolution authorizes the World Bank to act as Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund (GEFTF). The Trustee will inform donors of the adoption of the Resolution, and donors will work to formalize their pledges to the replenishment. Once donors have obtained the appropriate parliamentary authorization and/or budgetary approval to participate in the replenishment, they will deposit an Instrument of Commitment with the Trustee. This will initiate the implementation of the new replenishment. GEF-6 is expected to fund four years of GEF operations and activities, beginning 1 July 2014 and ending 30 June 2018 (FY 2015-FY 2018).
25. During GEF-6 negotiations, participants agreed on the need to provide more resources to LDCs and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), in line with the recent guidance from the Conventions. The mechanism that allocates resources to countries within the climate change mitigation, biodiversity and land degradation focal areas was reviewed, and modifications designed to enable the GEF to better effect global environmental impact and transformational change, were adopted by the GEF Council in May 2014. These modifications both directly and indirectly target the LDCs and the SIDS, with an aim to allocate more resources to these groups of countries in order to address their known environmental vulnerabilities.

Country-driven Projects Identified in TNAs

26. When reviewing climate change project proposals, the GEF Secretariat systematically checks whether the project proposals are consistent with the results of the TNAs prepared by developing country Parties, if these exist. The GEF Secretariat encourages countries and agencies to develop project proposals that are consistent with existing TNAs, in a country-driven manner.

National Portfolio Formulation Exercise

27. The GEF Secretariat followed the Council's request on including proposals for continuation of National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) support in GEF-6, to be implemented through the Secretariat. The Council also requested to use the balance of the fifth replenishment period (GEF-5) NPFE support for programming exercises to enable countries, on a voluntary basis, to prepare for GEF-6. Therefore, after some consultations, the GEF Secretariat updated the NPFE guidelines to make this exercise available to countries.⁵

Accreditation Pilot

28. The Accreditation Pilot began in January 2012. The GEF Council, at its 42nd meeting in June 2012, approved 11 applicant entities to progress to Stage II of the accreditation process. Since then, the independent GEF Accreditation Panel (the Panel) has been conducting Stage II reviews of these applicants in order to assess their level of compliance with the GEF's Fiduciary Standards as well as its Environmental and Social Safeguards, including Gender Mainstreaming. Thus far, four applicants, namely World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF-US), Conservation International (CI), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Development Bank of Southern Africa have successfully completed their Stage II review process, receiving approval from the Panel for accreditation to become GEF project agencies. The process of Panel reviews of remaining applicants is continuing.

Project Cycle Arrangements

29. The GEF Secretariat and GEF agencies continue to work on streamlining the project cycle. In addition to the eight measures currently under implementation, four working groups were formed to further explore measures that could expedite project processing. These four working groups are: (i) Further Simplification of Templates and MSP Process; (ii) Regional Projects; (iii) Co-financing; and (iv) Corporate Activities. The status of these working groups and their findings were included in a progress report on streamlining of the GEF project cycle submitted to the May 2014 Council Meeting.

Transparency

30. Transparency and openness of its operations are objectives that the GEF Council, the GEF Secretariat and agencies pursue continuously. Most recently, the GEF Secretariat created a space on the GEF website to post all GEF policies and strategies, as opposed to previously having to search through all Council documents to locate a particular GEF policy. An effort is underway to upload policy and strategy documents to this space so that all GEF policies will become publicly accessible at one place⁶. The policies posted on the website also incorporate Council discussions and comments, and will thus provide an alternative to the Joint Summary of Chairs for Council decisions concerning a particular policy. This initiative is providing added transparency on GEF activities and operations.

Collaboration with Standing Committee on Finance

31. The GEF continues to support and inform the work of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) through participation in SCF meetings and provision of information. The GEF also contributed information towards the Committee's biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows, and engaged in consultations regarding the fifth review of the financial mechanism.

C. Work programme on results-based finance to progress the full implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 (Decision 9/CP.19)

5 <https://www.thegef.org/gef/NPFE_template>.

6 <<http://www.thegef.org/gef/policies>>.

COP 19 guidance

32. In Decision 9/CP.19 on “Work programme on results-based finance to progress the full implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70”, paragraph 5, the COP encourages entities financing the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, through the wide variety of sources referred to in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 65, including the Green Climate Fund in a key role, to collectively channel adequate and predictable results-based finance in a fair and balanced manner, taking into account different policy approaches, while working with a view to increasing the number of countries that are in a position to obtain and receive payments for results-based actions.
33. In Decision 9/CP.19, paragraph 6, the COP also encourages the entities referred to in paragraph 5 of this decision, when providing results-based finance, to apply the methodological guidance consistent with decisions 4/CP.15, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17, 12/CP.17 and 11/CP.19 to 15/CP.19 as well as this decision, in order to improve the effectiveness and coordination of results-based finance.
34. In Decision 9/CP.19, paragraph 8, the COP encourages entities financing the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, through the wide variety of sources referred to in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 65, to continue to provide financial resources to alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests.

GEF response

35. The GEF, through its Climate Change Mitigation programming under ‘reducing emissions from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF)’ and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)/REDD+ incentive program, has provided significant resources and will continue to support activities described under 1/CP.16, paragraph 70.⁷
36. The GEF continues to provide support for a range of technical and policy-related capacity-building activities that contribute to implementation of the decisions. This support includes, but is not limited to, identifying drivers of deforestation or degradation, implementation of activities to reduce emissions caused by such drivers, and use of appropriate methodologies to estimate related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals.
37. The GEF is equipped with modalities to finance joint mitigation and adaptation approaches and encourages more countries to seek support for such approaches.

D. National Adaptation Plans (Decision 18/CP.19)

COP 19 guidance

38. In Decision 18/CP.19 on “National Adaptation Plans”, paragraph 4, the COP invites developed country Parties, United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, to continue to enhance financial and technical support to the national adaptation plan process for the least developed countries Parties, and other interested developing country Parties that are not least developed countries.
39. In Decision 18/CP.19, paragraph 5, the COP invites United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies to consider establishing

⁷ SFM is designed as an incentive for a project where two or more focal area objectives are addressed.

or enhancing support programmes for the national adaptation plan process within their mandates, as appropriate, which could facilitate the provision of financial and technical support to developing country Parties that are not least developed countries, and to submit to the secretariat, by 26 March 2014, information on how they have responded to this invitation.

SBI 39 conclusion

40. Under SBI 39 agenda item 10, paragraph 111, the SBI welcomes the establishment of the NAP global support programme for the LDCs for facilitating technical support to the LDC Parties, and invited developed country Parties, United Nations organizations, specialized agencies, and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies to enhance support to the programme, and to other relevant programmes, to address the needs of all LDC Parties in initiating the NAP process.

SBI 40 conclusion

41. Under SBI 40 agenda item 8, paragraph 97, the SBI further took note of the activities carried out by the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme for the LDCs, and invited developed country Parties, United Nations organizations, specialized agencies, and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, to enhance support to the programme, and to other relevant programmes, to address the needs of all LDC Parties in initiating the NAP process.

GEF response

42. Please refer to the response to decision 6/CP.19 above, paragraphs 18 to 21.
43. GEF support, through the SCCF, towards the preparation of the NAP process in non-LDC Parties is further elaborated in the GEF's submission to the SBI of 26 March 2014, which is available on the UNFCCC website⁸.
44. With regard to addressing the needs of LDCs in initiating their NAP processes, the LDCF project 'Global: Assisting LDCs with Country-driven Processes to Advance NAPs', is underway and is providing institutional and technical support to LDCs, as well as sharing information on tools, methods and other relevant resources that countries may draw on in advancing their NAP processes.
45. Through four regional training workshops carried out over the course of 2014, the project is providing representatives of all LDCs with an opportunity to learn about the NAP process and the associated technical guidelines developed by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG); relevant tools and methods; opportunities to access further financial and technical support; and to reflect on the progress they have made towards the objectives of the NAP process and their potential needs for further support. Progress made under the project is continuously updated on the project website⁹.
46. As in the case of the SCCF (see response to decision 6/CP.19 above), the GEF Secretariat has invited LDCs to put forward proposals under the LDCF for MSPs, FSPs and programmatic approaches that would contribute towards the preparation of their NAP processes. The GEF, through its existing portfolio of LDCF projects and programs, is already providing significant support towards the objectives of the NAP process, and future support will build on the progress made to date.

8 <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/smsn/igo/156.pdf>>.

9 <<http://www.undp-alm.org/projects/naps-ldcs>>.

E. SBI 39/40 Conclusions on Reporting from Non-Annex I Parties

SBI 39 conclusions

47. Under SBI 39 agenda item 4(c) "*National communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention - Provision of financial and technical support*", paragraph 33, The SBI invited the GEF to continue providing detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties, including information on the dates of the approval of funding and the disbursement of funds. It also invited the GEF to continue providing information on the approximate date of completion of the draft NCs, and an approximate date of submission to the secretariat of the NCs, for consideration at SBI 41 (December 2014).
48. Under SBI 39 agenda item 4(c), paragraph 34, the SBI invited the GEF to continue providing detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including information on the dates of the request for funding, approval of funding, disbursement of funds as well as an approximate date of submission to the secretariat of BURs, for consideration at SBI 40 (June 2014).
49. Under SBI 39 agenda item 4(c), paragraph 35, the SBI encouraged the GEF implementing agencies to continue facilitating the preparation and submission of project proposals by non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their BURs.
50. Under SBI 39 agenda item 4(c), paragraph 36, the SBI encouraged the GEF to make support available to non-Annex I Parties for preparing their subsequent BURs in a timely manner, taking fully into account decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 41(a) and (e).

SBI 40 conclusions

51. Under SBI 40 agenda item 4 (b) on "*Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention - Provision of financial and technical support*", paragraph 1, the SBI invited the GEF to continue providing detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including information on the dates of requests for funding, approval of funding and disbursement of funds, as well as the amount of funding disbursed to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of BURs, and the amount of funding provided for the preparation of NCs during the same period, for consideration at SBI 41.
52. Under SBI 40 agenda item 4 (b), paragraph 3, the SBI invited the GEF to provide, in its report to COP 20, detailed information on the funding available under its latest replenishment to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of national communications and BURs, and the total amount of funding available in its climate change focal area.
53. Under SBI 40 agenda item 4 (b), paragraph 5, the SBI, recalling decision 9/CP.18, reiterated its encouragement of the GEF to make support available to non-Annex I Parties for preparing their subsequent BURs in a timely manner, taking fully into account decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 41(a) and (e).

GEF response

National Communications

54. The GEF continues to provide resources to non-Annex I countries to prepare their NCs and BURs using the existing policy guidelines, taking fully into account decision 2/CP.17 paragraphs 41 (a) and (e). The

status of BURs as of 30 April 2014 can be found in Annex 9 of the GEF report to COP 20. A further update on the status of BURs and NCs will be submitted to the UNFCCC prior to COP 20.

Biennial Update Reports

55. Detailed information on the funding available in GEF-6 in the Climate Change Mitigation focal area was provided in the GEF report to COP 20. Information on the country allocations under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) is provided in Annex 1 of the same report. During GEF-6, each country can access up to \$500,000 and \$352,000 for NCs and BURs, respectively. If additional resources are required for these activities, they can be obtained from the country STAR allocation.

F. SBI 39 Conclusions on Technology Transfer

SBI 39 conclusions

56. Under SBI 39 agenda item 13(c) "*Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer*", paragraph 137, the SBI invited the GEF to continue to consult with the CTCN, through its Advisory Board and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) as the host of the Climate Technology Center, on the support that the GEF will provide for the work of the CTCN and to report on the concrete results of the consultations at SBI 40 (June 2014).

SBI 40 conclusions

57. Under SBI 40 agenda item 11 (b), paragraph 139, the SBI invited the GEF to continue to consult with the Advisory Board of the CTCN on the support that the GEF will provide for the implementation of the five-year programme of work of the CTCN and to report on its findings for consideration at SBI 41.
58. Under SBI 40 agenda item 11 (b), paragraph 141, the SBI recalled its conclusions at SBI 39, namely the need for the GEF to align the further implementation of the element of the Poznan strategic programme on support for climate technology centres and a climate technology network with the operationalization and activities of the CTCN, taking into account decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 140, and to consult with the Advisory Board of the CTCN on this matter and report on its findings for consideration at SBI 41.

GEF response

59. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat consulted with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) on numerous occasions and reported on the concrete results of the consultation at SBI 40¹⁰. Details are available in Part II of this report. The GEF CEO approved in June 2014 a \$2 million project proposal entitled 'Promoting Accelerated Transfer and Scaled-up Deployment of Mitigation Technologies through the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN)', to be implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on behalf of the CTCN consortium.
60. The GEF Secretariat will report to SBI 41 on the two items requested by SBI 40 conclusions.

10 See report on GEF consultation with the CTCN: <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/sbi/eng/inf03.pdf>>.

Doha, Qatar



X. COP 18 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 18) was held from 26 November to 7 December 2012 in Doha, Qatar. Decisions at COP 18 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance and SBI 37¹ conclusions are included in its report to COP 19². The reporting period is GEF FY 2013, from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

A. Report of the GEF to the COP and additional guidance to the GEF (Decision 9/CP.18)

COP 18 guidance

2. In decision 9/CP.18 on "*Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility*", paragraph 1, requests the GEF: (a) to make available support to non-Annex I Parties for preparing their subsequent BURs, fully taking into account decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 41(a) and (e); (b) to provide funds for technical support for the preparation of BURs from non-Annex I Parties, similar to that provided by the National Communications Support Program, recognizing that the costs of such technical support are not deducted from the funds provided to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their BURs.
3. In decision 9/CP.18, paragraph 2, the COP also requests the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties, to include information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in paragraph 1 above;
4. In decision 9/CP.18, paragraph 3, the COP invites the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, to submit to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its thirty-eighth session, through the secretariat, information on the status of resources available for programming in its fifth replenishment period, and on any possible contingency measures regarding the allocation of resources for implementing climate change projects.
5. Decision 9/CP.18, paragraph 6, the COP requests the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, to make its annual report to the Conference of the Parties available as early as possible and no later than 14 weeks prior to a session of the Conference of the Parties, for consideration by Parties.
6. Decision 9/CP.18, paragraph 9, the COP also requests the Standing Committee to provide to the Conference of the Parties at each of its sessions, beginning in 2013, draft guidance for the Global

1 SBI 37 was held from 26 November to 1 December, in Doha, Qatar. No relevant guidance to the GEF was given at SBI 38.

2 GEF responses to COP 18 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 19 (FCCC/CP/2013/3) was compiled (1 July 2013), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 19 is available at <https://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600007570>.

Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, based on the annual report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and the views submitted by Parties as set out in paragraph 7 above.

SBI conclusions

7. Under SBI 37 agenda item 4(c), paragraph 35, the SBI invited the GEF to continue providing detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including information on the dates of requests for funding and approval of funding, as well as of disbursement of funds, for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-eighth session.
8. The SBI also recommended, in paragraph 39, that the COP at its eighteenth session requests the GEF to provide funds for technical support for the preparation of BURs from non-Annex I Parties, similar to that provided by the National Communications Support Program, recognizing that the costs of such technical support are not deducted from the funds provided to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their BURs, and it invited the GEF to report on this matter in its report to the COP at its nineteenth session.

GEF response

Annual Report of the Global Environment Facility

9. The GEF continues to make every attempt to make the report available to the Parties in a timely manner.³

Report of the Global Environment Facility on the Status of Resources

10. The GEF secretariat has submitted the report on the status of resources, dated 28 March 2013, to SBI 38 through the UNFCCC secretariat. Moreover, the GEF has since issued, for the June 2013 44th Council of the GEF, a report on GEF-5 Programming (document GEF/C.44/07)⁴ with updated figures. The report describes that actions taken by a number of donors to release their deferred contributions, together with timely payment of installments from Contributing Participants, have reduced the potential shortfall.

Biennial Update Reports

11. The GEF finances BURs through the same financing modality used for NCs. The GEF has prepared policy guidelines for the financing of BURs for non-Annex I Parties, which were distributed to all Parties in early 2012. The policy guidelines provide that, for the BURs, non-Annex I Parties can access up to \$352,000 through a GEF Agency or by direct access. The STAR⁵ allocation can be used for additional support required, including subsequent BURs. All requests for NCs and BURs have been financed.
12. The GEF Council in November 2012 approved the project titled "*Global Support Program for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports for non-Annex I Parties under the UNFCCC*". This project supports non-Annex I Parties to strengthen their technical and institutional capacities to ensure effective preparations of the BURs along with the NCs. The list of BURs supported in FY 2013 is provided in the GEF report to COP 19 (Part I, section B1), and Annex 8 of the GEF report to SBI 38 gives information on the status of request for resources for BURs for the same fiscal year.

3 Fourteen weeks prior to the 2013 session of the Conference of the Parties is 5 August 2013.

4 <<http://www.thegef.org/gef/meetingdocs/97/454>>.

5 On the STAR, please see paragraph 88 of the GEF report to COP 19.

B. Further guidance to the LDCF (Decision 10/CP.18)

COP 18 guidance

13. The COP, in decision 10/CP.18 on "*Further guidance to the Least Developed Countries Fund*", paragraph 5, requests the GEF, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention entrusted with the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund:
- i) To continue to support all activities contained in the least developed countries work programme;
 - ii) To continue mobilizing resources to ensure the full implementation of the least developed countries work programme, including the implementation of the elements of the work program other national adaptation programmes of action, through, inter alia, capacity building to improve coordination at different levels of government and across sectors in order to improve project performance in the least developed country Parties, with regard to the implementation of the Convention;
 - iii) To further facilitate access to the Least Developed Countries Fund by the least developed countries;
 - iv) To further enhance a country-driven process for the implementation of national adaptation programme of action projects and the implementation of programmatic approaches;
 - v) To continue raising awareness of the need for adequate and predictable resources under the Least Developed Countries Fund to allow for the full implementation of the least developed countries work programme, in particular national adaptation programmes of action, as outlined in decision 5/CP.14, paragraph 8;
 - vi) To enhance communication with its Implementing Agencies on the updated operational guidelines for the Least Developed Countries Fund.
14. The COP also requests the GEF, in paragraph 6, to include, in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties, information on specific actions that it has undertaken to implement this decision, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its subsequent sessions.

GEF response

15. In an information document prepared for the LDCF/SCCF Council in November 2012, the GEF provided information on its support towards elements of the LDC work program other than the preparation and implementation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). The document also describes an approach towards supporting elements of the work program that have yet to be addressed in a comprehensive manner.⁶
16. With respect to strengthening the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support the implementation of NAPAs, the GEF, through the LDCF, has financed 16 projects in 15 LDCs that strengthen climate

⁶ GEF/LDCF.SCCF.13/Inf.05, <<http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/Other%20elements%20of%20LDC%20Work%20Programme%20Oct%2016%20Final.pdf>>.

information services as the primary area of intervention, with total grant resources amounting to \$86.2 million, or 16 percent of total funding approved under the LDCF.

17. The GEF continues to support the demonstration, deployment and dissemination of relevant adaptation technologies through projects and programs carried out in support of the implementation of NAPAs. Of 71 LDCF projects that identify relevant objectives as per the 2010 results framework of the GEF Adaptation Program, 42 contribute directly towards technology transfer, with total grant resources for these projects amounting to \$85.52 million or 25 percent of the sample considered. Moreover, during its first two phases, the TNA Project, financed under the SCCF Program for Technology Transfer (SCCF-B), has supported the development of TNAs in 10 LDCs in Africa and Asia, under the Poznan Strategic Program.
18. Projects and programs financed under the LDCF systematically contribute towards public awareness and communication on matters pertaining to climate change, in accordance with country priorities. Similarly, LDCF projects have supported the establishment and development of mechanisms to oversee and promote regulatory support for climate change adaptation.
19. In order to address the remaining elements of the LDC work program, the GEF, in collaboration with LDC Parties and its Agencies, and in close coordination with LEG, has considered options for a GSP that would seek to address relevant shortfalls in awareness, as well as in institutional and technical capacity with a view to improving the performance of LDCs in the implementation of the Convention.
20. As of 30 June 2013, 47 LDCs had accessed a total of \$591.4 million from the LDCF for 113 projects and programs in support of the implementation of their NAPAs. In total, \$603.4 million had been approved for NAPA preparation and implementation. At the end of the reporting period, the GEF, through the LDCF had supported three programmatic approaches with LDCF resources amounting to \$35.1 million.
21. The GEF continues to raise awareness of the need for adequate and predictable resources under the LDCF, particularly in the context of the preparation of an updated GEF Programming Strategy for Adaptation under the LDCF and the SCCF, which will form the basis for programming resources under the Funds from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2018.
22. The GEF Secretariat continues to formally communicate with all its Agencies via monthly meetings, and reports of those meetings, including on updates to the operational guidelines of the LDCF. In addition, the GEF Secretariat has been requested by a number of Agencies to provide formal training to their staff, and the GEF Secretariat intends to meet those requests within the calendar year of 2013.

C. National Adaptation Plans (Decision 12/CP.18)

COP 18 guidance

23. In decision 12/CP.18 on “*National adaptation plans*”, paragraph 1, the COP requests the Global Environment Facility, as the operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund, to enable activities for the preparation of the National Adaptation Plan process by the Least Developed Country Parties. The operating entity is requested:
 - i) As a first step under the National Adaptation Plan process, to provide funding from the Least Developed Countries Fund, to meet the agreed full cost, as appropriate, of activities to enable the preparation of the National Adaptation Plan process as described in the elements contained in paragraphs 2–6 of the initial guidelines for the formulation of national adaptation plans in the annex to decision 5/CP.17;

- ii) To provide support for the national adaptation plan process, while maintaining support for the Least Developed Country work program, including National Adaptation Programmes of Action;
 - iii) To encourage a flexible approach that enables the Least Developed Country Parties to access funding for components of the National Adaptation Plan process as identified by the Least Developed Country Parties in response to national needs and circumstances.
24. In paragraph 4, the COP also requests the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, through the Special Climate Change Fund, to consider how to enable activities for the preparation of the national adaptation plan process for interested developing country Parties that are not Least Developed Country Parties, as it requested the Global Environment Facility, through the Least Developed Countries Fund, to consider how to enable activities for the preparation of the National Adaptation Plan process for the Least Developed Country Parties in decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 22. This request was also made in decision 9/CP.18, paragraph 1(c).
25. The COP further requests the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps it has undertaken to implement the provisions of decision 12/CP.18 (paragraph 2).

SBI 37 conclusions

26. Under SBI 37 agenda item 9(a) and (b), *National adaptation plans* (FCCC/SBI/2012/L.41), paragraph 3, the SBI noted the identification by the LEG of support needs of the LDCs for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, and urged the GEF, its Agencies and other relevant organizations to take the identified support needs into account in their efforts to support LDC Parties in undertaking the NAP process.
27. Under SBI 37 agenda item 9(a) and (b), paragraphs 6–7, the SBI also looked forward to the operationalization, no later than its thirty-ninth session, of the provision of support to LDC Parties for the national adaptation plan process under the LDCF and looked forward to the operationalization of the provision of support to non-LDC Parties for the national adaptation plan process under the SCCF.

GEF response

28. The LDCF/SCCF Council, at its 44th meeting on 20 June 2013, approved the document GEF/LDCF/SCCF.14/06, *Operationalizing Support to the Preparation of the National Adaptation Plan Process in Response to Guidance from the UNFCCC COP* as a basis for supporting, operationally, the national adaptation plan process in eligible developing countries. The document introduces the GEF's approach to operationalizing support towards the preparation of the NAP process, in accordance with guidance provided by the COP at its eighteenth session. The document defines the objectives, principles, scope and modalities for GEF support, through the LDCF and the SCCF, for the preparation of the NAP process.
29. Recognizing that developing countries find themselves in very different stages of identifying and addressing their medium- and long-term adaptation needs, the GEF has adopted a flexible approach, tailored to their diverse needs and circumstances. In particular, while the NAP process may entail the development of a plan or plans, any support provided by the GEF, through the LDCF and the SCCF, for the NAP process would differ from past LDCF financing towards the preparation of NAPAs both in its objectives and its scope. In addition, any financing provided through the LDCF and the SCCF in support of the NAP process would be closely coordinated with and complementary to other relevant initiatives, as well as to other sources of multi-lateral and bi-lateral support.

30. As per the decision adopted by the LDCF/SCCF Council, eligible developing countries may access resources in support of the preparation of the NAP process, in line with the objectives, principles and scope defined in the above document; through MSP, FSP, and programmatic approaches.⁷ The GEF, through the LDCF and the SCCF, may finance projects and programs that combine technical assistance towards the NAP process, through specific components, with tangible investments carried out in line with relevant national priorities and the mandate of each Fund. The GEF may also support targeted initiatives dedicated to key elements of the NAP process, in accordance with country demand.
31. In May 2013, the GEF CEO approved an MSP entitled “*Assisting Least Developed Countries (LDCs) with country-driven processes to advance National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)*”, aiming to strengthen institutional and technical capacities for iterative development of NAPs and to allow LDCs to integrate climate change adaptation into their medium- and long-term development planning processes in a continuous, progressive and iterative manner (summaries of LDCF and SCCF projects approved during this reporting period can be found in the Annex 4 of the GEF report to COP 19). The MSP targets 12 priority countries, while allowing all LDCs to benefit from training, tools and information to launch their NAP processes. Other developing countries may also take advantage of the tools and methodologies made available by the project.

D. Report of the Technology Executive Committee (Decision 13/CP.18)

COP 18 guidance

32. In decision 13/CP.18 on “*Report of the Technology Executive Committee*”, paragraph 13, the COP encourages the financial and business communities and funding sources under and outside the Convention to facilitate the funding for the implementation of technology needs assessments results.

SBI 37 conclusions

33. Under SBI 37 agenda item 13, *Development and transfer of technologies*, paragraph 122, the SBI acknowledges the support provided by the GEF to assist 36 non-Annex I Parties in conducting their TNAs. It reiterates decision 11/CP.17, paragraph 2, in which the GEF is invited to continue to provide financial support to other non-Annex I Parties, as appropriate, to conduct or update their TNAs. It invites the GEF to report on its support provided to other non-Annex I Parties to conduct or update their TNAs in its report to the COP at its nineteenth session.

GEF response

34. The progress made in supporting TNAs is described in the GEF report to COP 19, Part II, *Technology Needs Assessments*, paragraphs 153-158, particularly in the development of pilot projects and TNAs that has highlighted the need to go beyond current practices to catalyze investments in technology transfer. The GEF Council has approved in April 2013 a project by UNEP supporting additional TNAs focusing on 24 low- and medium-income countries. This project takes into consideration the lessons learned from the ongoing Poznan-supported TNA project. In addition, during FY 2013, the GEF Council approved two national projects in China and South-Africa focusing on the preparation of NC and BUR that include activities to update or complement existing TNAs in these countries.

E. Arrangements to make the CTCN fully operational (Decision 14/CP.18)

⁷ As of January 2013, GEF projects in the size of \$2 million or under are classified as MSPs; above \$2 million are considered as FSPs. The programmatic approach is discussed in paragraphs 85 and 97 of the GEF report to COP 19.

COP 18 guidance

35. In decision 14/CP.18 on “Arrangements to make the Climate Technology Center and Network fully operational”, paragraph 15, the COP reiterates that the financial support to the Climate Technology Center and Network shall be provided in accordance with decision 2/CP.17, paragraphs 139–141.

SBI 37 conclusions

36. Under SBI 37 agenda item 13, Development and transfer of technologies, the SBI:
- i) stressed the need for the further implementation of the element of the Poznan strategic program on support for climate technology centers and a climate technology network, which should be aligned with, and support, the operationalization and activities of the CTCN, taking into account decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 140.
 - ii) invited the GEF to consult with the CTCN, through its advisory board, on the support the GEF will provide for the work of the CTCN and to report on the findings of those consultations to the COP at its nineteenth session.

GEF response

37. Updated information on GEF support to Climate Technology Centers and Network has been published in November 2012 as part of the GEF brochure “Implementing the Poznan Strategic and Long-Term Programs on Technology Transfer.”
38. Among the four Regional Projects for Climate Technology Transfer and Financing Centers approved by the GEF Council in May 2011 and June 2012 in line with the Long-Term Program on Technology Transfer, one project is already under implementation (“*Pilot Asia-Pacific Climate Technology Network and Finance Center*”, implemented by UNEP and the Asian Development Bank - ADB), one project has been submitted for endorsement by the GEF CEO (“*Regional Climate Technology Transfer Center*”, implemented by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development - EBRD), and the two remaining regional projects are still under project preparation. Efforts are underway to facilitate coordination and cooperation⁸.
39. In addition to the piloting and innovative projects explained in previous GEF reports on the Poznan Program and its Long-Term Implementation, the GEF, with the means at its disposal and in line with GEF procedures, is ready to continue to support the operationalization and activities of the CTCN in response to decision 2/CP.17. During the reporting period, various piloting and technology transfer projects at the national level have been approved by the GEF Council, as summarized in Annex 5 of the GEF report to COP 19. During this reporting period, the GEF has not received formal CTCN project proposals with the primary objective to support the operationalization of the CTCN. The GEF will submit an addendum to this report, which will provide detailed information on the findings of its consultation with the CTCN.

⁸ More details are presented in paragraphs 142 - 144 of the GEF report to COP 19.

F. Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention (Decision 15/CP.18)

COP 18 guidance

40. In decision 15/CP.18 on “Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention”, paragraph 6, the COP invites multilateral and bilateral institutions and organizations, including operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, as appropriate, to provide financial resources to support the activities relating to the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention.
41. The COP also requests the GEF, in paragraph 7, to continue to provide financial resources to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, in particular African countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States, 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, to support the implementation of the work program and to regularly report to the COP on the activities it has supported.

GEF response

42. Public awareness and education is often a key component of many GEF projects and thus through its regular financing of projects and programming, the GEF continues to provide resources for the implementation of Article 6. In many projects, there are components that specifically support distinct public awareness interventions. Public awareness interventions include media campaigns, targeted trainings, development of school and university curricula, and demonstration activities, among others, supported by the GEF through its projects.
43. One such project example is the recently financed project titled “Flood Control and Climate Resilience of Agriculture Infrastructure in Oueme Valley in Benin”. A component of this project includes implementing a public awareness campaign on the impacts of climate change and uncertainty management. The public awareness campaign will target local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society.⁹
44. The GEF has provided at least \$9.2 million for public awareness activities in calendar year 2012. Public participation is a key element and criterion for approval in all GEF projects. During the project preparation phase, resources are used to ensure public participation in GEF projects and that there is access to information generated by GEF projects. The GEF continues to work with its agencies to ensure that resources are allocated for Article 6 activities. Countries are encouraged to include activities related to Article 6 in their project proposals. The GEF also continues to work through its replenishment process to raise additional resources for Article 6 activities.

G. Prototype of the Registry (Decision 16/CP.18)

COP 18 guidance

45. In decision 16/CP.18 on “Prototype of the Registry”, paragraph 2, the COP reiterates its invitation to developed country Parties, the entity or entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, multilateral, bilateral and other public donors, and private and non-governmental organizations that are in position to do so,

⁹ Further information can be found on projects in all regions with components that support Article 6 of the Convention in the GEF report to COP 19, Annex 3 and 4.

to submit, as appropriate, information on financial, technology and capacity-building support available and/or provided for the preparation and/or implementation of nationally appropriate mitigation actions, in accordance with decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 48.

GEF response

46. The GEF has been providing support for the preparation and/or implementation of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) through its regular financing of climate change mitigation projects endorsed by the developing country parties. Countries can access resources through their STAR allocations under GEF-5 (2010–2014) replenishment period for NAMAs support. During this reporting period, the GEF Council has approved three projects explicitly focusing on NAMAs based on country's assessment¹⁰. These projects feature the development of the NAMA architecture, formation of institutional frameworks for NAMAs, support for their actual implementation, capacity building, and monitoring, verification and reporting¹¹.
47. Regarding the provision of information on financial, technology and capacity-building support available and/or provided for the preparation and/or implementation of NAMAs, the GEF Secretariat has held several consultations with the UNFCCC Secretariat about how the GEF can provide such information in line with development of the NAMA Registry prototype. As the Registry template is for individual countries to prepare and submit, the GEF Secretariat has indicated to the UNFCCC Secretariat its readiness to provide support-related information.

H. Capacity-building under the Convention for countries with economies in transition (Decision 21/CP.18)

COP 18 guidance

48. In Decision 21/CP.18 on "*Capacity-building under the Convention for countries with economies in transition*", paragraph 3, the COP invited Parties included in Annex II to the Convention and other Parties in a position to do so, the Global Environment Facility within its mandate, multilateral and bilateral agencies, other international organizations, and the private sector, or any further arrangements as appropriate, to continue to provide support for capacity-building activities in those countries with economies in transition that are currently receiving support.

GEF response

49. The GEF, along with its Agencies, continues to provide significant support to countries for capacity building. Capacity building is a routine component in many GEF projects and programs, often with specific interventions. The GEF submitted a report to the UNFCCC on capacity building activities financed during the period from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012, in response to decision 2/CP.7. The GEF has provided \$138.1 million to support capacity building during that period, covering 11 of the 15 categories of capacity building as defined by UNFCCC.
50. The support that the GEF has provided specifically to countries with economies in transition for capacity building is provided in the GEF report to the COP 19, Part 1, sub-section F.

¹⁰ The projects are located in: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Tunisia.

¹¹ The summaries of these projects have been provided in the GEF report to COP 19, Annex 3.

I. SBI 37 Conclusions on National Communications

SBI 37 conclusions

51. The SBI, under agenda item 4(c), paragraph 34, invites the GEF to continue providing detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of NCs by non-Annex I Parties, in accordance with decision 10/CP.2, paragraph 1(b), including information on the dates of approval of funding and disbursement of funds.
52. It also invites the GEF to continue providing information on the approximate date of completion of the draft NCs and an approximate date of submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat of the NCs, for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-eighth session.
53. In paragraph 39, the SBI encourages the GEF, in accordance with decision 4/CP.14, to continue to ensure, as a top priority, that sufficient financial resources are provided to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

GEF response

54. The GEF has provided detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of NCs by non-Annex I Parties. Annex 7 of the GEF report to COP 19 provides information on the status of NCs from non-Annex I Parties, which was compiled by the Implementing Agencies, which are the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP, as of March 2013. The GEF will submit an addendum to this report, which updates the status, including the approximate date of submission to the COP.
55. The GEF continues to work with its Agencies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the process for countries to access resources to meet their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1 of the Convention. For example, the GEF has established expedited procedures for an enabling activity project to meet obligations under the UNFCCC. The GEF continues to provide full-cost funding for NCs. All requests to support NCs have been met by the GEF. The GEF has set aside resources outside country allocations to support NCs and BURs. The GEF has expanded its options for countries to access resources for NCs. There are now four options, including: (i) working with a GEF Agency; (ii) being part of the UNEP umbrella project for NCs; (iii) by direct access from the GEF Secretariat; and, (iv) through a national allocation as a full-sized project.

Durban, South Africa



XI. COP 17 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) was held from 28 November to 9 December 2011, Durban, South Africa. Decisions at COP 17 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance and the SBI 35/36¹ conclusions are included in its report to COP 18². The reporting period is GEF FY 2012, from 1 July 2011, to 30 June 2012.

A. Outcome of the AWG-LCA (Decision 2/CP.17)

COP 17 guidance

2. In decision 2/CP.17 on "*Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA)*", paragraph 44, the COP urged and requested the GEF to make available support to non-Annex I Parties preparing their first biennial update reports as early as possible in 2012 and on the basis of agreed full-cost funding.
3. In decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 48, the COP invited developed country Parties, the entity or entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, multilateral, bilateral and other public donors, and private and nongovernmental organizations that are in position to do so, to submit to the secretariat, as appropriate, the following information on financial, technology and capacity-building support available and/or provided for the preparation and/or implementation of nationally appropriate mitigation actions:
 - i) Whether the support available is for the preparation and/or implementation of nationally appropriate mitigation actions;
 - ii) The source of the support, including, where applicable, the name of the developed country Parties in question and the executing entity channeling the support, including contact information;
 - iii) The amount and type of support available, and whether it is financial (e.g. grant or facilitated loan), technology and/or capacity-building support;
 - iv) The status of delivery;
 - v) The types of action that may be supported and the process for the provision of support.

1 SBI 35 was held from 28 November to 3 December 2011 in Durban, South Africa. SBI 36 was held from 14–25 May 2012 in Bonn, Germany.

2 GEF responses to COP 17 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 18 (FCCC/CP/2012/6) was compiled (1 July 2012), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 18 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600007062>.

4. In decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 49, the COP invited Parties and entities, including the Global Environment Facility, to provide the secretariat, subsequent to the matching of action with support, information on both internationally supported mitigation actions and associated support.
5. In decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 53, the COP noted that the financial mechanism may make use of information available in the registry when considering the provision of support for the preparation and implementation of individual nationally appropriate mitigation actions which are seeking support.
6. In decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 68, the COP encouraged the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention to provide results-based finance for the actions referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 73.³
7. In decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 140, requests the Global Environment Facility to support the operationalization and activities of the Climate Technology Centre and Network without prejudging any selection of the host.⁴
8. In decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 139, the COP decided that the costs associated with the Climate Technology Centre and the mobilization of the services of the Network should be funded from various sources, including the financial mechanism of the Convention, bilateral, multilateral and private sector channels, philanthropic sources as well as financial and in-kind contributions from the host organization and participants in the Network.
9. In decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 152, the COP encouraged the relevant bodies established under the Convention, including, inter alia, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and the Global Environment Facility as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, to continue to elaborate and carry out work on capacity-building in an integrated manner, as appropriate, within their respective mandates.
10. In the Annex I to decision 2/CP.17 on "*UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties*", paragraph 17, it is noted that each Annex II Party shall provide information on the financial support it has provided, committed and/or pledged for the purpose of assisting non-Annex I Parties to mitigate GHG emissions and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and any economic and social consequences of response measures, and for capacity-building and technology transfer in the areas of mitigation and adaptation, where appropriate. To that end, each Annex II Party shall provide summary information in a textual and tabular format on allocation channels and annual contributions for the previous two calendar or financial years without overlapping with the previous reporting periods, including, as appropriate, the following:
 - i) The Global Environment Facility, the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund, the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund and the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities;
 - ii) Other multilateral climate change funds;
 - iii) Multilateral financial institutions, including regional development banks;
 - iv) Specialized United Nations bodies;
 - v) Contributions through bilateral, regional and other channels.

3 Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 73, refers to mitigation actions in the forest sector contributed by undertaking the following activities: reducing emissions from deforestation; reducing emissions from forest degradation; conservation of forest carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

4 This decision was stressed in the SBI 36 conclusions (FCCC/SBI/2012/15, paragraph 190).

GEF response

Biennial update reports

11. The GEF finances BURs, through the regular avenue of financing National Communications. The GEF has prepared policy guidelines for the financing of BURs for non-Annex I Parties, which were distributed to all Parties in early 2012. The policy guidelines provides that, for the BURs, non-Annex I Parties can access up to \$352,000 through a GEF Agency or by direct access. If \$352,000 for the BURs is not sufficient for a country, then the STAR⁵ allocation can be used.
12. During FY 2012, the GEF Council approved two enabling activity projects that include preparation of BURs. In the two projects, "*India: Preparation of Third National Communication (3NC) to the UNFCCC and Strengthening Institutional and Analytical Capacities on Climate Change*" and "*Indonesia: Third National Communication to the UNFCCC,*" BURs will be financed as a component of NC projects. Summaries of the two projects are presented in Annex 3 of the GEF report to COP 18. The GEF will submit an addendum to its report to COP 18, which provides detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including information on the dates of request and approval of funding, as well as disbursement of funds, as this information becomes available.

NAMA registry

13. The GEF, through its regular financing of climate change mitigation projects, can provide resources for the preparation and/or implementation of NAMAs. Countries can access resources through their STAR Allocation for NAMAs. For example, the GEF Council in June 2012 approved a project which explicitly focuses on NAMAs, titled "*Peru-Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions in the Energy Generation and End-Use Sectors.*" This project will support the Government of Peru in the development and implementation of NAMAs in the energy sector to achieve the country's voluntary GHG emissions reduction target. A summary of the project is provided in Annex 3 of the GEF report to COP 18.
14. As to providing information on financial, technology and capacity-building support available and/or provided for the preparation and/or implementation of NAMAs, the GEF Secretariat has held consultations with the UNFCCC Secretariat about how the GEF can provide such information in line with development of the NAMA Registry prototype.

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation plus

15. In GEF-5, the GEF is providing financing for these mitigation actions in the forest sector under climate change mitigation's LULUCF objective and under the cross-focal area (that is, addressing multiple Convention needs) SFM/REDD+ Program, including supporting activities that will develop national systems to measure and monitor carbon stocks and change from forest and non-forest lands, strengthen related policies and institutions, undertake good management practices, and establish financing mechanisms and investment programs. LULUCF also includes non-forest lands which allows for lands to be converted to forest land and also for good practices to be applied to non-forest lands for GHG benefits. The specific objectives for SFM/REDD+ Program are to reduce pressures on forest resources and generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services, and strengthen the enabling environment to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon sinks from LULUCF activities.
16. Rigorous monitoring and/or measuring systems are key for results-based finance for mitigation in the forest sector. Support for national monitoring systems and for sub-national or local-based monitoring will be emphasized in these types of projects.

5 On the STAR, see Annex 5 of this booklet.

Climate Technology Centre and Network

17. The GEF has financed technology transfer in line with the GEF-5 Climate Change Mitigation Strategy and the Long-Term Program on Technology Transfer, which the GEF submitted to COP 16 in response to decision 2/CP.14 to consider the long-term implementation of the Poznan Strategic Program on Technology Transfer, with the means at its disposal for that purpose. The GEF is also ready to continue to support the operationalization and activities of the CTCN in response to decision 2/CP.17.
18. The Long-Term Program on Technology Transfer, which was also approved by the GEF Council, includes climate technology transfer coordination at the global level (i.e., the global centre host function) and technology centers at the regional level. Countries wishing to establish a national centre/network were invited to do so by utilizing existing GEF national allocations.
19. In line with the Long-Term Program on Technology Transfer, the GEF Council in May 2011 approved the "*Pilot Asia-Pacific Climate Technology Network and Finance Center*" project by ADB and UNEP. Furthermore, the GEF Council in June 2012 approved three similar regional projects: the "*Climate Technology Transfer Mechanisms and Networks in Latin America and the Caribbean*" project by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); the "*Pilot African Climate Technology Finance Center and Network*" project by the African Development Bank (AfDB), and; the "*Regional Climate Technology Transfer Center*" project by EBRD. Additional information on these centers is presented in the GEF report to COP 18.
20. At the national level, the GEF Council in June 2012 also approved the "*Facility for Low Carbon Technology Deployment*" project in India by the World Bank. Summaries of the projects approved in FY 2012 are provided in Annex 3 of the GEF report to COP 18.
21. The GEF submitted its proposal to host the CTCN for consideration by the UNFCCC Secretariat in March 2012, in response to the Call for Proposal 2012-S1. The proposal was withdrawn by the GEF CEO in May 2012.

Capacity building

22. The GEF, with its partner Agencies, has provided significant capacity building support to countries during the past decade, both through a capacity component in regular projects and through more targeted interventions. For example, the project "*India: Preparation of Third National Communication (3NC) to the UNFCCC and Strengthening Institutional and Analytical Capacities on Climate Change*" will strengthen institutional and analytical capacities in an integrated manner by realizing in one common framework India's NC, BUR, and TNA. The GEF continues to provide resources for capacity building activities through its regular financing of projects. The GEF's activities for capacity building during the FY 2012 are presented in Part II, Section 5 of the GEF report to COP 18.

B. Launching the Green Climate Fund (Decision 3/CP.17)

COP 17 guidance

23. In decision 3/CP.17 on "*Launching the Green Climate Fund*," paragraph 18, the COP recognized the need to facilitate the immediate functioning of the Green Climate Fund and ensure its independence, and requested the UNFCCC secretariat jointly with the GEF secretariat to take the necessary administrative steps to set up the interim secretariat of the Green Climate Fund as an autonomous unit within the UNFCCC secretariat premises without undue delay after the COP 17 so that the interim secretariat can provide technical, administrative and logistical support to the Board until the independent secretariat of the Green Climate Fund is established.

GEF response

24. Responding to the COP guidance, the UNFCCC Secretariat and the GEF Secretariat have taken the necessary administrative steps to set up the Interim Secretariat of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as an autonomous unit within the UNFCCC Secretariat premises. The Interim Secretariat is to provide technical, administrative and logistical support to the GCF Board until the independent Secretariat of the GCF is established. In order to move quickly in establishing the Interim Secretariat, the Secretariats of the UNFCCC and the GEF assigned staff either full-time or part-time to work in the Interim Secretariat. Arrangements have also been made to use additional support of UNFCCC staff in Bonn for administrative, logistical and information technology (IT) support.
25. Since the COP 17 decision requested the Interim Secretariat to make arrangements for convening the first meeting of the GCF Board, there was some urgency in setting up the Interim Secretariat. At the same time, COP decision 3/CP.17 foresees the GCF Board appointing the Head of the Interim Secretariat. Hence it must be underlined that all arrangements made during the reporting period (from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012) are provisional in order to allow the GCF Board to exercise its authority over the Interim Secretariat and for the Head, once appointed, to select staff and lead the work of the team.
26. Financial support for the start-up phase of the GCF is essential. As per decision 3/CP.17, Parties are invited to make financial contributions for the start-up of the GCF, including to cover the administrative costs of the GCF Board and its Interim Secretariat. The arrangement for the Interim Secretariat has been communicated through an information note to Parties, together with an indicative administrative budget for the first phase of the work of the GCF. It was emphasized that the budgets presented in the information note sent to Parties are preliminary and subject to change as the GCF Board takes up its work and defines the direction and scope.
27. The designated Interim Trustee of the GCF, the World Bank, has now formally accepted the invitation by the COP. The Interim Trustee has established a Financial Intermediary Fund for the GCF and now stands ready to receive contributions from Parties for the start-up costs in this new GCF trust fund.
28. Many Parties have indicated their willingness to contribute and some are already in the process of making administrative arrangements for providing the funding. For the first months of the year 2012, it has been possible to finance operations from funds remaining from those provided to the UNFCCC Secretariat for the Transitional Committee (TC) in 2011 and from funds advanced from the GEF Secretariat's administrative budget. The generous contributions by Parties to the TC work, both financial and in kind, and the agreement of the GEF Council regarding use of GEF resources, combined with an economic use of resources and prudent spending, has allowed these savings to be redirected, in agreement with donors, towards the work of the Interim Secretariat.
29. An important milestone in operationalizing the GCF is the selection of the host country of the GCF. Parties were requested to submit to the GCF Board by 15 April 2012 expressions of interest for hosting the GCF, based on the criteria agreed by Parties at the COP 17. These criteria include the ability to confer and/or recognize juridical personality and legal capacity to the GCF, the ability to provide the necessary privileges and immunities to the GCF, and financial arrangements, as well as administrative and logistical support to the GCF.
30. Six expressions of interest in hosting the GCF have been received. The expressions of interest are from: (i) Germany; (ii) Mexico; (iii) Namibia; (iv) Poland; (v) Republic of Korea; and (vi) Switzerland. These expressions of interest have been posted on the GCF website⁶. Some of the Parties presented information on their offers at the SBI 36. At its first meeting, the GCF Board is expected to consider these expressions of interest and initiate an open and transparent process for the selection of the host country. As a result of this process, the GCF Board will take a decision on the host country at one of its subsequent meetings and present it to the COP 18 for endorsement.

6 <<http://www.gcfund.net>>.

31. Parties have been invited, through their regional groups and constituencies, to submit nominations for the position of member and alternate member of the GCF Board. The agreed composition of the Board is 12 members from developing country Parties and 12 members from developed country Parties. Nominations were scheduled to be sent to the Interim Secretariat of the GCF by 31 March 2012.
32. The Interim Secretariat prepared nine working papers and two information notes for consideration by the GCF Board. The first GCF Board meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 23–25 August 2012.⁷

C. National Adaptation Plans (Decision 5/CP.17)

COP 17 guidance

33. In decision 5/CP.17 on “*National adaptation plans*,” paragraph 22, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, through the Least Developed Countries Fund, to consider how to enable activities for the preparation of the national adaptation plan process for least developed countries Parties, while maintaining progress for the least developed countries work programme, which includes the national adaptation programmes of action.
34. In decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 25, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund, to submit information to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, through the secretariat, by 13 February 2012, on how they could enable activities undertaken as part of the national adaptation plan process in least developed country Parties, for compilation by the secretariat into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its thirty-sixth session.
35. In decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 31, the COP further invited the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, bilateral and multilateral organizations and other institutions as appropriate, to provide financial and technical support to developing country Parties to plan, prioritize and implement their national adaptation planning measures, consistent with decision 1/CP.16 and relevant provisions of the Convention.

SBI 36 conclusions

36. Under SBI 36 agenda item 8 (a) and (b), *National adaptation plans* (FCCC/SBI/2012/15), the SBI welcomed the submission by the GEF and “reiterated the urging of developed country Parties by the COP to mobilize financial support for the NAP process for LDC Parties through bilateral and multilateral channels, including through the LDCF, in accordance with decision 1/CP.16 and 5/CP.17.” (paragraphs 130 to 133)
37. In the same conclusions, the SBI also “reaffirmed the invitation by the COP to the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, bilateral and multilateral organizations and other institutions, as appropriate, to provide financial and technical support to developing country Parties to plan, prioritize and implement their national adaptation planning measures, consistent with decision 1/CP.16 and relevant provisions of the Convention.” (paragraph 143)

⁷ GEF response in paragraph 29 was updated in September 2012.

GEF response

38. The GEF submitted, on 13 February 2012, information on NAPs for consideration by SBI 36. The submission⁸ notes that the GEF and its Agencies have the experience and the operational modalities required to support the NAP process in LDCs through the LDCF.
39. The GEF welcomes further guidance from the COP to clarify whether enabling activities in support of NAPs are to be adopted in the LDC work programme and whether such activities are to be prioritized for financing under the LDCF. Moreover, the GEF notes that additional, designated contributions to the LDCF would be necessary to allow the GEF to support the NAP process in LDCs in addition to NAPA implementation.
40. As a first step, the GEF, in collaboration with its Agencies, the LEG, the UNFCCC Secretariat, and, once operational, the Adaptation Committee, will launch a support program that corresponds to the foundational elements of the NAP process, defined as “laying the groundwork and addressing gaps” in the initial guidelines for the formulation of NAPs by LDC Parties, annexed to decision 5/CP.17. In particular, this program will strengthen the capacities of key stakeholders in LDCs to effectively carry out subsequent stages of the NAP process.
41. The GEF notes the invitation by the COP and the SBI to support the NAP process in developing countries that are not LDCs. As the entity entrusted with the management of the SCCF, the GEF holds a mandate to finance adaptation measures in all developing country parties to the UNFCCC. Through projects and programs financed under the SCCF, the GEF has also gained relevant experience of adaptation planning and implementation in non-LDCs. Yet, additional contributions to the SCCF would be necessary to allow the GEF to support the NAP process in non-LDCs.
42. The GEF stands ready to address further guidance on NAPs by COP 18 in collaboration with its Agencies, LEG, the Adaptation Committee, and the UNFCCC Secretariat.

D. Least Developed Countries Fund (Decision 9/CP.17)

COP 17 guidance

43. In decision 9/CP.17 on “Least Developed Countries Fund: support for the implementation of elements of the least developed countries work programme other than national adaptation programmes of action” paragraph 1, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, “as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention entrusted with managing the Least Developed Countries Fund:
 - i) To continue to provide information to the least developed country Parties to further clarify project baselines and the application for accessing funding from the Least Developed Countries Fund in order to develop and implement projects under national adaptation programmes of action to address the effects of climate change;
 - ii) To support the development of a programmatic approach for the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action by those least developed country Parties that wish to do so;
 - iii) To further explore opportunities to streamline the Least Developed Countries Fund project cycle, particularly during the project preparation stage;

8 FCCC/SBI/2012/MISC. Available at <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/sbi/eng/misc03.pdf>>.

- iv) To further improve the provision of information to least developed country Parties on the project development process for projects being considered under the Least Developed Countries Fund.”

44. In decision 9/CP.17, paragraph 2, the COP requested the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to provide further specification for each of the elements of the least developed countries work programme other than the national adaptation programmes of action, in consultation with the Global Environment Facility and report to SBI 36, with a view to informing the Conference of the Parties on guidance to be provided to the Global Environment Facility on support for the implementation of the elements of the least developed countries work programme other than the national adaptation programmes of action.

SBI 36 conclusions

45. Under SBI 36 agenda item 6, *Matters relating to finance (b) Other matters* (FCCC/SBI/2012/15, paragraphs 96 to 109), the SBI:

- i) welcomed the report of the twenty-first meeting of the LEG;
- ii) in particular, noted that the further specification of the elements of the LDC work programme other than NAPAs provided in the report could be useful to the implementation of the LDC work programme;
- iii) noted with appreciation the ongoing efforts of the LEG as well as of bilateral and other agencies to facilitate the implementation of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme other than the NAPAs. The SBI further noted with appreciation the efforts of the GEF, in parallel to supporting the ongoing implementation of the NAPAs, to facilitate the implementation of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme as mandated by decision 5/CP.14;
- iv) recognized that the LDCF was established to support the LDC work programme, in accordance with decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 12, and that implementation of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme are to be supported, in parallel to the ongoing implementation of the NAPAs in accordance with decision 5/CP.14;
- v) recognized that the LDCF plays an important role in supporting the implementation of the LDC work programme, particularly through the implementation of NAPAs;
- vi) noted with appreciation the increased resources provided by Parties to the LDCF and the consequent increase to the LDCF ceiling. However, further support continues to be required to formulate and implement the elements of the LDC work programme other than the NAPAs;
- vii) further encouraged donor countries to continue providing funding for country-driven activities. The SBI invited the GEF to continue raising awareness on the need for adequate and predictable resources under the LDCF to allow the full implementation of the LDC work programme, in particular NAPAs, as mandated by decision 5/CP.14, paragraph 8;
- viii) noted that existing modalities for implementing NAPA priorities are partially addressing the other elements of the LDC work programme, including through, inter alia, capacity-building and coordination at different levels of government and across sectors, as well as communication and outreach programmes, the development and introduction of adaptation technologies and the improved provision of hydrometeorological services;

- ix) encouraged the LDCF to support technology elements of the LDC work programme, as appropriate to the priorities of the LDC Parties, including through the support of NAPAs. The SBI further encouraged the LEG to identify synergies with the future work of the Climate Technology Centre and Network;
 - x) encouraged LDC Parties to consider the options highlighted in the report of the LEG, which identify various ways to further address the other elements of the LDC work programme, according to their specific needs and circumstances. The SBI further encouraged LDC Parties to submit proposals, including from elements of NAPAs, to the LDCF and to relevant bilateral, multilateral and international organizations that address the elements of the LDC work programme that are of highest priority to the LDC Parties;
 - xi) looked forward to the remaining work of the LEG in its 2012–2013 work programme to support the remaining elements of the LDC work programme, and invited the GEF, UN agencies and other international organizations to make submissions on how they can further support the implementation of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme other than NAPAs, for consideration by SBI 37 with a view to making a recommendation to COP 18;
 - xii) took note of the information submitted by the GEF on the activities relating to decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 2 (a–d). The SBI also noted that funding continues to be required to implement activities outlined in decision 7/CP.7, including paragraph 2 (c–d). The SBI further noted that activities outlined in decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 2 (a–b), were selected as the priority areas for the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) in accordance with decision 5/CP.9;
 - xiii) encouraged donor countries to continue providing funding to the SCCF and invited the GEF to raise awareness on the need for adequate and predictable resources under the SCCF for country-driven activities; and
 - xiv) further invited the GEF to report on the issues mentioned in the above to the COP.
46. Under SBI 36 agenda item 7 (b), *Matters relating to the least developed countries* (FCCC/SBI/2012/15, paragraph 126), the SBI also provided guidance to the GEF, inviting the GEF, “in its capacity as the entity entrusted with the operation of the LDC Fund, relevant organizations, agencies and regional centres, to support the organization, under the guidance of the LEG, of the regional training workshops mentioned in the LEG work programme for 2012–2013.”.

GEF response

47. The GEF has continued to reach out to LDC parties with a view to enhancing communications and facilitating access to resources under the LDCF. The GEF Familiarization Seminar, as well as several Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs)⁹ organized between November 2011 and May 2012, has offered important opportunities for LDC representatives in this regard. With respect to decision 9/CP.17, paragraph 1(d), refer also to paragraphs 63 to 65 in this section.
48. In an information document prepared for the LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2012, the GEF clarifies the concepts of baseline projects, co-financing and additional cost, as applied in the context of projects

⁹ In FY 2012, the GEF held the ECWs in: (1) Dakar, Senegal (July 2011); (2) Monrovia, Liberia (July 2011); (3) Honiara, Solomon Islands (September 2011); (4) Tashkent, Uzbekistan (October 2011); (5) Nairobi, Kenya (October 2011); (6) Cape Town, South Africa (November, 2011); (7) Bujumbura, Burundi (February 2012); (8) Dead Sea, Jordan (February 2012); (9) San Jose, Costa Rica (March 2012); (10) Tirana, Albania (March 2012); (11) Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (April 2012); (12) Antigua and Barbuda (May 2012); and (13) Lima, Peru (May 2012).

and programs financed under the LDCF, as well as adaptation projects financed under the SCCF.¹⁰ The document will be referenced in upcoming ECWs and Familiarization Seminars, as well as in communications with national focal points and GEF Agencies.

49. The GEF has invited LDCs, in collaboration with GEF Agencies, to propose programmatic approaches for NAPA implementation and it will continue to share information about the relevant modalities, processes and procedures. To date, one programmatic approach has been approved by the LDCF/SCCF Council, requesting resources from the LDCF, as well as the SCCF and the GEF Trust Fund; namely, the “*Sahel and West Africa Program in Support of the Great Green Wall Initiative*”. The program, implemented by the World Bank, mobilizes \$16 million from the LDCF in support of NAPA implementation activities in Chad, Ethiopia, Mali and Togo.
50. The GEF welcomes the request to further explore opportunities to streamline the LDCF project cycle. The GEF Secretariat is in the process of reviewing the programming principles of the LDCF, with the intention of updating these for the LDCF/SCCF Council in November 2012. The initiative coincides with a broader effort to streamline the project cycle, as well as the processes and procedures for accessing resources under the GEF, which was initiated by decision of the GEF Council in June 2012.¹¹
51. The GEF Secretariat participated in the 21st LEG meeting in Thimphu, Bhutan in March 2012. The GEF welcomes the report of the meeting and, in particular, the efforts made by LEG to analyze and specify each of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme. Several follow-up actions are being prepared in support of the implementation of these remaining elements, consistent with LEG’s review.
52. With respect to “strengthening the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support implementation of NAPAs”, as provided in decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 14 (c), and specified in the LEG report, the GEF, through the LDCF, has made considerable progress in meeting LDC needs.¹² In June 2012, the GEF approved nine full-sized projects in nine LDCs in sub-Saharan Africa, requesting some \$41 million under the LDCF, aiming to support climate-resilient development and adaptation by strengthening weather and climate monitoring, data collection and early-warning systems. The projects address the countries’ urgent needs pertaining to hydro-meteorological services and early-warning systems, as identified in their NAPAs, while providing essential information and decision-support services to enable sustainable and resilient planning and investment in key sectors of their economies. The nine projects build on and complement previous initiatives financed under the LDCF, as well as those carried out by other multilateral, bilateral, and national institutions. In addition, projects financed under the LDCF continue to include components that contribute towards strengthening the capacity of hydro-meteorological services.
53. The GEF, through the LDCF, continues to support technology transfer through projects and programs for the implementation of NAPAs. The GEF Secretariat estimates that most projects financed under the LDCF contribute towards the transfer of technologies, including the technologies prioritized in the LEG report.¹³ With regard to the assessment of technology needs, the GEF, through the LDCF, has supported the preparation of NAPAs in 48 LDCs, thus allowing countries to identify their urgent and immediate adaptation needs, including their needs for the transfer of adaptation technologies. Moreover, during its first two phases, the TNA Project, financed under the SCCF-B, supports the development of TNAs in 10 LDCs in Africa and Asia. The GEF looks forward to LEG’s assessment of potential synergies between projects and programs financed under the LDCF and the CTCN.

10 LDCF/SCCF Council document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.12/Inf.04 (May 2012). Available at <<http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/Clarification%20on%20Additional%20Cost%208%20May.pdf>>.

11 The GEF Council in June 2012 requested a working group, comprised of Council Members, Agencies, and the Secretariat, to propose at the November 2012 meeting, detailed streamlining measures in the project cycle.

12 FCCC/SBI/2012/7, paragraphs 41-42.

13 FCCC/SBI/2012/7, paragraph 39.

54. On public awareness, capacity building for negotiators, and strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national climate change secretariats and/or focal points, the GEF Secretariat welcomes the ideas put forward by LEG. Projects and programs financed under the LDCF systematically contribute towards public awareness and communication on matters pertaining to climate change, in accordance with country priorities. Similarly, LDCF projects have supported the establishment and development of mechanisms to oversee and promote regulatory support for climate change adaptation. A capacity building program in support of these other elements of the LDC work programme, similar to the efforts proposed to launch the NAP process, is under consideration.
55. The GEF welcomes further guidance by COP 18, based on the work carried out by LEG, on the implementation of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme.
56. The GEF stands ready to support the organization of the regional training workshops, proposed by LEG in its work program for 2012–2013, in collaboration with other relevant agencies and regional centers, should the UNFCCC Secretariat find that other bilateral and multilateral sources of financing are not available.

E. Report of the GEF to the COP and Additional Guidance (Decision 11/CP.17)

COP 17 guidance

57. In decision 11/CP.17 on "*Report of the GEF to the COP and additional guidance to the GEF,*" paragraph 1, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention:
 - i) To continue to work with its implementing agencies to further simplify its procedures and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the process through which Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) receive funding to meet their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, with the aim of ensuring the timely disbursement of funds to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with these obligations and to avoid gaps between the enabling activities of current and subsequent national communications, recognizing that the process of preparation of national communications is a continuous cycle;
 - ii) To continue to enhance the transparency of the project review process throughout the project cycle;
 - iii) To clarify the concept of additional costs as applied to different types of adaptation projects under the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund which seek to respond to climate change risks;
 - iv) To continue to provide financial resources to developing countries for strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national and regional systematic observation and monitoring networks under the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;
58. In decision 11/CP.17, paragraph 2, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility, in the context of technology needs assessments,¹⁴ to continue to provide financial support to other¹⁵ non-Annex I

¹⁴ FCCC/SBI/2011/7, paragraph 135.

¹⁵ Noting that progress has been made in providing technical and financial support to assist 36 non-Annex I Parties in developing and updating their technology needs assessments and that many non-Annex I Parties expressed their interest to conduct or update their technology needs assessment.

Parties as appropriate to conduct or update their technology needs assessments, noting the availability of the updated Handbook for Conducting Technology Needs Assessments for Climate Change;¹⁶

59. In decision 11/CP.17, paragraph 3, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, in its regular report to the COP, to include information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.
60. In decision 11/CP.17, paragraph 5, the COP decided to invite Parties to submit to the secretariat annually, and no later than 10 weeks prior to the subsequent session of the COP, their views and recommendations in writing on the elements to be taken into account in developing guidance to the Global Environment Facility.

GEF response

National communications

61. The GEF continues to work with its Agencies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the process for countries to access resources to meet their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1 of the Convention. For example, the GEF has established expedited procedures for an enabling activity project to meet obligations under the UNFCCC. The GEF continues to provide full-cost funding for NCs. All requests to support NCs have been met by the GEF. The GEF has set aside resources outside country allocations to support NCs and BURs. The GEF has expanded its options for countries to access resources for NCs. There are now four options, including: (i) working with a GEF Agency; (ii) being part of the UNEP umbrella project for NCs; (iii) by direct access from the GEF Secretariat; and (iv) through a national allocation as a full-sized project.
62. The GEF has also provided detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of NCs by non-Annex I Parties. Annex 6 of the GEF report to COP 18 provides information on the status of NCs from non-Annex I Parties, which was compiled by the Implementing Agencies of UNDP and UNEP as of March 2012. The GEF will submit an addendum to the report, which updates the status, including the approximate date of submission to the COP.

Transparency of project review process

63. The GEF has continued to enhance the transparency of the project review process throughout the project cycle.¹⁷ For GEF projects and programs, the GEF-5 project cycle paper¹⁸ articulates review criteria¹⁹ which include: (a) country eligibility and ownership; (b) Agency's comparative advantage; (c) resource availability; (d) project consistency; (e) project design; (f) project financing; (g) project monitoring and evaluation; and (h) Agency's responses to comments and reviews.
64. As part of GEF's effort to enhance the transparency of the project review process, the GEF Secretariat has implemented the "One Review Policy" described in the GEF-5 project cycle paper. The One Review Policy requires the Secretariat program managers to provide comprehensive and succinct comments when sending a review sheet to the Agencies the first time, and to avoid bringing up new questions subsequently, thus minimizing the need to go back and forth on questions and clarifications between the GEF Secretariat and the Agencies.

16 <<http://unfccc.int/ttclear/pdf/TNA%20HANDBOOK%20EN%2020101115.pdf>>.

17 For the GEF project cycle, see Annex 5 of this booklet.

18 GEF/C.39/Inf.3 (October 2010).

19 These criteria are the same as those used in GEF-4 Project Cycle but in GEF-5, additional emphasis has been attached to project/program design and consistency, and the comparative advantage of the GEF Agencies.

65. In addition to the above, starting with the GEF-5 project cycle, all review sheets are posted on the GEF website²⁰ next to the project document for all projects included in the work program. This provides access to those who are interested to find out the review and comments on each project.

Additional costs of adaptation projects

66. Refer to paragraph 48 in this section.

Systematic observation and monitoring networks under the LDCF and SCCF

67. The GEF continues to provide support for systematic observation and monitoring networks in the context of projects and programs financed under the LDCF and the SCCF. For further details, refer to paragraph 52 in this section.

Technology needs assessments

68. The progress made in supporting TNAs is described in the GEF report to COP 18. The GEF also included TNA support in the Long-Term Program on Technology Transfer. In addition to its global support project for TNAs supported within the Poznan Strategic Program from 2009, the GEF Council approved, in FY 2012, a stand-alone national project including TNA activities titled the "*Preparation of Third National Communication (3NC) to the UNFCCC and Strengthening Institutional and Analytical Capacities on Climate Change*" in India by UNDP. This is an innovative project aimed at realizing in one common framework India's NC, biennial update report, and technology needs assessment. Furthermore, a project titled "*Establish Measurement and Verification System for Energy Efficiency in China*" project by the World Bank was endorsed by the GEF CEO in April 2012, and started implementation. This project includes extensive sectoral TNAs and pilot implementation (and monitoring) of specific activities targeting prioritized climate technologies, particularly in energy efficiency.

F. SBI 35/36 Conclusions on Development and Transfer of Technologies

SBI 35 conclusions

69. Under SBI 35 agenda item 11, *Development and transfer of technologies* (FCCC/SBI/2011/17, paragraphs 95 to 99), the SBI
- i) Noted the report of the GEF on the progress made in carrying out the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, including its long-term implementation, as invited by the SBI 34;
 - ii) Acknowledged the support provided by the GEF for the implementation of technology transfer pilot projects and for the conduct of technology needs assessments (TNAs). It further acknowledged the progress made in implementing the long-term programme on technology transfer. Furthermore, it urged the GEF and Parties to expedite the process for the early implementation of projects submitted before 30 September 2009;
 - iii) Encouraged non-Annex I Parties to develop and submit project proposals, particularly for technologies for adaptation, to the GEF in line with elements of the long-term programme on technology transfer described in document FCCC/SBI/2011/14, annex, paragraphs 46 and 47;
 - iv) Invited the GEF to raise awareness of the long-term programme on technology transfer;
 - v) Welcomed the results of the TNAs that are being prepared under the Poznan strategic programme in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The SBI noted information provided orally by the Climate Technology Initiative's Private Financing

²⁰ <http://www.thegef.org/gef/work_programs>.

Advisory Network on its collaboration with UNEP to assess any projects identified under the TNAs to determine their suitability for private-sector investment in order to accelerate implementation; and

- vi) Invited the GEF to support the operationalization and activities of the CTCN without prejudging any selection of the host.

SBI 36 conclusions

70. Under SBI 36 agenda item 12, *Development and transfer of technologies (c) Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer* (FCCC/SBI/2012/15, paragraphs 195 to 200), the SBI

- i) Noted the report by the GEF on the progress made in carrying out the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, as invited by the SBI 34;
- ii) Noted the support provided by the GEF for the implementation of technology transfer pilot projects under the Poznan strategic programme and the views expressed by Parties on the need to balance support for mitigation and adaptation projects. It invited the GEF to enhance the balance between adaptation and mitigation projects in the long-term implementation of the Poznan strategic programme, including by enhancing its outreach and awareness-raising efforts on funding opportunities for projects related to technologies for adaptation. It recalled its conclusion at SBI 35 encouraging non-Annex I Parties to submit project proposals, particularly for technologies for adaptation, to the GEF in line with the elements of the long-term programme described in document FCCC/SBI/2011/14, annex, paragraphs 46 and 47;
- iii) Invited the GEF and its implementing agencies to expedite the process for the implementation and completion of the remaining technology transfer pilot projects submitted in 2009 for support under the Poznan strategic programme;
- iv) Acknowledged the support provided by the GEF to assist 36 non-Annex I Parties in conducting their TNAs. It recalled decision 11/CP.17, paragraph 2, which invited the GEF, in the context of TNAs, to continue to provide financial support to other non-Annex I Parties, as appropriate, to conduct or update their TNAs;
- v) Recalled the conclusion at SBI 34 inviting the GEF to provide reports on the progress made in carrying out its activities under the Poznan strategic programme, including its long-term implementation, for consideration by SBI 35 and subsequent sessions. The SBI invited the GEF in its future progress reports to further elaborate on:
 - the activities undertaken by the GEF to enhance its outreach and awareness raising efforts on funding opportunities for projects related to technologies for adaptation in order to address the need for balanced support for projects related to technologies for adaptation;
 - experiences gained and lessons learned, including success stories and challenges faced in carrying out the activities under the Poznan strategic programme;
 - progress made by its implementing agencies in the delivery of technology transfer under the Poznan strategic programme;
 - the efforts carried out to support, pursuant to decision 2/CP.17, the operationalization and activities of the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

- vi) Stressed the need for the further implementation of the element of the Poznan strategic programme included in document FCCC/SBI/2012/9, paragraph 23(a), to be aligned with, and to enable, the operationalization and activities of the CTC and its Network, taking into account document FCCC/SBI/2012/15, paragraphs 185 and 187, and decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 140.

GEF response

- 71. The GEF presented its progress in carrying out activities under the Poznan Strategic Program to COP 17. The GEF also presented a summary of the report to the COP at SBI 35 and provided an oral update.
- 72. The GEF compiled a report on the progress made in carrying out the Poznan Strategic Program for the period of October 2011 to February 2012 and submitted it to SBI 36. As requested, the GEF also provided an oral update to Parties during SBI 36.
- 73. Detailed elaboration on the progress made in carrying out the Poznan Strategic Program and its long-term elements is included in Part II, Section 4 of the GEF report to COP 18. Further information on the implementation of projects of the Poznan Strategic Program on Technology Transfer is also presented in Annex 5 of the GEF report to COP 18.
- 74. The GEF has been facilitating technology transfer for adaptation through multi-trust fund projects combining GEF Trust Fund and SCCF resources. The GEF has been consistently increasing its support to technology transfer for adaptation as illustrated in Part II, Section 4 of the GEF report to COP 18.
- 75. In order to raise awareness about its support for technology transfer including the Poznan Strategic Program and its long-term elements, the GEF presented its technology transfer efforts, including its funding opportunities for adaptation projects, at a variety of meetings including the following: (i) COP 17 side event (December 2011); (ii) the GEF Familiarization Seminar (January 2012); (iii) GEF ECWs. Many of these meetings included the UNFCCC national focal points as participants. The GEF also submitted updates on the CTCN-related efforts to the GEF Council in March and May 2012. Furthermore, the GEF website²¹ has been updated regularly with information on the Poznan Strategic Program and its long-term elements.
- 76. The GEF continues to support technology transfer activities, in line with the Long-Term Program on Technology Transfer, and the operationalization and activities of the future CTCN, as indicated in paragraphs 19 and 20 in this section, in response to COP decision 2/CP.17, with the means at its disposal for that purpose and in line with GEF procedures.

G. SBI 36 Conclusions on National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties

SBI 36 conclusions

- 77. Under SBI 36 agenda item 4, *National communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (d) Provision of financial and technical support* (FCCC/SBI/2012/15), the SBI
 - i) Reiterated the request to the GEF made by the COP in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 44, to make available support to non-Annex I Parties preparing their BURs as early as possible in 2012 and on the basis of agreed full-cost funding;
 - ii) Invited the GEF to continue providing detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties,

²¹ <http://www.thegef.org/gef/Technology_Transfer>.

in accordance with decision 10/CP.2, paragraph 1(b), including information on the dates of approval of funding and disbursement of funds.

- iii) Invited the GEF to continue providing information on the approximate date of completion of the draft national communications and an approximate date of submission to the secretariat of the national communications, for consideration by the SBI 37.
- iv) Invited the GEF to provide, in its report to the COP 18, detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of BURs, including information on the dates of request and approval of funding, as well as disbursement of funds.
- v) Encouraged the GEF, in accordance with decision 4/CP.14, to continue to ensure, as a top priority, that sufficient financial resources are provided to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention.
- vi) Invited the GEF to report on providing funds for technical support for the preparation of BURs from non-Annex I Parties, similar to that provided by the National Communications Support Programme, in its report to COP 19.

GEF response

National communications

78. See paragraphs 61 and 62 in this section.

Biennial update reports

79. See paragraphs 11 and 12 in this section.²²

²² As of 1 October 2012, the GEF is preparing the “Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports for non-Annex I Parties” with UNDP and UNEP.

Cancun, Mexico



XII. COP 16 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) was held from 29 November to 10 December 2010 in Cancun, Mexico. Decisions at COP 16 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance and SBI 34¹ conclusions are included in its report to COP 17.² The reporting period is FY 2011, from 1 July 2010, to 30 June 2011.

A. Cancun Agreements (Decision 1/CP.16)

COP 16 guidance

2. In decision 1/CP.16 on "*the Cancun Agreements: Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention*," paragraph 111, the COP requested the secretariat, in consultation with the President of the Conference of the Parties, to make arrangements enabling relevant United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, along with the secretariat and the Global Environment Facility, to second staff to support the work of the Transitional Committee for the design phase of the Green Climate Fund.

GEF response

3. The GEF seconded a senior member of the GEF management team to support the work of the Transitional Committee during 2011.

B. Fourth Review of the Financial Mechanism (Decision 2/CP.16)

COP 16 guidance

4. In decision 2/CP.16 on "*Fourth review of the financial mechanism*," paragraph 1, the COP took note of the findings of the Fourth Overall Performance Study, which was completed prior to the fifth replenishment, that:
 - (a) The Global Environment Facility support continues to be in line with guidance from the Conference of the Parties;

1 SBI 34 was held from 6–16 June 2011 in Bonn, Germany.

2 GEF responses to COP 16 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 17 (FCCC/CP/2011/7) was compiled (1 July 2011), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 17 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600006454>.

- (b) Although developed country donors have provided new and additional funding for global environmental benefits to developing countries, this has been insufficient to cover the increasing agenda of the Global Environment Facility as agreed upon in the conventions;
 - (c) The Global Environment Facility support has been crucial in enabling countries to integrate climate change into their national development agendas;
 - (d) The Global Environment Facility support has assisted developing countries in introducing policies to address climate change and reduce and avoid greenhouse gas emissions;
 - (e) The Resource Allocation Framework has hindered the access of group countries to the Global Environment Facility, particularly in relation to climate change, which may explain some of the discontent of the climate change community with the Global Environment Facility;
 - (f) The Global Environment Facility reporting requirements to the conventions have generally been met, yet certain aspects require improvement;
 - (g) The move of the Global Environment Facility towards country-level programming has increased country ownership to some extent, but the current modalities for resource allocation require improvement;
 - (h) There is scope to further simplify and streamline the Global Environment Facility procedures, particularly the project identification phase, and improve timeliness throughout the project cycle;
 - (i) The Global Environment Facility needs a knowledge management strategy to improve learning and the sharing of best practices;
 - (j) The Global Environment Facility has played an important role in scaling up resources to address climate change.
5. In decision 2/CP.16, paragraph 2, the COP welcomed the successful negotiations of the fifth replenishment of the GEF and notes that this is the largest increase in the climate change focal area since the Global Environment Facility was established, noting the increasing mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries to be taken into account within the context of the Global Environment Facility.
 6. In decision 2/CP.16, paragraph 3, the COP decided that the Global Environment Facility has provided and should continue to enhance its support to developing countries in:
 - (a) Meeting their commitments under the Convention;
 - (b) Strengthening national capacity-building;
 - (c) Applying and diffusing technologies, practices and processes for mitigation.
 7. In decision 2/CP.16, paragraph 4, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to continue improving its modalities to increase the responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency of its support, including:
 - (a) Being responsive to new guidance from the Conference of the Parties;

- (b) Including in its reporting to the Conference of the Parties a critical assessment of its experience with implementation of projects, as well as its experience with incorporating guidance from the Conference of the Parties into its strategies and programme priorities;
 - (c) Enhancing modalities which reinforce country ownership and improve the allocation of resources;
 - (d) Further simplifying and improving its procedures, particularly those for the identification, preparation and approval of activities;
 - (e) Ensuring that access to resources is expeditious and timely;
 - (f) Enabling country-level programming, where appropriate;
 - (g) Ensuring consistency and complementarity with other financing activities;
 - (h) Promoting private-sector financing and investment to address climate change activities;
 - (i) Strengthening its knowledge management approach to share best practices.
8. In decision 2/CP.16, paragraph 5, the Conference of the Parties decided that the Global Environment Facility should continue to provide and enhance support for the implementation of adaptation activities, including the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action, through the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund.
 9. In decision 2/CP.16, paragraph 6, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, in its regular report to the Conference of the Parties, to include information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 above.
 10. In decision 2/CP.16, paragraph 7, the COP invited Parties to submit to the secretariat annually, no later than 10 weeks prior to the subsequent session of the Conference of the Parties, their views and recommendations in writing on elements to be taken into account in developing guidance to the Global Environment Facility.

GEF response

11. The GEF continues to improve its modalities through the GEF-5 reforms. These include shorter cycle times, country-drivenness, and knowledge management.
12. GEF regularly reports to the COP and the SBI on its experience with project implementation and incorporation of guidance.
13. GEF-5 reforms place a priority on country-ownership, including the clear allocation of resources, the country support program, and support for National Portfolio Formulation Exercise. During GEF-5, 40 countries have undertaken portfolio exercises with GEF support.³
14. The GEF continues to work collaboratively with other organizations, such as the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), to on complementary financing activities.

³ A list of the countries and copies of completed National Portfolio Formulation Documents can be found at: <<http://www.thegef.org/gef/npfe>>.

15. The GEF has proposed a strategy for private sector engagement to the GEF council, which was approved on 10 November 2011.⁴ The strategy will emphasize Public Private Partnerships, working with Multi-lateral Development Banks (MDBs) to promote innovative financing, and also support small and medium enterprises (SME) innovation and entrepreneurship.⁵
16. The GEF continues to strengthen knowledge management activities. A strategy for knowledge management was presented at the 40th GEF Council Meeting.⁶

C. Additional Guidance to the GEF (Decision 3/CP.16)

COP 16 guidance

17. In decision 3/CP.16 on "*Additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility*," paragraph 1, the COP called on the Global Environment Facility to complete its reforms as early as possible in order to facilitate the successful implementation of the fifth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility.
18. In decision 3/CP.16, paragraph 2, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility in the implementation of these reforms to give full information to countries, in particular in relation to the implications of these reforms on the activities conducted by the Global Environment Facility.
19. In decision 3/CP.16, paragraph 3, the COP urged the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, to increase access to funding for activities related to Article 6 of the Convention.
20. In decision 3/CP.16, paragraph 4, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility:
 - (a) To continue to provide funds for technical support for the preparation of National Communications of Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), similar to that provided by the National Communications Support Programme, recognizing that the costs of such technical support are not deducted from the funds provided to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their National Communications;
 - (b) To ensure that the expedited process under the operational procedures continues to provide timely disbursement of funds to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their National Communications;
 - (c) To work with its implementing agencies to further simplify its procedures and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the process through which non-Annex I Parties receive funding to meet their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, with the aim of ensuring the timely disbursement of funds to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with these obligations, and to avoid gaps between enabling activities of current and subsequent National Communications, recognizing that the process of preparation of National Communications is a continuous cycle;
 - (d) To finalize any remaining operational procedures to ensure the timely disbursement of funds for those Parties that decide to access resources for the preparation of their National Communications through direct access;

4 GEF/C.41/9.Rev.01.

5 The strategy document can be found at: <<http://www.thegef.org/gef/content/revised-strategy-enhancing-engagement-private-sector>>.

6 GEF/C.40/Inf.03.

- (e) To provide detailed information on funding for projects that have been identified in the National Communications of non-Annex I Parties in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 4, of the Convention and subsequently submitted and approved.

GEF response

- 21. The GEF continues to improve its modalities through the GEF-5 reforms. These include shorter cycle times, country-drivenness, and knowledge management.
- 22. Through the ECWs and Constituency meetings, the GEF is providing updates and necessary information to the countries, including convention focal points, on the current reforms. Twelve workshops have been conducted through November 2011.
- 23. The GEF has also contacted each recipient country to provide an update in writing on financing options available for National Communications.
- 24. The GEF supports all requests for National Communications. Each country is eligible for up to \$500,000 and can work with agencies or through direct access. Countries can also use the STAR allocation funding. All requests have been approved, totaling over \$180 million since GEF inception.
- 25. The GEF, through its regular reporting to the SBI and the COP, will continue to provide detailed, accurate, timely, and complete information on the most recent GEF Council decisions related to NCs and its activities relating to the preparation of NCs from non-Annex I Parties.
- 26. The GEF provides financing for public awareness activities through project activities so that public awareness is integrated in each GEF project.
- 27. The GEF submitted an addendum to its COP 17 report to report on Article 6 funding.
- 28. To date the GEF has had consultations with eight of the GEF Agencies on 851 projects. The initial estimate is that a minimum of US\$84,301,200 has been allocated to finance Article 6 activities, since the inception of the GEF. The GEF will continue to work with the agencies on this issue and provide a revised figure for SBI 36.

D. Assessment of the SCCF (Decision 4/CP.16)

COP 16 guidance

- 29. In decision 4/CP.16 on "Assessment of the Special Climate Change Fund," the COP, noting the information on the Special Climate Change Fund provided through the annual reports of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties, decided to conclude the assessment of the status of implementation of paragraph 2 of decision 1/CP.12 and to request the entity entrusted with the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund to include in its report to COP 17 information on the implementation of paragraph 2 (a-d) of decision 7/CP.7.

GEF response⁷

30. The SCCF was established in 2001 in accordance with decision 7/CP.7 of the Convention. In May 2002, the GEF Council approved arrangements proposed for the establishment of the Fund,⁸ including its scope, guidance, financing, and eligibility criteria.
31. In November 2004, the SCCF was operationalized with the approval of the programming principles for adaptation and technology transfer, Special Climate Change Fund Adaptation Program (SCCF-A) and SCCF-B.⁹ These programming principles were developed in accordance with decision 5/CP.9, which provides that adaptation activities are to have top priority for funding and that technology transfer and its associated capacity-building activities are also to be an essential area for funding. This initial programming document formed the basis for mobilizing funds for the SCCF and the Trustee began accepting contribution payments to the SCCF in January 2005.
32. In May 2007, the LDCF/SCCF Council approved programming directions¹⁰ for the programs on mitigation in different sectors and economic diversification, SCCF-C and SCCF-D, in line with decision 1/CP.12.
33. As of 22 November 2011, Parties had pledged a total of \$244.2 million towards the programs for adaptation and technology transfer. No voluntary contributions have been made towards mitigation in different sectors or economic diversification.
34. As of 22 November 2011, the SCCF adaptation program had mobilized \$150.40 million for 30 full-sized projects, 6 medium-sized projects and three multi-trust fund programmatic approaches in non-Annex I countries. These projects and programs leverage \$960 million in total co-financing. The SCCF program for technology transfer had mobilized \$6.15 million for three pilot projects under the Poznan Strategic Program on Technology Transfer. Moreover, the program financed the TNA project for 35 to 45 countries with \$9 million.
35. The independent GEF Evaluation Office launched an evaluation of the SCCF during the reporting period, the main findings of which will be made available by COP 17. The evaluation will focus on assessing the SCCF adaptation program. As for the remaining three programs, the evaluation will review issues pertaining to guidance as well as the availability and accessibility of funds. The evaluation considers three overarching questions: (i) what can we learn from the SCCF and its funded projects in terms of financing adaptation measures? (Implementation of SCCF eligibility criteria and of the Results-Based Management (RBM) framework in the identification, approval and monitoring of SCCF projects); (ii) what can we learn from the SCCF and its funded projects in terms of designing and implementing adaptation measures and approaches? (Use of vulnerability assessments; alignment with national agendas; and prioritization of sectors, regions and adaptation measures); (iii) what lessons can be drawn from the governance and management of the SCCF as a whole? (Adherence to principles of transparency, accountability, responsiveness and cost-effectiveness).

7 GEF's responses were updated in November 2011.

8 GEF/C.19/6.

9 GEF/C.24/12.

10 GEF/LDCF.SCCF.2/4.

E. Further Guidance for the Operation of the LDCF (Decision 5/CP.16)

COP 16 guidance

36. In decision 5/CP.16 on "*Further guidance for the operation of the LDCF*," the COP, reiterating the need to implement national adaptation programmes of action as soon as possible after completion,:
- (a) Reiterated its request to the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention operating the Least Developed Countries Fund, in parallel to supporting the ongoing implementation of national adaptation programmes of action, to facilitate the implementation of the remaining elements of the least developed countries work programme (paragraph 1);
 - (b) Reiterated its request to the Global Environment Facility to work with its agencies to improve communication with least developed country Parties and to speed up the process by, for instance, establishing a time frame within which least developed country Parties can access funding and other support for the preparation and implementation of projects identified in their national adaptation programmes of action (paragraph 2);
 - (c) Requested the Global Environment Facility to provide funding from the Least Developed Countries Fund to least developed country Parties, upon request, to enable the update of their national adaptation programmes of action with a view to further improving their quality, to facilitate the integration of least developed countries adaptation actions into development planning and to reflect increased adaptation knowledge and changed priorities in the countries (paragraph 3);
 - (d) Requested the Global Environment Facility to include, in its reports to the Conference of the Parties, information on specific steps it has taken to implement this decision, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its subsequent sessions (paragraph 8);
37. In decision 5/CP.16, paragraph 9, the COP decided to assess progress made in the implementation of this decision and to consider the adoption of further guidance, as appropriate, at its eighteenth session.

GEF response¹¹

38. As of 22 November 2011, the LDCF had approved funding for 48 NAPAs, out of which 46 were completed and the remaining three were in the final stages of preparation and expected to be completed during 2011. Of the 46 countries with approved NAPAs, all had submitted proposals for NAPA implementation projects and 42 had had their first projects approved for funding. As of 1 July 2010, a streamlined project cycle has been adopted under the LDCF, providing a maximum of 18 months for the preparation of full sized projects and allowing a one-step approval process for medium sized projects.
39. In projects and programs submitted for funding under the LDCF, LDCs have successfully integrated core elements of the LDC work program.
- (a) Public awareness of climate change impacts and appropriate adaptation measures is advanced through distinct components and outputs in more than 75 per cent of the projects and programs financed under the LDCF.

¹¹ GEF's responses were updated in November 2011.

- (b) The transfer and adoption of adaptation technology constitutes one of the strategic objectives of the LDCF. Accordingly, technology transfer in a variety of sectors; in the shape of technology information, hard technologies, as well as capacity building, coordination and policy; constitutes a major component of most LDCF projects.
- 40. More than a fifth of LDCF projects and programs strengthen the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information in accordance with priorities identified in NAPAs.
- 41. In November 2010, the GEF Secretariat published simplified guidelines on accessing resources under the LDCF, titled *Accessing Resources under the Least Developed Countries Fund*. These guidelines have been disseminated at ECWs, LDCF/SCCF Council meetings as well as other meetings with LDCs. To further enhance communications and to support LDCs in NAPA implementation, the Secretariat has supported and participated in six regional training workshops for the LEG between October 2009 and March 2011. These workshops provided an opportunity for the GEF Secretariat to update the LEG on progress made in supporting NAPA implementation as well as to provide additional clarification regarding the project cycle including the implementation of recent GEF reforms in the operation of the LDCF.
- 42. At the end of FY 2011, the GEF had not received requests from LDCs to support the update of NAPAs.

F. Implementation of the Amended New Delhi Work Programme (Decision 7/CP.16)

COP 16 guidance

- 43. In decision 7/CP.16 on "*Progress in, and ways to enhance, the implementation of the amended New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention,*" the COP urged the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, to increase access to funding for Article 6 related activities.

GEF response

- 44. See paragraphs 26 to 28 in this section.

G. SBI 34 Conclusions on National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties

SBI 34 conclusions

- 45. Under SBI 34 agenda item 4, *National communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (d) Provision of financial and technical support (FCCC/SBI/2011/7)*, the SBI:
 - (a) Invited 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, in accordance with decision 10/CP.2, paragraph 1(b), including information on the dates of approval of funding and disbursement of funds.

- (b) Invited the GEF to continue to provide information on the approximate date of completion of the draft national communications and an approximate date of submission of the national communications to the secretariat, for consideration by SBI 35.
- (c) Took note with appreciation of the information provided by the GEF in its oral report¹² to the SBI on the expanded possibilities and options available to non-Annex I Parties to access resources for their national communications and looked forward to being provided with information in the report of the GEF to COP 17 on this issue.
- (d) Reiterated its recommendation to COP 16, to request the GEF to continue to provide funds for technical support for the preparation of national communications of non-Annex I Parties, similar to that provided by the National Communications Support Programme, recognizing that the costs of such technical support are not deducted from the funds provided to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their national communications.

GEF response

- 46. The GEF continues to provide detailed, accurate, timely and complete information on its activities relating to the preparation of NCs by non-Annex I Parties, in accordance with decision 10/CP.2, paragraph 1 (b), including information on the dates of approval of funding and disbursement of funds.
- 47. The GEF continues to provide information on the approximate date of submission of the draft NCs and an approximate date of submission of the NCs to the UNFCCC secretariat.
- 48. The GEF has also contacted each recipient country to provide an update in writing on financing options available for NCs.
- 49. The GEF supports all requests for NCs. Each country is eligible for up to \$500,000 and can work with agencies or through direct access. Countries can also use STAR allocation funding. All requests have been approved, totaling over \$180 million since GEF inception.
- 50. The GEF, through its regular reporting to the SBI and the COP, will continue to provide detailed, accurate, timely, and complete information on the most recent GEF Council decisions related to NCs and its activities relating to the preparation of NCs from non-Annex I Parties.
- 51. The most recent update of NCs from non-Annex I parties was submitted to UNFCCC on 5 October 2011. This submission functions as an addendum to the GEF report to COP 17 as well as the submission to the SBI on the issue of non-Annex I National Communications.

12 The GEF representative, in his oral report, presented the following options:
 Option 1: Countries can work with the GEF agency of their choice, as was the case in previous national communications;
 Option 2: Countries can be part of the UNEP umbrella project for national communications;
 Option 3: Countries can access resources of up to \$500,000 via direct access with the GEF Secretariat for their national communications;
 Option 4: If countries need additional resources above the \$500,000 provided for the preparation of national communications, countries can utilize their STAR allocation.

H. SBI 34 Conclusions on Financial Mechanism of the Convention

SBI 34 conclusions

52. Under SBI 34 agenda item 5, *Financial mechanism of the Convention* (FCCC/SBI/2011/7), the SBI invited the GEF, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, to clarify in its annual report to COP 17 whether the activities in decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 7(a)(iv), fall within its mandate.

GEF response

53. The GEF affirms that its mandate under the LDCF and the SCCF covers these activities.

I. SBI 34 Conclusions on Article 6 of the Convention

SBI 34 conclusions

54. Under SBI 34 agenda item 6, *Article 6 of the Convention* (FCCC/SBI/2011/7), the SBI invited the GEF and its implementing agencies to provide to SBI 35 information on resources made available for the implementation of Article 6 related activities for consideration at SBI 36.

GEF response

55. The GEF provides financing for public awareness activities through project activities so that public awareness is integrated in each GEF project.
56. The GEF submitted an addendum to its COP 17 report to report on Article 6 funding.
57. To date we have had consultations with eight of the GEF Agencies on 851 projects. The initial estimate is that a minimum of US\$84,301,200 has been allocated to finance Article 6 activities, since the inception of the GEF. The GEF will continue to work with the agencies on this issue and provide a revised figure for SBI 36.

J. SBI 34 Conclusions on Matters relating to LDCs

SBI 34 conclusions

58. Under SBI 34 agenda item 7, *Matters relating to Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention (b) Matters relating to the least developed countries* (FCCC/SBI/2011/7), the SBI invited the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) to continue to assist the LDCs that have not yet completed their NAPAs to complete and submit these as soon as possible, in collaboration with the GEF and its agencies.

GEF response

59. As of 30 June 2011, LDCF had approved funding for 48 NAPAs, out of which 45 were completed while the remaining three (Angola, Myanmar and Timor Leste) were in the final stages of preparation and expected to be completed during 2011.

K. SBI 34 Conclusions on Development and Transfer of Technologies

SBI 34 conclusions

60. Under SBI 34 agenda item 12, *Development and transfer of technologies* (FCCC/SBI/2011/7), the SBI:
- (a) Recommended that the COP, at its seventeenth session, invite the GEF to continue to provide financial support to other non-Annex I Parties, as appropriate, to conduct or update their TNAs, noting the availability of the updated handbook *Conducting Technology Needs Assessments for Climate Change*.¹³
 - (b) Invited the GEF, Parties and relevant organizations in a position to do so to provide financial support for project proposals, including those for pilot projects, of the types supported by the Poznan strategic programme related to technologies for adaptation.
 - (c) Invited the GEF to provide reports on the progress made in carrying out its activities under the Poznan strategic programme, including its long-term implementation, for consideration by SBI 35 and subsequent sessions, for the duration of the Poznan strategic programme.

GEF response

61. The Long-Term Program on Technology Transfer includes support for additional countries to carry out and/or update their TNAs. The GEF is therefore ready to consider supporting additional TNAs.
62. The Long-Term Program on Technology Transfer includes piloting of priority technology projects to foster innovation and investments for both mitigation and adaptation. In addition, the entire GEF-5 climate change mitigation portfolio supports technology transfer. Technology transfer is also a strategic objective for the LDCF/SCCF.
63. The GEF has submitted a progress report to COP 17 and will present it at the SBI 35.

13 <<http://unfccc.int/ttclear/pdf/TNA%20HANDBOOK%20EN%2020101115.pdf>>.

Copenhagen, Denmark



XIII. COP 15 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The fifteen session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) was held from 7–18 December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
2. No specific guidance to the GEF was provided at COP 15. The COP adopted a decision¹ in which it requested the SBI to continue its consideration of additional guidance to the GEF at SBI 32 with a view to recommending a draft decision for adoption by COP 16. On the matters relating to the LDCs under the SBI, the draft conclusions proposed by the Chair express SBI's appreciation to the GEF and its Agencies for the steps taken to improve the processing of application for funding of the implementation of NAPA projects under the LDCF and for the constructive dialogues among the LDC Parties, the LEG and the GEF and its Agencies on the provision of enhanced support for the preparation and implementation of NAPAs and encouraged those involved to continue this dialogue.²
3. In its report to COP 16,³ the GEF provided summaries of the reported responses of the GEF to the COP guidance during GEF-4.

1 FCCC/SBI/2009/L.30.

2 FCCC/SBI/2009/L.27.

3 The GEF report to COP 16 (FCCC/CP/2010/5) is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600005991>.

Poznan, Poland



XIV. COP 14 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) was held from 1–12 December 2008 in Poznan, Poland. Decisions at COP 14 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance are included in its report to COP 15.¹ The reporting period is from 1 September 2008, to 30 June 2009.

A. Development and Transfer of Technologies (Decision 2/CP.14)

COP 14 guidance

2. In decision 2/CP.14 on “*Development and transfer of technologies*,” paragraph 1, the COP welcomed the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer,² as a step towards scaling up the level of investment in technology transfer in order to help developing countries address their needs for environmentally sound technologies, and recognizes the contribution that this strategic programme could make to enhancing technology transfer activities under the Convention.
3. In decision 2/CP.14, paragraph 2, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility:
 - (a) To promptly initiate and expeditiously facilitate the preparation of projects for approval and implementation under the strategic programme referred to in paragraph 1 above in order to help developing countries address their needs for environmentally sound technologies;
 - (b) To collaborate with its implementing agencies in order to provide technical support to developing countries in preparing or updating, as appropriate, their technology needs assessments using the updated handbook for conducting technology needs assessments for climate change published by the United Nations Development Programme, to be made available in early 2009 in collaboration with the Expert Group on Technology Transfer, the UNFCCC secretariat and the Climate Technology Initiative;
 - (c) To consider the long-term implementation of the strategic programme, including: addressing the gaps identified in current operations of the Global Environment Facility that relate to investment in the transfer of environmentally sound technologies; leveraging private-sector investment; and promoting innovative project development activities;
 - (d) To report on the progress made in carrying out the activities referred to in paragraph 2 (a–c) above to COP 16, in addition to providing interim reports to the SBI 30/31, with a view to assessing its progress and future direction in order to help inform Parties in their consideration of long-term needs for implementation of the strategic programme.

1 GEF responses to COP 14 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 15 (FCCC/CP/2009/9) was compiled (9 October 2009), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 15 is available at < http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600005477>.

2 Previously referred to as the strategic programme of the GEF (FCCC/SBI/2008/16) and renamed by the COP at its 14th session.

GEF response

Poznan Strategic Program on Technology Transfer

4. The COP 14 welcomed the GEF's (renaming it the Poznan) Strategic Program on Technology Transfer as a step toward scaling up the level of investment in the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries while recognizing the contribution that this program could make to enhancing technology transfer activities under the Convention.
5. The strategic program on technology transfer consists of three funding windows: (1) technology needs assessments; (2) technology transfer pilot projects; and (3) dissemination of technologies and practices. The GEF report to COP 15 focuses on the first two substantive activities of the strategic program. In addition, the report discusses how the GEF is considering the long-term implementation of the strategic program.

Technology needs assessments

6. Immediately following COP 14, the GEF Secretariat organized a stakeholder consultation meeting in January 2009 in Washington, DC to formulate a strategy and work plan for the implementation of the TNAs. UNEP and UNDP were invited to present the status of the existing TNAs funded by the GEF and to discuss the prior experience and lessons learned. UNEP outlined a strategy for the implementation of the new round of TNAs. Participants at the meeting, including representatives from the GEF agencies, the GEF STAP, the UNFCCC Secretariat, and the Climate Technology Initiative (CTI), provided constructive comments and suggestions. Participants of the meeting stressed that TNAs should be actionable and should provide a pathway to the implementation of projects on the ground.
7. With the facilitation of the GEF Secretariat, UNEP drafted a project concept for a global TNA project for GEF funding, to be drawn from the SCCF. An informal consultation led by the GEF Secretariat was carried out in the margins of the special meeting of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) on 24-26 February 2009, in Bonn, Germany. The draft TNA project concept was shared with members of the EGTT, who reacted positively. Subsequently, UNEP finalized the global TNA project concept and submitted it to the GEF Secretariat in late March. The project concept was approved by the LDCF/SCCF Council in the April 2009 Inter-sessional Work Program. The full project document was endorsed by the GEF CEO on 18 August 2009.
8. The TNA project will provide targeted financial and technical support to assist developing countries in carrying out improved TNAs within the framework of Article 4.5 of the UNFCCC. The project will support up to 45 developing countries in preparing their TNA and Technology Action Plan. The project will use methodologies in the revised TNA Handbook. Total GEF funding for this TNA project is \$9 million (including fees for the GEF Implementing Agency).

Technology transfer pilot projects

9. On 25 March 2009, the GEF CEO circulated a call for proposals for technology transfer pilot projects to all national GEF operational focal points, copied to the GEF agencies and the UNFCCC Secretariat. The call for proposals provided the background information, explained the procedures for submitting proposals, and outlined selection criteria. Funding from the GEF will support priority pilot projects with a view to scaling up investment in the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries. The target funding level from the GEF for pilot projects is \$40 million (including fees for the GEF Agencies).
10. Since March 2009 the GEF Secretariat has been working actively to discuss project ideas, and to facilitate the development of project proposals with the GEF agencies and interested parties to address their queries through the GEF inter-agency climate change task force, bilateral consultation, seminars and workshops, and other channels.

Long-term implementation of the strategic program

11. In keeping with the COP 14 decision that requested the GEF to consider the long-term implementation of the strategic program on technology transfer, the GEF Secretariat has identified technology transfer as a long-term priority objective of the GEF in the climate change focal area. Linking to the replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, the GEF Secretariat is currently developing a climate change strategy for the period of the fifth replenishment from 2010 to 2014, in consultation with the Technical Advisory Group, GEF STAP, GEF agencies, and other stakeholders.
12. Technology transfer is featured in the draft GEF-5 strategy in the climate change focal area. The working document for GEF-5 replenishment, "Draft GEF-5 Programming Document", includes preliminary ideas for technology transfer for GEF-5. This document was presented to the second meeting on GEF-5 replenishment held in Washington, DC, on 25-26 June 2009. Elaboration of the strategic program on technology transfer by the GEF will be carried out with the development of the GEF-5 strategy and with the conclusion of the GEF-5 replenishment in early 2010.

B. Financial mechanism of the Convention: fourth review of the financial mechanism (Decision 3/CP.14)

COP 14 guidance

13. In decision 3/CP.14 on "*Financial mechanism of the Convention: fourth review of the financial mechanism,*" paragraph 3, the COP urges the Council of the Global Environment Facility to help to ensure that adequate and predictable funding is made available for the implementation of commitments under Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention.

GEF response

14. The GEF continues to make available resources to countries to meet their commitments under the Convention

C. Additional Guidance to the GEF (Decision 4/CP.14)

COP 14 guidance

15. In decision 4/CP.14 on "*Additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility,*" paragraph 1, the COP, noting the report of the GEF to the COP, requested the Global Environment Facility:
 - (a) To fully address issues raised over the implementation of the Resource Allocation Framework;
 - (b) To provide information on a regular basis on the composition and objective of the cofinancing for projects funded by the Global Environment Facility;
 - (c) To continue to enhance action on mitigation and, as appropriate, adaptation, in developing country Parties, including to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies and know-how;

- (d) To continue to improve access for all developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa, to Global Environment Facility resources;
 - (e) To continue to encourage its implementing and executing agencies to perform their functions as efficiently and transparently as possible, in accordance with guidance of the Conference of the Parties;
 - (f) To ensure, as a top priority, that sufficient financial resources are provided to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, noting and welcoming that a number of Parties not included in the Annex I (non-Annex I Parties) plan to initiate the preparation of their third or fourth national communications by the end of the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility.
16. In decision 4/CP.14, paragraph 2, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility to inform its implementing agencies of the guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties and of relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular its Article 4, paragraph 3, on the provision of new and additional financial resources to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention.
17. In decision 4/CP.14, paragraph 3, the COP reiterated the following requests made by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session to the Global Environment Facility:
- (a) To continue to ensure that financial resources are provided to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention;
 - (b) To refine, as appropriate, operational procedures to ensure the timely disbursement of funds to meet the agreed full costs incurred by those non-Annex I Parties that are in the process of preparing their third and, where appropriate, fourth national communications;
 - (c) To assist, as appropriate, non-Annex I Parties in formulating and developing project proposals identified in their national communications in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 4, of the Convention and decision 5/CP.11, paragraph 2;
 - (d) To work with its implementing agencies to continue to simplify their procedures and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the process through which non-Annex I Parties receive funding to meet their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, with the aim of ensuring the timely disbursement of funds to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with these obligations.
18. In decision 4/CP.14, paragraph 4, the COP reiterated the invitation made by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth³ session to the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide information on funding for projects that have been identified in the national communications of non-Annex I Parties in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 4, of the Convention and subsequently submitted and approved.
19. In decision 4/CP.14, paragraph 5, the COP further reiterated its request to the Global Environment Facility to make continued efforts to provide adequate financial resources to support the implementation of capacity-building activities consistent with decision 2/CP.7.

3 FCCC/SBI/2007/34, paragraph 36 (a).

20. In decision 4/CP.14, paragraph 6, the COP further requested the Global Environment Facility to continue to include, in its regular report to the Conference of the Parties, information responsive to guidance of the Conference of the Parties.

GEF response

Implementation of the RAF

21. As of 30 June 2009, countries had utilized a total of \$598.507 million in climate change allocations. About 52% of the resources available in the Climate Change Mitigation focal area (\$1,145.750 million) have been utilized. Yet, this utilization figure does not include substantial funds that are already committed to Council-endorsed Programmatic Approaches, which are allocated to projects to be submitted for approval till the end of 2009.
22. At the time of the Council meeting in November 2008, it was anticipated that some countries with individual Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) allocations might not be able to fully program and utilize their allocations in GEF-4, and the question of how to reallocate unused funds under the RAF emerged against a background of relative optimism about the state of GEF 4 resources. The GEF Secretariat requested Council's approval of a proposed reallocation of GEF-4 resources. At the June 2009 meeting the Council agreed with the principles for allocating the remaining GEF-4 resources outlined in the paper, mandated the Secretariat to implement the allocation of the remaining GEF-4 resources in accordance with these principles, and, in collaboration with the Trustee, to undertake periodic reviews of the projected available resources and to adjust the allocations as needed. The Council further requested the Secretariat to inform Council about future adjustments of allocations between focal areas and to prepare a report on the status of used and unused resources for the November 2009 Council meeting.
23. Also, the GEF Council in its June 2009 meeting decided that project concepts from countries with individual RAF allocations be processed and cleared up to the country allocation levels as of July 2008, until the overall cap for the focal area is reached. If the financial situation improves, this cap may be adjusted upwards as we approach the end of GEF-4, allowing additional room for programming. Project concepts from group allocation countries will also be processed until the limit of available funds, with priority given to concepts that belong to programmatic approaches approved by Council.

Composition and objective of co-financing

24. Mitigation projects that have been financed with GEF funds during the reporting period, from 1 September 2008 to 30 June 2009, will leverage approximately \$2.1 billion in co-financing. The types of co-financing include: grants, concessional or market-rate loans, credits, equity investments, and in-kind contribution. Co-financing is provided by the governments of the recipient countries, the private sector, the GEF agencies, other multilateral and bilateral agencies, and NGOs. Co-financing can include finance for baseline activities which are essential for achieving the GEF objectives.
25. The objective of co-financing for GEF projects is to expand the resources available for project implementation, since the limited financial resources of GEF have to serve the growing demand for assistance; maximize and sustain their impacts by ensuring their success and local acceptance; and demonstrate the commitment of the beneficiaries, counterparts and agencies. GEF funding has a catalytic role to generate global environment benefits, by mobilizing resources to be committed to the project itself.
26. The major co-financiers are the GEF agencies, which provide one third of the total co-financing. More than 54 percent of GEF Agencies' contribution comes from the World Bank, mainly in the form of loans, and another 40 percent comes from ADB, again mainly in the form of loans. The other major

co-financiers are the recipient governments, which provide 30 percent of the total, and the private sector, which provides co-financing of about 24 percent of the total.

27. In the case of the LDCF, and in accordance with its mandate to finance additional costs of adaptation, the minimum co-financing ratio is 1:1 for projects ranging from \$500,000 to \$6 million, and there is no minimum co-financing requirement for projects below \$500,000. In practice, this means the LDCF projects add up adaptation components to "business-as-usual" or "baseline" development projects. In most cases, the baseline activities are met through normal development expenditures, such as government budgets, bi- and other multilateral aid, contributions from private sector or NGO resources and loans from international financial institutions, including the International Development Association (IDA). Carefully evaluated and accounted in-kind contributions can also be included as co-finance. Thus, there is no need for the eligible recipient countries to have separate cash reserves available in order to apply for LDCF grants, which has been a common misunderstanding in relation to the LDCF co-financing. The 17 NAPA implementation projects, which were approved during the reporting period under the LDCF, are expected to mobilize \$85 million in co-financing. The recipient government and bi- and multilateral aid covers 38 percent of the co-financing each, mainly in the form of grants. Another 17 percent comes from the GEF Agencies, of which half is provided in the form of soft loans by the World Bank.
28. In the case of the SCCF, the minimum co-financing request for average projects requiring between \$1 and \$5 million is of 1:3 ratio. For projects requiring less than \$1 million of SCCF funding, the minimum is of 1:1 ratio, and for projects requesting more than \$5 million, the ratio is 1:4. The nine SCCF projects, which were approved during this reporting period, are expected to mobilize \$359 million in co-financing. More than half of this co-financing comes from the GEF Agencies (54 percent), mainly in the form of loans by the World Bank and ADB. About 28 percent is covered by the recipient governments, and another 15 percent comes from bilateral aid.

Action on mitigation, adaptation and technology transfer

29. During the reporting period, the GEF allocated \$233.15 million from the Trust Fund to 71 projects in the climate change focal area. These projects will leverage approximately \$2.07 billion in co-financing. Almost one third of these projects will be implemented in Africa, and more than the half of these projects in Africa are part of the climate change component of the West Africa Program. Also more than the half of these 71 projects falls under the Energy Efficiency Strategic Programs. Also it should be noted that there is increased interest for multi-focal area projects in line with the LULUCF strategic program, as they cover almost 20 percent of the number of approved projects.
30. The GEF Secretariat submitted a report on the completion of the Strategic Priority on Adaptation (SPA) to the GEF Council in November 2008. The SPA program will be evaluated by the independent GEF Office of Evaluation. Further support for adaptation from the GEF Trust Fund will depend on future decisions of the GEF Council and evolving guidance from the UNFCCC.
31. During the reporting period, there were two meetings of the LDCF/SCCF Council. With respect to the preparation and implementation of the NAPAs under the LDCF, three additional NAPAs have been completed, seventeen were approved, and four projects have been CEO endorsed or approved during the reporting period. Also, eight full-sized and one medium-sized SCCF projects were approved during this reporting period, seven of them for Climate Change Adaptation and one for Technology Transfer.
32. On technology transfer, see paragraphs 4 to 12 in this section.

Improve access for LDCs, SIDS and Africa

33. The GEF Secretariat, in collaboration with its implementing and executing agencies, has initiated several regional and multi-country programs to help especially LDCs, SIDS, and countries in Africa to mobilize resources from the GEF and other sources to fund projects in those countries. Three such

programs merit particular mention: (1) the Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (PAS) Program; (2) the Strategic Investment Program for Sustainable Land Management in Sub-Saharan Africa; and (3) the West Africa Program.

Encourage GEF Agencies to perform their functions and follow COP guidance

34. The GEF is in close cooperation with the Agencies in order to encourage them to perform their functions in the most efficient manner, and to follow the guidance provided by the COP. Under this framework, there are regular meetings of the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force with the participation of representatives of the Agencies. Also, the GEF Secretariat holds meetings with the Agencies' GEF Executive Coordinators, and there are regular and ad-hoc bilateral meetings between the GEF Secretariat and the Agencies. These meetings provide the field where issues regarding the development, the preparation, and the implementation of projects are discussed. The GEF Secretariat exchanges views and opinions on operational issues with the agencies, and provides feedback and guidance in order to ensure the proper performance of their functions.

Support for National Communications

35. As of June 2009, 143 non-Annex I Parties have received GEF funding for the preparation of their NCs to the UNFCCC. This includes five Parties with full-sized projects. In this reporting period (1 September 2008 to 30 June 2009), six Parties (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Uzbekistan) have submitted their Second National Communications (SNCs) to the UNFCCC. Argentina had submitted its SNC in March 2008 while Mexico submitted its Third NC in November 2006.
36. The majority of the National Communications projects are currently under implementation, at different stages of progress. Fifty Parties expect to have a draft NC report completed by end of 2009, while 32 Parties have reported that a draft report will be completed in 2010. Seven Parties would complete their national communications by 2011 and remaining 5 by 2012. Given that submission of national communications to the UNFCCC has to go through a government approval process, exact submission dates are usually not reported by Parties.
37. The past year has witnessed a continued demand for support from the National Communications Support Program (NCSP) as the implementation of the SNCs is progressing in the majority of non-Annex I Parties. The NCSP provided support which included organization of workshops on the preparation of SNCs with a focus on climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessments as well as technical review and comments to the SNC projects.

Formulating and developing project proposals identified in their national communications

38. The GEF through its agencies provides assistance to countries in formulating project proposals identified in their national communications in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 4, of the Convention and decision 5/CP.11, paragraph 2.
39. The GEF agencies work with the countries in order to identify and formulate project proposals. This active collaboration aims to secure that the proposals will be country driven and consistent with the priorities or programs of the countries, as they are identified in their national communications and other national strategy papers. The GEF agencies, through the implementation of capacity building activities, support the countries during the formulation and the development of proposals.
40. In order to submit any project proposal for approval, the GEF agencies have to ensure its consistency with the country's national priorities. The country confirms its endorsement of the proposal by providing a letter signed by the GEF Operational Focal Point. Following the proposal submission, the GEF Secretariat in order to approve it examines and confirms its linkage to national priorities or programs. All the projects that have been approved by the GEF during the reporting period have

been confirmed to correspond explicitly to the national priorities, including those identified in their national communications.

Support for the implementation of capacity building activities

41. The GEF continues to support country dialogues ensuring the clarity, transparency and timeliness in its communications with Parties of UNFCCC on changes undertaken in the GEF reform agenda. The GEF has funded several programs supporting effective and efficient implementation of the Convention through the National Dialogue Initiative (NDI), Country Support Program (CSP), and capacity building through National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA), cross-cutting capacity building, as well as the Small Grants Program (SGP).
42. The overall objective of the GEF-funded CSP is to strengthen the capacity of GEF national focal points to support and coordinate GEF activities in their countries and constituencies. More broadly, the CSP has involved a wider range of GEF stakeholders, including national UNFCCC Convention focal points in some cases, international civil society organizations, the GEF-NGO Network, and GEF partners.
43. The CSP has three components of activities: (i) Sub-regional Workshops for GEF focal points; (ii) the online Knowledge Facility; and (iii) Direct Support Funding; and the first two of them are broadly linked to the UNFCCC.

GEF evaluation activities

44. The GEF EO presented to the Council during the reporting period (September 2008 to 30 June 2009) the APR 2008 and the Annual Country Portfolio Evaluations Report 2009. The GEF EO also worked on follow-up activities on the International Conference on Evaluating Climate Change and Development, which took place in May 2008 in Egypt. Furthermore, the Fourth Overall Performance Study (OPS4) was finalized in September 2009.

D. Further Guidance for the Operation of the LDCF (Decision 5/CP.14)

COP 14 guidance

45. In decision 5/CP.14 on "*Further guidance for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund,*" paragraph 1, the COP requested the GEF, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention operating the LDCF:
 - (a) To work with its agencies to improve communication with least developed country Parties and to speed up the process through, for instance, establishing a time frame within which least developed country Parties can access funding and other support for the preparation and implementation of projects identified in national adaptation programmes of action;
 - (b) To assist, as appropriate, and in collaboration with its agencies and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the remaining least developed country Parties that have not submitted their national adaptation programmes of action, in completing and submitting their national adaptation programmes of action as soon as possible.
46. In decision 5/CP.14, paragraph 2, the COP also requested the Global Environment Facility, in parallel to supporting the ongoing implementation of the national adaptation programmes of action, to facilitate the implementation of the remaining elements of the least developed countries work programme.
47. In decision 5/CP.14, paragraph 3, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility to inform its agencies of relevant provisions of the Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties on the

operation of the LDCF, in order to allow the agencies to take these into account in fulfilling their Global Environment Facility obligations.

48. In decision 5/CP.14, paragraph 6, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility and its agencies to consider the views of, and any concerns expressed by, Parties regarding their experiences with the Global Environment Facility and its agencies in relation to the provision of financial and technical support for the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action and related elements of the least developed countries work programme, as contained in documents FCCC/SBI/2007/32, FCCC/SBI/2008/14 and FCCC/SBI/2008/MISC.8.
49. In decision 5/CP.14, paragraph 8, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility to raise awareness of the need for adequate and predictable resources under the Least Developed Countries Fund to allow full implementation of the least developed countries work programme, in particular national adaptation programmes of action.
50. In decision 5/CP.14, paragraph 11, the COP also requested the Global Environment Facility to include, in its reports to the Conference of the Parties, information on steps it has taken to implement this decision, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at subsequent sessions.

GEF response

51. In response to decision 5/CP.14, the GEF has been working with its agencies to improve communication with LDCs and to increase the number of projects which are submitted for CEO endorsement. The GEF is also working to facilitate the implementation of the remaining elements of the LDCF work program. The GEF is in the process of finalizing the Step-By-Step Guide to the LDCF. This Step-By-Step guide is designed to improve access to the LDCF and assist the LDCs in the project preparation and development process.



Bali, Indonesia

XV. COP 13 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) was held from 3–14 December 2007 in Bali, Indonesia. Decisions at COP 13 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance are included in its report to COP 14.¹ The reporting period is from 1 September 2007, to 31 August 2008.

A. Development and Transfer of Technologies under the SBSTA (Decision 3/CP.13)

COP 13 guidance

2. In decision 3/CP.13 on “*Development and transfer of technologies under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice*,” paragraph 2, the COP decided to adopt the set of actions, for consideration by the Expert Group on Technology Transfer in formulating its future work programmes, as set out in the recommendations for enhancing the technology transfer framework contained in annex I to this decision, and agrees that these activities would complement the actions in the technology transfer framework.
3. In decision 3/CP.13, paragraph 9, the COP requests the secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the actions for enhancing the technology transfer framework further elaborated in annex I to this decision, and of the work of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer in cooperation with Parties, the Global Environment Facility and other relevant international organizations, initiatives and intergovernmental processes.
4. In decision 3/CP.13, paragraph 10, the COP decided to request the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, to provide financial support for the technology transfer framework, and complemented by the set of actions referred to in paragraph 2 above.
5. In the Annex to decision 3/CP.13 “*Recommendations for enhancing the implementation of the framework for meaningful and effective actions to enhance the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 5, of the Convention*”, under section A. Technology needs and needs assessments, paragraph 8, it is stated that most of the actions described in paragraph 7 of the technology transfer framework under the theme of technology needs assessments (TNAs) have been completed as described in paragraphs 16-21 of the main part of document FCCC/SBSTA/2006/INF.4. Based on lessons learned in the implementation of this theme, the following recommendations were made to enhance the implementation of this key theme:
 - (a) To encourage non-Annex I Parties that have not yet undertaken or completed their TNAs, to do so as soon as possible, and to make these reports available to the secretariat for posting on the UNFCCC technology information clearing house (TT:CLEAR);

¹ GEF responses to COP 13 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 14 (FCCC/CP/2008/2/Rev.1) was compiled (20 November 2008), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 14 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600004917>.

- (b) To encourage non-Annex I Parties to provide updated information on their technology needs in their second national communications and other national reports and to make them available to the secretariat;
- (c) To request the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report(s) of the information mentioned in paragraph 8 (a) and (b) above for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA);
- (d) To request the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies, other intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), international financial institutions (IFIs), the Climate Technology Initiative (CTI) and Parties that are in a position to do so to provide capacity-building for non-Annex I Parties to conduct, report and use TNAs;
- (e) To request that, not later than 2009:
 - i) The secretariat, in collaboration with the EGTT, UNDP, UNEP and CTI, update the handbook for conducting technology needs assessments before SBSTA 28, taking into account experience and lessons learned indicated in the synthesis report on technology needs prepared by the secretariat,² cross-referencing the work on innovative financing and technologies for adaptation, and widely disseminate the updated handbook to Parties through TT:CLEAR and other means in different United Nations official languages;
 - ii) The EGTT, with the assistance of the secretariat, prepare a report on good practices for conducting TNAs in collaboration with UNDP, UNEP and CTI for consideration by the SBSTA, and disseminate it to relevant stakeholders and practitioners;
 - iii) To make available the results of TNAs, related experience and lessons learned in the TNA process and share them at national and international levels through the network of technology information centres, including through the organization of workshops by the secretariat in collaboration with relevant international organizations and initiatives;
 - iv) The secretariat to provide regular updates on progress of the implementation of the results of technology needs identified in TNAs, including success stories for consideration by the SBSTA at its subsequent sessions, as appropriate;
 - v) To invite the EGTT to cooperate closely with the other expert groups constituted under the Convention, especially the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, with the aim of coordinating activities relating to TNAs and national communications.

GEF response

6. The GEF submitted the report titled "Elaboration of a Strategic Programme to Scale up the Level of Investment in the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies" (GEF/C.34/5.Rev.1) to the SB.

² FCCC/SBSTA/2006/INF.1.

B. Development and Transfer of Technologies under the SBI (Decision 4/CP.13)

COP 13 guidance

7. In decision 4/CP.13 on "*Development and transfer of technologies under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation*," paragraph 3, the COP decided to request the Global Environment Facility, as an operational entity of the financial mechanism under the Convention, in consultation with interested Parties, international financial institutions, other relevant multilateral institutions and representatives of the private financial community, to elaborate a strategic programme to scale up the level of investment for technology transfer to help developing countries address their needs for environmentally sound technologies, specifically considering how such a strategic programme might be implemented along with its relationship to existing and emerging activities and initiatives regarding technology transfer and to report on its findings to the twenty-eighth session of the SBI for consideration by Parties.
8. In decision 4/CP.13, paragraph 4, the COP decided to request the Expert Group on Technology Transfer, as part of its future programme of work, to develop a set of performance indicators that could be used by the SBI to regularly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the framework for meaningful and effective actions to enhance the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 5, of the Convention (the technology transfer framework), complemented with the set of actions set out in annex I to decision 3/CP.13, as referred to in paragraph 2 of that decision, considering the related work under the Convention and other relevant bodies; the results of this work should be made available to the subsidiary bodies for consideration at their thirtieth session, in order to make the final report of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer available to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session.
9. In decision 4/CP.13, paragraph 10, the COP decided to the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, to provide financial support to developing countries for the implementation of the technology transfer framework, and complemented by the set of actions referred to in paragraph 4 above.

GEF response

10. See paragraph 6 in this section.

C. Fourth Review of the Financial Mechanism (Decision 6/CP.13)

COP 13 decision

11. In decision 6/CP.13 on "*Fourth review of the financial mechanism*," paragraph 1, the COP decided to adopt the additional guidelines for the review of the financial mechanism, as contained in the annex to this decision.³

³ On the additional guidelines, see Annex 4 of this booklet.

D. Additional Guidance to the GEF (Decision 7/CP.13)

COP 13 guidance

12. In decision 7/CP.13 on “*Additional guidance to the GEF,*” paragraph 1, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention:
- (a) To continue to take the necessary steps to enhance its country dialogues, including ensuring the clarity, transparency and timeliness in its communications with Parties on changes undertaken in the Global Environment Facility reform agenda;
 - (b) To inform the implementing/executing agencies of the Global Environment Facility of the relevant Convention provisions and decisions of the Conference of the Parties in the performance of their Global Environment Facility obligations, and to encourage them, as a first priority, whenever possible, to use national experts/consultants in all aspects of project development and implementation;
 - (c) To continue to simplify and streamline the application of the incremental cost principle, building on its recent reforms and taking into account lessons learned on the constraints in resource mobilization by developing countries;
 - (d) To take fully into account lessons learned in the strategic priority “Piloting an Operational Approach to Adaptation”, including the application of incremental cost, to help inform on how the Global Environment Facility could best support climate adaptation activities;
 - (e) To continue to improve access to Global Environment Facility funds, as highlighted in the Third Overall Performance Study of the GEF,⁴ for those countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;
 - (f) To submit the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties within a time frame that would allow Parties to the Convention to examine the report carefully prior to the start of the sessions of the COP;
 - (g) To continue to ensure that financial resources are provided to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention;
 - (h) To take into consideration the request contained in paragraph 1 (g) above in its planned mid-term review in 2008;
 - (i) To work with its implementing agencies to continue to simplify its procedures and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the process through which Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) receive funding to meet their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, with the aim of ensuring the timely disbursement of funds to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with these obligations;
 - (j) To refine, as appropriate, operational procedures to ensure the timely disbursement of funds to meet the agreed full costs incurred by those non-Annex I Parties that are in the process of preparing their third and, where appropriate, fourth national communications, in the light of paragraph 1 (g)-(i) above;

4 “OPS3: Progressing Toward Environmental Results Third Overall Performance Study of the GEF, Executive Version, GEF, June 2005.

- (k) To assist, as appropriate, non-Annex I Parties in formulating and developing project proposals identified in their national communications in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 4, of the Convention and decision 5/CP.11, paragraph 2;
 - (l) To ensure, together with its implementing agencies, that the analysis of project proposals for the financing of second and subsequent national communications is consistent with the guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties.⁵
13. In decision 7/CP.13, paragraph 2, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility:
- (a) to continue to provide information on funding for projects identified in the national communications of non-Annex Parties⁶ in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 4, of the Convention and subsequently submitted and approved;
 - (b) to consider the views of, and any concerns expressed by, Parties regarding their current experiences with the GEF and its implementing agencies in relation to the provision of financial support for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties, as contained in documents FCCC/SBI/2007/MISC.13 and Add.1.
14. In decision 7/CP.13, paragraph 3, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to include, in its regular report to the COP, information on the specific steps it has taken to implement the guidance contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.
15. In decision 7/CP.13, paragraph 4, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide, as appropriate, financial resources to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, in accordance with decisions 11/CP.1, 6/CP.7, 4/CP.9 and 7/CP.10, to support the implementation of the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention and to regularly report to the Conference of the Parties on the activities it has supported.

GEF response

Country support programs and capacity building

16. The GEF continues to support country dialogues ensuring the clarity, transparency and timeliness in its communications with Parties of UNFCCC on changes undertaken in the GEF reform agenda. The GEF has funded several programs supporting effective and efficient implementation of the Convention through the NDI, CSP, and capacity building through NCSA, cross-cutting capacity building, as well as the SGP.

National Dialogue Initiative

17. The NDI has formed an integral component of country support activities providing a unique platform for exchange of information and enhancing cooperation between the implementing/executing agencies and other GEF partner organizations. The global objective of the NDI in GEF-4 is to provide targeted and flexible support for country-level multi-stakeholder dialogues and sharing of information and experiences, leading to action on national GEF matters, including issues linked to the UNFCCC, through strategic national priority setting and strengthened coordination and partnerships. The NDI also involves a wide range of government ministries and agencies, NGOs, communities, academic and research institutions, the private sector, as well as other partners and donors in the country.

⁵ The current guidelines are contained in decision 17/CP.8.

⁶ Decision 5/CP.11, paragraph 2.

18. The NDI workshops also create a unique opportunity for the GEF agencies to inform participants about provisions and decisions of the COP in the performance of their GEF obligations and to learn more about capacity and opportunities to use national experts in all aspects of project development and implementation. They have allowed diverse stakeholder groups in GEF recipient countries to:
- Inform themselves about global climate change, adaptation and Convention issues, including GEF response to addressing these challenges;
 - Take stock of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities and results of the corresponding GEF portfolios in their countries;
 - Further define priorities for climate change mitigation and adaptation funding and develop national GEF programming strategies in these areas;
 - Strengthen national GEF coordination processes and mechanisms and inter-sectoral coordination linked to climate change issues;
 - Promote integration of the GEF in national climate change and sustainable development plans and processes.

Country Support Program

19. The overall objective of the GEF-funded CSP is to strengthen the capacity of GEF national focal points to support and coordinate GEF activities in their countries and constituencies. More broadly, the CSP has involved a wider range of GEF stakeholders, including national UNFCCC Convention focal points in some cases, international civil society organizations, the GEF-NGO Network, and GEF partners.
20. The CSP has three components of activities, two of which are broadly linked to the UNFCCC: the sub-regional workshops for GEF focal points and the online focal point knowledge facility.
21. The sub-regional workshops provide a unique opportunity for the GEF national focal points to learn about GEF funding policies and strategies related to a wide variety of issues, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to exchange country information, national strategies, and project experiences with their peers.
22. The online focal point knowledge facility is widely used by many countries. It provides a continuously accessible, interactive, and regularly updated information and knowledge resource for focal points and others interested in GEF matters. This knowledge facility contains wide-ranging access to information on climate change mitigation and adaptation and its link to the Convention as well as country experiences in integrating climate considerations into national development planning.

Outcomes of the national dialogues and sub-regional workshops

23. Following the guidance provided in decision 7/CP.13, the GEF has taken multiple steps to continue to enhance the NDI and Country Support Program. From September 2007 to September 2008, the GEF and its partner agencies organized a total 17 NDI meetings and sub-regional workshops. These covered a wide range of countries and regions, including LDCs and SIDS.
24. Typically, the agendas of the NDI and sub-regional workshops include sessions on GEF policies and procedures, integration of the GEF in environment and sustainable development plans and policies, enhancing GEF national coordination and priority setting, tracking portfolio results and supporting focal point roles and activities, and enhancing GEF national coordination, communications and outreach. The workshop topics in 2008 included updates on the RAF; GEF focal area strategies and adaptation funds; knowledge management and monitoring tools and resources available to focal points; new GEF project cycles; constituency coordination lessons and good practices; and civil

society participation in the GEF and Small Grants Program. Each of the workshop sessions effectively showcased individual country experiences, allowing delegations to exchange best practices.

Simplifying the application of the incremental cost principle

25. In June 2007, the GEF Council approved the Operational Guidelines for the Application of the Incremental Cost Principle,⁷ which provides a simple five-step process for determining the incremental costs of a GEF project. These guidelines allow the GEF to move from calculating incremental costs quantitatively to providing qualitative incremental reasoning for a GEF project. These guidelines have significantly enhanced the transparency and efficiency of determining the incremental costs of a project throughout the project cycle, from project design to implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

Lessons learned from SPA

26. The GEF has been financing pilot adaptation projects under the SPA since 2003, consistent with UNFCCC guidance.⁸ The pilot program is close to completion, and will be evaluated by the independent GEF Office of Evaluation. It is expected that the evaluation will take into account both the lessons learned and the challenges and opportunities in developing the first adaptation portfolio. Project demand under the SPA continues to be high, in parallel with the growing adaptation portfolios under the LDCF and SCCF.

Support to vulnerable states through programmatic approaches

27. In April 2008, the GEF Council approved the application of programmatic approaches to support countries in accessing GEF funding. Using programmatic approaches, the GEF Secretariat has assisted many countries, particularly those in the group allocation category under the RAF, to plan utilization of resources available to them in a more effective and efficient manner. The programmatic approach also provides another framework for dialogue between countries, the GEF Secretariat, and the implementing and executing agencies.
28. The GEF Secretariat, in collaboration with its implementing and executing agencies, has initiated several regional and multi-country programs to help especially LDCs and SIDS to mobilize resources from the GEF and other sources to fund projects in those countries. Three such programs merit particular mention: (1) the Pacific Alliance for Sustainability Program; (2) the Strategic Investment Program for Sustainable Land Management in Sub-Saharan Africa; and (3) the West Africa Program.

Shift of GEF reporting cycle

29. In order to allow sufficient time to prepare and submit the GEF report to the COP and for Parties to review it carefully prior to the start of the sessions of the COP, starting in 2009 the cut-off date of the GEF reporting period will be shifted to 30 June. In other words, the next GEF report to the COP will cover the period of 1 September 2008 to 30 June 2009. Subsequent GEF reports to the COP will cover the period of 1 July to 30 June.

Provision of financial resources to meet Convention obligations

30. The RAF that was approved by the GEF Council in September 2005 began to be implemented in February 2007 when GEF-4 became effective. In the design of the RAF, each eligible country is provided with a floor of \$1 million in each of the two focal areas (climate change and biodiversity). This means that each eligible country is guaranteed \$1 million in the climate change focal area during a four-year GEF phase. Based on past experience in supporting countries with their preparation of national communications, this provision is judged to be adequate to cover the costs incurred by most countries to implement their national report preparation process.
31. Parties had called upon GEF implementing agencies to simplify procedures to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the process through which Parties receive funding for national communications. For

⁷ GEF/C.31/12.

⁸ Decisions 5/CP.7 and 6/CP.7.

the Second National Communications, the GEF took a programmatic approach whereby an envelope of resources had been approved by the Council, with delegated approval authority to the implementing agencies with regard to individual country proposals. The proposals for national communications are always reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with the guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties.

32. One of the key reforms implemented under GEF-4 is the opportunity for direct consultation between a country and the GEF Secretariat in developing country programs. These dialogues, together with the Country Support Program, have enhanced the capacity of the countries to develop projects for GEF funding.

Support for National Communications

33. By 2008, 143 non-Annex I Parties have received GEF funding for the preparation of their national communications to the UNFCCC. This includes five Parties with full-sized projects and 10 Parties that are currently in the process of finalizing their project proposals for approval by the government and/or GEF implementing agencies. Two Parties have not yet requested funding for their Second National Communication. Three Parties (Argentina, Mexico, and Uruguay) have submitted their SNCs to the UNFCCC and one Party (Mexico) has submitted its Third National Communication.
34. With the exception of the 10 countries that are still preparing their project proposals, all the national communications projects are currently under implementation, which are at different stages of progress. Eighteen Parties expect to have a draft national communication report completed by end of 2008, while 65 Parties have reported that a draft report will be completed in 2009. Thirty-eight Parties would complete their national communications with the remaining reports (approximately 20 Parties) expected by 2011. Given that submission of national communications to the UNFCCC has to go through a government approval process, exact submission dates are usually not reported by Parties.

GEF evaluation activities

35. The GEF EO in its mid-term review of the RAF looked at the available funding for enabling activities, which was the modality used for funding National Communications.
36. The GEF EO completed several assessments (Annual Performance Report and Country Portfolio Evaluations) that were already presented to the GEF Council in April 2008 and that were to be presented to the Council in November 2008. Furthermore, work had started on OPS4 of the GEF, which was planned to lead to a report to the replenishment process in August 2009.

E. Amended New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention (Decision 9/CP.13)

COP 13 decision

37. In decision 9/CP.13 on "Amended New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention," paragraph 5, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide, as appropriate, financial resources to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, in accordance with decisions 11/CP.1, 6/CP.7, 4/CP.9 and 7/CP.10, to support the implementation of the work programme and to regularly report to the Conference of the Parties on the activities it has supported.

GEF response

38. Through the regular programming of the GEF resource are made available to support activities related to Article 6 including the Amended New Delhi work program.

Nairobi, Kenya



XVI. COP 12 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) was held from 6–17 November 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya. Decisions at COP 12 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance are included in its report to COP 13.¹ The reporting period is from 1 September 2006, to 31 August 2007.

A. Further Guidance for the Operation of the SCCF (Decision 1/CP.12)

COP 12 guidance

2. In decision 1/CP.12 on “*Further guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund,*” paragraph 1, the COP decided that the SCCF shall be used to finance activities, programmes and measures relating to climate change in the areas set out in decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 2 (c), that are complementary to those funded by the resources allocated to the climate change focal area of the GEF and by bilateral and multilateral funding, particularly in the following priority areas:
 - (a) Energy efficiency, energy savings, renewable energy and less-greenhouse-gas-emitting advanced fossil-fuel technologies;
 - (b) Innovation including through research and development relating to energy efficiency and savings in the transport and industry sectors;
 - (c) Climate-friendly agricultural technologies and practices, including traditional agricultural methods;
 - (d) Afforestation, reforestation and use of marginal land;
 - (e) Solid and liquid waste management for the recovery of methane.
3. In decision 1/CP.12, paragraph 2, the COP decided that the Special Climate Change Fund shall be used to finance activities, programmes and measures relating to climate change in the areas set out in decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 2 (d), that are complementary to those funded by the resources allocated to the climate change focal area of the GEF and by other bilateral and multilateral funding initially in the following areas:
 - (a) Capacity-building at the national level in the areas of:
 - (i) Economic diversification;
 - (ii) Energy efficiency in countries whose economies are highly dependent on consumption of fossil fuels

¹ GEF responses to COP 12 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 13 (FCCC/CP/2007/3) was compiled (19 November 2007), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 13 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600004395>.

and associated energy-intensive products;

- (b) Support through technical assistance the creation of favourable conditions for investment in sectors where such investment could contribute to economic diversification;
 - (c) Support through technical assistance the diffusion and transfer of less-greenhouse-gas emitting advanced fossil-fuel technologies;
 - (d) Support through technical assistance innovative national advanced fuel technologies;
 - (e) Support through technical assistance the promotion of investments in less-greenhouse gas-emitting, environmentally sound energy sources, including natural gas, according to the national circumstances of Parties.
4. In decision 1/CP.12, paragraph 4, the COP decides that the operational principles and criteria of the Special Climate Change Fund and the manner in which they are carried out in the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund will apply only to Global Environment Facility activities financed under the Special Climate Change Fund.
 5. In decision 1/CP.12, paragraph 5, the COP requested the entity entrusted with the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund to continue to adhere strictly to the decisions of the Conference of the Parties in the operationalization of the Special Climate Change Fund.
 6. In decision 1/CP.12, paragraph 6, the COP requested the entity entrusted with the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund to continue its efforts to mobilize resources, in addition to those already pledged, to support the funding of eligible project activities under the Special Climate Change Fund.
 7. In decision 1/CP.12, paragraph 7, the COP requested the entity referred to in paragraph 6 above to include in its report to COP 13, the specific steps it has undertaken to implement this decision

GEF response

Efforts to implement programs (c) and (d) of the SCCF

8. In response to additional guidance provided at COP 12 (decision 1/CP.12), the GEF has taken steps to operationalize the “windows” 2 (c) and 2 (d) of decision 7/CP.7, i.e. energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management; and activities to assist developing country Parties referred to under Article 4, paragraph 8(h), in diversifying their economies.
9. The GEF Trust Fund finances activities related to energy and transport (a and b) under its regular programming for energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transport in the climate change focal area. In the areas of agriculture and forestry (subparagraph (c) and (d)), the GEF has provided some funding through the biodiversity and land degradation focal areas, so care must be exercised in defining activities in these sectors. Finally with respect to waste management, past GEF programming has focused on the recovery and utilization of methane through the programming window for short-term response measures (STRM) and the renewable energy programming. Because all of these sectors have received some GEF support in the past, developing a complementary niche for funding between the activities to be supported under this program and those supported under the GEF Trust Fund poses a particular challenge. Consistent with this challenge, activities under this program of the SCCF will be used for technical assistance, capacity building and piloting specific activities consistent with the guidance that are not currently eligible for support under the GEF Trust Fund.

10. In this context, it was decided at the GEF Council Meeting in June 2007 that the initial attention under this sectoral mitigation program of the SCCF should support programs not currently being supported under the GEF Trust Fund but that relate the following priorities:
- Low GHG emitting advanced fossil fuel technologies: Under this initiative, the SCCF would fund capacity building and technical assistance work on advanced fossil-fuel energy generating technologies (such as integrated gasification combined cycle - IGCC, underground coal combustion, ultra-supercritical coal-fired generation) and complementary activities designed to reduce their GHG emissions (such as carbon capture and storage);
 - Innovation in industrial energy efficiency and sustainable transport: In this area, targeted research and capacity building would be supported to deal with the identification of new, innovative approaches to energy efficiency in specified industries, new approaches to sustainable transport, and the formulation of sector-wide mitigation programs as relates to these two areas; and
 - Climate-friendly agriculture: Under this topic, support would be provided to technical assistance, capacity building and piloting of low-GHG emitting agricultural technologies such as no-till and low-till agriculture (provided that chemicals safeguards are observed); alternatives reducing the agricultural emissions of N₂O; and alternatives to traditional low-input agriculture that would decrease their overall GHG emissions.
11. All projects under this program of the SCCF will include a succinct statement of objectives; linkages to current GEF programming priorities; an explanation of the distinctness of the approach adopted from what might be eligible under GEF financing with current programming priorities; an assessment of country-specific need and relevance; a justification for the choice of agencies; and an assessment of the implications of the supported proposal for future GEF programming, carbon financing, including under the Kyoto Protocol, and other forms of potential future support to climate change mitigation activities.
12. For the program for economic diversification (2 (d) of decision 7/CP.7), given the long-term perspective and the complexity in shifting a country's economic structure, the role of this program under the SCCF should be viewed as catalytic to facilitate other processes, mechanisms and actions for economic diversification.
13. In accordance with the convention guidance, the program for economic diversification will initially target two groups of countries: (1) those whose economies are highly vulnerable due to their heavy reliance on the importation of fossil fuels; and (2) those whose economies are highly dependent on income from the export of fossil fuels.
14. Eligible activities in the program for economic diversification will include technical assistance and capacity building in the following areas:
- (a) Assessment of vulnerability due to dependency on fossil fuels and the development of national strategies, economic and industrial development policies, including legal and regulatory frameworks aimed at economic diversification to reduce dependency on fossil-fuel production, export and consumption;
 - (b) Facilitation of the flow of public sector investments and creation of favorable conditions for private sector investments leading to economic diversification to reduce fossil-fuel dependency;
 - (c) Preparation of pre-feasibility studies, business plans, and integrated strategic planning to facilitate the process and the implementation of the national and sector-specific economic diversification strategies and measures; and

- (d) Promotion of diffusion and transfer of advanced, innovative and less-greenhouse-gas-emitting fossil-fuel and alternative technologies.
15. In October 2007, the GEF Council approved by mail the document entitled "Programming to Implement the Guidance for the Special Climate Change Fund Adopted by the COP to the UNFCCC at its 12th Session."²

B. Review of the Financial Mechanism (Decision 2/CP.12)

COP 12 guidance

16. In decision 2/CP.12 on "Review of the financial mechanism," paragraph 1, the COP requested the GEF:
- (a) To give due priority to adaptation activities in accordance with the guidance provided by the COP;
 - (b) To strengthen work on awareness-raising on Global Environment Facility programmes and procedures in order to assist developing countries to access Global Environment Facility funds;
 - (c) To explore options for undertaking land use and land-use change projects within the climate change focal area of the GEF, in light of past experience;
 - (d) To continue its promotion of energy efficiency projects.
17. In decision 2/CP.12, paragraph 2, the COP further requested the Global Environment Facility to recognize and respond to the challenges faced by small island developing States and least developed countries in accessing GEF funding highlighted in the third overall performance study of the Global Environment Facility;³
18. In decision 2/CP.12, paragraph 3, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to report to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session on:
- (a) Its response to the recommendations of the third overall performance study of the Global Environment Facility;
 - (b) How it has taken into consideration the recommendations of the third review of the financial mechanism;
 - (c) Its response to the findings of the report on project cycle management by the Global Environment Facility Evaluation Office;
 - (d) Efforts to engage the private sector in providing resources to address climate change;
 - (e) Steps taken to strengthen work on awareness-raising on Global Environment Facility programmes and procedures in order to assist developing countries to access Global Environment Facility funds;
 - (f) How it has recognized and responded to the challenges faced by least developed countries and small island developing States, as referred to in paragraph 2 above;

² GEF/LDCF.SCCF.2/4/Rev.1.

³ GEF and ICF Consulting, 2005. OPS3: Progressing Toward Environmental Results. Third overall performance study of the GEF. Office of Monitoring Evaluation of the GEF, Washington.

(g) Steps taken to assist developing countries to formulate project proposals.

19. In decision 2/CP.12, paragraph 4, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility, in light of the third overall performance study of the Global Environment Facility, to review the overall strategic coherence of, and revise, as necessary, its climate change focal area operational programmes in the light of findings and recommendations of the third overall performance study of the Global Environment Facility.

GEF response

Adaptation activities

20. In response to COP guidance, the GEF has introduced several innovative initiatives relating to adaptation to climate change, including the SPA under the Trust Fund, which addresses the adverse impacts of climate change through adaptation actions aimed at decreasing vulnerability and increasing adaptive capacity of countries, communities and their ecosystems. Moreover, a climate change impact assessment methodology is being developed for application to all projects supported by GEF, to be followed by a systematic integration of adaptation measures to decrease vulnerability and increase adaptive capacity.
21. Through the SPA, the GEF has prioritized \$50 million from the Trust Fund to the implementation of on-the-ground adaptation measures. As of 31 August 2007, \$29.6 million had been committed to a total of 12 projects, with a further \$119 million being leveraged in co-financing. Many more proposals are in the pipeline, and it is expected that the SPA portfolio under the current financing window will be completed at the latest by June 2008. The present portfolio under the SPA is quite diverse in terms of both regions and focal areas covered. Fourteen percent of the project funding is in Asia, 33 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, 28 percent in Africa, 4 percent in Eastern and Central Europe, and 21 percent are global projects. By focal area, 43 percent of the projects are related to biodiversity, 23 percent land degradation, 11 percent international waters, 2 percent climate change mitigation, and 21 percent are cross-sectoral projects. At the completion the SPA will be evaluated, by the GEF Council, which will consider further action, consistent with COP guidance.
22. Outside of the Trust Fund, the current reporting period saw a dramatic increase in GEF funding to adaptation activities from both the LDCF and the SCCF. As discussed earlier, total funding mobilized for adaptation under the LDCF is \$163 million, and under the SCCF is \$60 million for adaptation projects. Projects funded under the SCCF reached \$25 million during this 12-month period, compared with merely \$1 million for one project prior to this. Furthermore, the GEF has maintained an active pipeline of adaptation projects under the SCCF that will be funded when they are fully prepared. Further expansion of the adaptation portfolio under the SCCF will depend upon its replenishment.

Awareness-raising on GEF programs and procedures

23. The GEF has put a variety of mechanisms in place to support recipient countries in their engagement with the GEF including sub-regional workshops, the National Dialogue Initiative, the Country Support Program, and the Council Member Support Program. The significant changes brought forth by the RAF as well as new policy and process reforms introduced in 2006 to streamline and enhance the effectiveness of GEF programming have necessitated direct dialogues between recipient countries and the GEF Secretariat.
24. The GEF initiated direct dialogues with recipient countries to ensure that GEF 4 resources are programmed in accordance with: (i) the strategic directions as outlined in the GEF 4 focal area strategies; (ii) country priorities emerging from national sustainable development programs and global environmental commitments; and (iii) the comparative advantage of the GEF agencies. These direct dialogues have not only provided recipient countries with a significant new mechanism for understanding the implementation of the RAF but also have opened up channels of direct communications capable of responding to additional recipient country concerns as they emerge. The

Secretariat completed the initial round of consultations with eligible recipient countries over the six month period beginning 19 October 2006 and ending 25 April 2007.

25. In October 2006, the Secretariat established a system to initiate direct dialogues with all countries eligible under the RAF. Countries that had sent a prioritized list of proposals for financing from their respective allocations prior to 15 September 2006 were contacted first. The Secretariat sent notifications to country Operational Focal Points, inviting them to participate in a teleconference with a technical team from the Secretariat at a mutually convenient time. Focal Points were also asked to invite colleagues from the convention focal points, line ministries and other relevant national stakeholders for the teleconferences.
26. Subsequent to their participation in the teleconference, a number of countries have followed up by holding additional national discussions and consultations subsequent to which they advised the Secretariat of changes in their programming approach or priorities. In these instances, when necessary, the appropriate technical representatives of the Secretariat teams have held follow up discussions with the country. Additionally, the Secretariat has advised the country to work with a GEF Agency to develop the concepts in line with the GEF focal area strategy, to consider agency comparative advantage and to submit it to the Secretariat for review and approval.
27. The direct dialogues between recipient countries and the GEF Secretariat have opened a significant new avenue for GEF's strategic engagement with countries. The Secretariat has successfully completed the initial round of direct dialogues with recipient countries. A total of 129 countries were called during this six-month effort.
28. This new engagement has generally been well received by recipient countries who have expressed appreciation for them. It has been particularly well received by countries with limited national capacities and by countries with limited or no prior engagement with the GEF. Countries have also appreciated their ability to directly discuss and reach an understanding about specific projects that have been rejected or considered inappropriate for GEF funding instead of waiting for an intermediated response through the Agencies.
29. The initial set of dialogues has clearly highlighted the need for strengthening the country relations and communications aspects of the GEF Secretariat to enhance its effectiveness and efficiency in delivering results for countries.
30. In addition to the direct dialogue with countries, the GEF has also discussed programming issues with select countries at seven national dialogue initiative consultations, and 15 constituency meetings. The GEF has also held bilateral discussions with countries at the margins of the GEF Council meetings, meetings of Convention bodies, and other meetings, such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) on the GEF Strategic Investment Program for Sustainable Land Management in Sub-Saharan Africa, held in Burkina Faso on 24-25 April 2007.
31. During the reporting period, sub-Regional Workshops were held in Turkey for the Eastern and Central Europe Region, in Thailand for the East and Central Asian region, in Nairobi for the Eastern and Southern Africa Region, and in Senegal for the West and Central Africa region. Additional Sub-Regional Workshops have also been held for Latin America, Caribbean and the Pacific. A sub-regional workshop is scheduled for the South Asia and Middle East and North Africa before the end of calendar year 2007. The issues discussed at each Sub-Regional Workshop are determined based on the feedback from countries in prior sub-regional workshops. Unlike the sub-regional workshops in 2006 which were highly dominated by discussions on the RAF, the workshops in 2007 have discussed the RAF in the context of a broader set of GEF policies and processes such as the revised focal strategy and the project cycle.

32. Details of the CSP and summaries of the Sub-Regional Consultations can be found at www.gefcountrysupport.org/report. The CSP has developed a web-based dynamic and interactive Knowledge Facility for GEF Focal Points. The CSP also supports twice yearly constituency meetings at which the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Agencies provide information to raise awareness on GEF programs and procedures, respond to country concerns, and help countries access GEF funding.

Land use and land-use change projects

33. Decision 2/CP.12 requested the GEF "to explore options for undertaking land use and land-use change projects within the climate change focal area of the GEF, in light of past experience". Past GEF programming has included support in the biodiversity focal area to protect terrestrial ecosystems with globally significant biodiversity and in the land degradation focal area to protect land resources from degradation. During GEF-3, support was provided to over 20 million hectares of protected areas in the biodiversity focal area. Since its inception in 1991, it is estimated that GEF has provided support to over 70m ha in protected areas in its recipient countries. During GEF-3, it is estimated that at least 98m ha in productive land and seascapes were also included in programs to mainstream biodiversity. In the land degradation focal area, GEF-3 funding contributed to the direct protection of 19.2m ha from land degradation, and another 27.8m ha were indirectly influenced. Unfortunately, no reliable estimate of the number of tons of carbon protected or sequestered from the above activities exists. However, it is clear from the above estimates that GEF has been a major actor already in trying to protect land, including forests, from degradation due to improper management.
34. Through the GEF-4 strategy revision process, new strategic program called "Management of Land Use, Land-use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) as a Means to Protect Carbon Stocks and Reduce GHG Emissions" has been opened for GEF programming. Successful outcomes of this strategic program will be the reduction of GHG emissions from LULUCF, the development of a systematic methodology that can be used to measure carbon stocks and fluxes in the land-use systems accurately and cost-effectively, and the identification and implementation of policies and practices that reduce emissions from the LULUCF sector. This strategic program also features in the GEF's crosscutting SFM program.
35. The cornerstone of this program will be a global initiative to refine a methodology for estimating avoided GHG emissions as a result of GEF-supported project activities. Building upon the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Good Practice Guidance for measuring carbon stocks and emissions, the tools to be developed under this program will link forest stand and measurement data to satellite imagery to enable better system-wide tracking and monitoring of progress to reduce emissions from undesirable land-use changes. In addition to resources being devoted from the biodiversity and climate change regional-global allocations and land degradation focal area, countries interested in participating may allocate GEF resources from the climate change focal area towards developing their own calibration coefficients using local data and globally-available remote sensing information. A second area of support includes technical assistance for policy formulation, building institutional and technical capacity to implement strategies and policies, developing and testing policy frameworks to slow the drivers of undesirable land-use changes, and working with local communities to develop alternative livelihood methods to reduce emissions and sequester carbon. In cases where the required forest stand data exists and the drivers of land-use changes are well understood, countries may utilize GEF-4 resources to pilot investment projects designed to reduce net emissions from LULUCF.

Energy efficiency projects

36. The revised GEF-4 programming strategy places increased emphasis on enhancing energy efficiency as a means to reduce GHG emissions. The focal area strategy has identified buildings energy efficiency and industrial energy efficiency as two key strategic programs in the climate change focal area during GEF-4. Through this approach, it is expected that GEF support to energy efficiency will increase in importance over time.

37. Funding for energy efficiency projects during the reporting period continued to be strong. Four out of the 10 climate change projects funded under the GEF Trust Fund were energy efficiency projects. These projects will be undertaken in the key countries and regions where there is tremendous potential and demand for energy efficiency improvements:
- Brazil: Market Transformation for Energy Efficiency in Buildings;
 - China: Energy Efficiency Financing;
 - Southeast and East Asia: Barrier Removal to the Cost-Effective Development and Implementation of Energy Efficiency Standards and Labeling; and
 - India: Energy Conservation in Small Sector Tea Processing Units in South India.
38. Together these energy efficiency projects accounted for more than 43 percent of the allocations from the Trust Fund during the reporting, for a total amount of \$35.1 million. Many more energy efficiency projects are expected to enter the GEF pipeline for approval for the remainder of GEF-4.

Support for SIDS and LDCs

39. Responding to COP guidance for strengthening support to SIDS, the GEF initiated a programmatic approach for the SIDS starting with the 15 countries in the Pacific region. The Pacific Alliance for Sustainability will achieve three things for the region:
- Provide on-the-ground solutions for adapting to the impacts of climate change;
 - Significantly increase the resources provided directly to the countries by the GEF; and
 - Put the governments in the driving seat of all activities funded by the GEF.
40. This programmatic approach in the Pacific replaces the small and isolated projects with comprehensive and long-term programmatic solutions, lessening the administrative burden on the national governments and increasing effectiveness. The Pacific Alliance will also include in its fold the GEF Small Grants Program, which would be available to all the Pacific countries by the end of 2007.
41. This programmatic support would fully respond to the guidance provided by COP besides being in line with the Mauritius Declaration as well as the regional strategies already in existence. A comprehensive program was considered necessary to meet the complex challenge of strengthening the resilience of people to increases in cyclones, flooding, droughts and sea level rise.
42. Samoa and Kiribati have already undertaken such an integrated approach through their projects funded out of the GEF window on adaptation. The Samoa Government is initiating a comprehensive adaptation approach that would touch on improving their health sector, launch pilot projects in agriculture and improve early warning systems. All this has been possible because of launching a multi-focal project that is well integrated to increase the country's adaptation strategy. Any sectoral project would not have made much dent on dealing with the impacts of climate change in SIDS.
43. There are two other initiatives that are good examples of the programmatic approach as it increases the economic and ecological resilience to climate change in the Pacific SIDS. They stand as examples of how sustainable development priorities can be practically integrated with global environmental objectives:
44. First is the "*Micronesia Challenge*": Through the Challenge, three Pacific countries agreed to conserve 30% of the near shore marine resources and 20% of forest resources by 2020. They made a political commitment and then agreed to look at the issue of sustainable financing. The different activities of

the three participating countries were identified and Palau led by considering a fee on tourists that can provide sustained funding every year for the management of marine and forest resources of the country. This converted the project into a long-term program that will continue after GEF and other external funding runs out.

45. Furthermore, two NGOs, Conservation International and Nature Conservancy agreed to match the GEF grant with the added promise of contributions from bilateral donors as well. In brief a successful story of attracting sustainable financing for a long-term plan that helps the country and adapts to climate change.
46. Second example is the "*Coral Triangle Initiative*": This is a similar idea being considered by other Pacific countries in partnership with East Asian countries. The project aims to conserve tuna and coral ecosystems while including elements for poverty alleviation. The 1.6 billion acre Coral Triangle supports commercial tuna species, which spawn there and migrate to the Indian and Pacific Oceans where 90% of the world's catch occurs. This project aims to limit habitat destruction and over-fishing through a marine protected area network. It will promote sustainable live reef fish trade, sustainable tuna fisheries, ecological tourism and strengthens resilience to climate change.
47. The importance of this project lies in the agreement reached by countries to explore improved trade regime. This new trade regime will enable the industry to internalize the social and ecological costs of tuna management in this region and thus make the project benefits sustainable. WWF and the Asian Development Bank are considering to co-finance the project.
48. *Increase in GEF funding*: To date GEF provided approximately \$86 million to 14 of the Pacific region's countries in the past 15 years for biodiversity, climate change and persistent organic pollutants. The Pacific Alliance for Sustainability will increase funding six-times on an annual basis, reaching \$100 million in GEF-4. In addition, the programmatic approach is also expected to significantly increase the co-financing for GEF funded activities making a noticeable dent in its programs for adapting to climate change.
49. *Countries in the driving seat*: The other benefit of the pre-determined resource allocation framework is to enable countries to be in the driving seat of GEF funded projects. This start has already been made. For the first time in GEF, Governments have internally discussed and determined their national priorities in advance for the future.
50. The attraction of this approach has already convinced other small island countries, from the Caribbean who are considering having a similar approach.
51. *Support by GEF agencies*: The Alliance is a partnership among the GEF agencies, regional organizations and international NGOs who will assist Governments in a coordinated manner in projects that are implemented nationally.
52. The World Bank is taking the lead in putting this program together using its vast experience in projects related to development, economic growth and its operational capacity to link this knowledge with achieving environmental conservation. The role of the World Bank is limited to work with countries in preparing the investment program. Governments will thereafter retain the choice of using other GEF agencies in the implementation of actual projects that form part of this program.
53. In addition to the support of GEF agencies a full-time GEF advisor has been located in the region to assist the countries improve their access to GEF resources. The Governments of Australia and New Zealand are financing this staff position located at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

Response to recommendations of OPS3 and the third review of the financial mechanism

54. The recommendations of OPS3 were responded to by the GEF Council in the GEF-4 Replenishment document.⁴ Under the guidance of the GEF CEO, the GEF Secretariat and agencies are involved in the process of responding to all of those recommendations through the GEF reform process. The six key recommendations are listed below, together with brief description of the actions being taken to respond to the recommendation. The recommendations and the responses are:

- (a) Programming Directions (synergies among focal areas and linkages between environment and development): The revised GEF-4 strategy already includes attempts to create synergies and pays greater attention to environment and development. In addition, the strategy includes a cross-cutting program entitled "Sustainable Forest Management", which includes objectives responding to the various focal areas in which the GEF works, and enables countries to use resources from climate change, biodiversity or land degradation to pursue the objective of making their forests sustainable.
- (b) Strategies and Policies (revisions of the focal area strategies, private sector, and incremental costs): The focal area strategies have all been reformulated; the public-private partnership initiative launched; and the approach to incremental costs has been simplified.
- (c) Institutional Reforms (Resource Allocation Framework and Expanded Opportunities for Executing Agencies): The resource allocation framework is being applied in the climate change focal area. The "playing field" has been leveled between implementing and executing agencies—all now receive the same fees for their services and all may assist countries in GEF programming in their areas of comparative advantage.
- (d) Managing for results (capacity building, results indicators, and country indicators): In June 2007, the GEF Council approved a results-based management for oversight of the entire GEF portfolio.⁵ The primary indicators to track project and portfolio progress toward achieving stated objectives are those that were developed in the focal area strategy revision process. The Secretariat will further develop the results-based management system and its application to all areas of GEF endeavour in the coming year.
- (e) Operational Reforms (project cycle streamlining, pipeline management, fiduciary responsibility, communications and transparency, lesson learning and dissemination, budget reform, and institutional effectiveness): The GEF project cycle has been simplified and streamlined. All agencies are being required to meet the highest international fiduciary standards.⁶ The communications strategy has been proposed for consideration by the GEF Council in November 2007, and the GEF budget is being reformed and reviewed. The Implementing Agencies are no longer receiving support directly from the GEF Corporate Budget.
- (f) Monitoring and Evaluation (quality of M&E systems, compliance with M&E requirements, and performance and outcomes matrix). The GEF Office of Evaluation has now established standards for project monitoring systems and projects are continually reviewed for meeting this criteria at the time of CEO Endorsement.

Simplification of GEF project procedures and process

55. Streamlining GEF project procedures and process is one of the key elements of the reform agenda initiated by the CEO. To this end, a new project cycle was introduced and approved by the GEF Council in June 2007, with the objective of processing a proposal from identification to start of implementation in less than 22 months without compromising project quality or undermining financial accountability.

4 GEF/C.29/3GEF/A.3/6.

5 GEF/C.31/11.

6 GEF/C.31/6.

56. The new project cycles consists of the following steps, involving the GEF Secretariat, the CEO, and the GEF Council in the project cycles of the Implementing and Executing Agencies:
- (a) Council approval of the work program, consisting of project concepts (PIFs) cleared by the CEO;
 - (b) CEO endorsement following Council review of fully prepared projects; and
 - (c) Secretariat monitoring of portfolio performance during implementation, and evaluation oversight of the GEF Evaluation Office.
57. The GEF will establish a target for average elapsed time of 22 months from Project Identification Form (PIF) approval to endorsement by the CEO. Besides reducing the number of steps in the project cycle, the revised cycle aims to reduce the documentation requirements by sharply focusing the Secretariat reviews of the PIFS and the project document on those criteria that are critical to achieving the objectives for which a GEF grant is provided.⁷

Efforts to engage the private sector

58. In June 2007, the GEF Council endorsed the GEF Public Private Partnership (PPP) Initiative⁸. The objective of the PPP is to facilitate strategic engagement of the private sector in the GEF's efforts to address global environmental challenges in developing countries. Partnership with the private sector will contribute to the achievement of results on a larger scale than would be obtainable by the GEF on its own. The PPP will support a strategic investment program in competitive environmental technological and financial solutions and the scaling-up of the use of pilot instruments. Sectoral platforms related to GEF focal areas and priorities will be developed and implemented.
59. The PPP will have a separate governance structure that will include a PPP Board and Platform Steering Committees consisting of GEF Council members and private sector, foundation, and NGO representatives, and will be chaired by the GEF CEO. The GEF has allocated \$50 million seed money to the PPP Trust Fund, which is expected to leverage \$200 million in co-financing from GEF agencies, bilateral organizations, the private sector, foundations, and NGOs.
60. The PPP launches with two innovative strategic tools to generate capital and direct investment for environmental solutions, i.e., a Financial Product Development tool and a Capital for Prizes tool. PPP platforms will be identified that will aim to provide an innovative and strategic approach to a specific global environmental challenge on which the GEF and the private sector agree to collaborate. The platforms are also intended to support technology and capital transfer to developing countries.

C. Additional Guidance to the GEF (Decision 3/CP.12)

COP 12 guidance

61. In decision 3/CP.12 on "Additional guidance to the GEF," paragraph 1, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention:
- (a) To further simplify its procedures and improve the efficiency of the process through which developing country Parties receive funding for projects for the implementation of their commitments under Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention;

⁷ The GEF Project Cycle document can be found on the GEF website at: <http://thegef.org/interior_right.aspx?id=17634>

⁸ Available at: <<http://thegef.org/interior.aspx?id=17160>>.

- (b) To explore options to address concerns of developing country Parties on requirements for leveraging additional funds for projects;
 - (c) To give a detailed report on the resources available to each developing country Party in the initial implementation of the resource allocation framework, including a list of activities funded with these resources during this initial period in the climate change focal area;
 - (d) To continue to provide financial support for the implementation of the technology transfer contained in the annex to decision 4/CP.7, including new sub-themes,¹ through its climate change focal area and the Special Climate Change Fund established under decision 7/CP.7;
 - (e) To provide financing to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention that received the top-up fund but did not conduct their technology needs assessments, to enable these Parties to conduct their technology needs assessments as part of their second national communications, and to provide these funds to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention that have conducted their technology needs assessments but need to update them, also as part of their second national communications, in addition to the amount approved for the preparation of their second national communications.
62. In decision 3/CP.12, paragraph 2, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention:
- (a) To further simplify its procedures and improve the efficiency of the process by which Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention receive funding to meet their obligations under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, with the aim of ensuring the timely disbursement of funds to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with these obligations;
 - (b) To provide updated information on the operational procedures for the expedited financing of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its twenty-sixth session;
 - (c) When providing support for technology needs assessments, in accordance with decisions 4/CP.9 and 5/CP.9, to take into account actions to address barriers and constraints as well as the creation of enabling environments and capacity gaps, identified by the Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention and as contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2006/INF.1;
 - (d) To produce simple guidelines on how to enhance activities relating to Article 6 in project proposals when applying for Global Environment Facility funding.
63. In decision 3/CP.12, paragraph 3, the COP urged the Global Environment Facility to provide further funding, in a more timely manner, to the developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, to allow these countries to implement activities relating to Article 6 and the New Delhi work programme.
64. In decision 3/CP.12, paragraph 4, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to include, in its regular report to the Conference of the Parties, information on the specific steps it has taken to implement guidance contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

GEF response

Requirements for leveraging additional funds for projects

65. As set out in the GEF Instrument, the GEF "(...) shall operate for the purpose of providing new and additional grant and concessional funding to meet the agreed incremental costs of measures to achieve agreed global environmental benefits." The application of incremental cost has been recognized as complex and not always transparent by the GEF Council, the Secretariat, the agencies, as well as project proponents, governments, and NGOs. To address these concerns, the GEF has developed a new pragmatic, and simplified approach for determining increment costs as part of the GEF-4 Reform Process.
66. The proposed approach consists of five steps that simplify the process of negotiating incremental costs, clarifies definitions, and links incremental cost analysis to results-based management and the GEF project cycle. These five steps are: (i) Determine the environmental problems, threat, or barrier, and the "business-as-usual" scenario; (ii) Identify the global environmental benefits and fit with GEF strategic programs and priorities lined to the GEF focal area; (iii) Develop the results framework of the intervention; (iv) Provide the incremental reasoning and GEF's role; and (v) Negotiate the role of co-financing.
67. The Operational Guidelines for the Application of the Incremental Cost Principle is available on the GEF website at: http://thegef.org/interior_right.aspx?id=17634.
68. One of the key operational principles for GEF assistance, as outlined in the GEF Operational Strategy, is that the GEF will emphasize its catalytic role in seeking to maximize global environmental benefits and leverage additional financing from other sources. The GEF will finance actions that have a multiplier effect and address the need for innovation, experimentation, demonstration, and replication. Adequate co-financing is important to ensure success of the project and to deliver the full benefits – both global and local – of the projects.
69. It should be noted that the GEF, especially in the climate change focal area, has adopted a flexible, pragmatic approach to co-financing requirements. The amount of co-financing requirement depends on the type of the project and the circumstances of the country where the project will be undertaken. For example, if a project aims to establish a labeling program for energy-efficient appliances, commitment from the policymakers in the country is most critical, while co-financing can be largely in-kind, associated with program design and implementation. On the other hand, if a project aims to support large-scale development in renewable energy, GEF funding for such a project must be complemented by substantive co-financing for investment, and GEF support will target technical assistance and limited demonstration where appropriate. Co-financing from the government, financial institutions, and the private sector will be essential to deliver tangible results of such a project.

Report on resource availability under the Resource Allocation Framework

70. The GEF has published, and periodically updates, information on the availability and utilization of the RAF resources to each country. The initial GEF-4 indicative allocations are made available in the RAF public disclosure document entitled GEF Resource Allocation Framework: Indicative Resource Allocations for GEF-4, dated 15 September 2006. These resource allocations will be updated at the mid-point of GEF-4, beginning in July 2008, consistent with any recommendations being made from the mid-term review of the RAF.
71. As of 15 October 2007, a total of \$95.6 million of RAF resources in the climate change focal area had been allocated and \$120 million pipelined, leaving approximately \$733 million still to be programmed. Details for each country can be found in the GEF Council document.⁹

Technology transfer

72. The GEF continues to provide support to countries wishing to undertake TNAs. For countries that have never received support for such activities, they are free to apply for such support through the National Communications Programme for Climate Change (NCPCC). For those countries having already received

⁹ GEF/C.32/Inf.6/Rev.1.

support for TNAs but who wish to update it, a separate proposal consistent with the guidelines and methodology for TNAs will have to be prepared and submitted to the GEF Secretariat and Agencies for approval.

73. GEF continues to support projects providing technology transfer through resources provided to mitigation and adaptation projects supported under the GEF Trust Fund and programming strategy. In addition, it is working closely with its agencies, particularly UNEP, to prepare a new program to facilitate technology transfer using resources made available to the SCCF Program (b) on Technology Transfer. This program will build on, support and cooperate with a number of existing initiatives, most notably the UNEP/GEF Sustainable Alternatives Network (SANET), the UNFCCC initiatives TT: Clear and the UNFCCC/CTI/PPL initiative entitled the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN), which has established an effective structure for the facilitation of private sector financing of technology projects.

National communications

74. Initial National communications: 134 countries have submitted their initial national communications. The guidelines for national communications require an inventory of greenhouse gases and a general description of steps being taken by the country to implement the Convention. The IPCC provided detailed guidelines to prepare national GHG inventories and the GEF funded National Communications Support Program supported hands-on training of national experts to properly apply the methodologies. The first round of these national communications has helped a number of national and regional energy related technical experts in developing countries to prepare and up-date these inventories.
75. *Technology needs assessments*: Over 90 countries received support as a follow-up of the initial national communications that were partially used for TNAs. Of these countries, 35 have submitted their technology needs assessments to the convention secretariat. The purpose of technology needs assessments was to identify and analyze priority technology needs, which can be the basis for a portfolio of environmentally sound technology (ESTs) projects, and programs which can facilitate the transfer of, and access to, the ESTs and know-how in the implementation of Article 4.5 of the Convention.
76. *Second national communications*: In April 2004, an umbrella project implemented jointly by UNDP and UNEP was approved by the GEF Council for \$58.4 million to fund the second national communications for 130 non-Annex I Parties using an expedited process. An amount of US\$ 1.68 million is being added to the umbrella project to provide funding to 4 additional non-Annex I Parties that requested for such funding recently. In addition 4 countries (Brazil, China, India and Peru) requested funding outside of the expedited cycle (full sized projects) which was approved in 2006 and 2007). The GEF is currently in discussions with its implementing agencies on how it can further simplify the process of obtaining funding for national communications.
77. As part of its outreach strategy under the new CEO, the GEF has initiated programming dialogues, with all recipient countries to assist them in identifying their priorities for GEF funding in the climate change focal area. In helping countries specify priorities for further development with implementing agencies, input has been obtained from the country's initial, and where available, second national communications.
78. The GEF report to COP 13 contains responses to the list of questions posed for the GEF after SBI 26 held in Bonn in May 2007.

Article 6 to the Convention

79. The GEF is working with the implementing agencies to develop simple guidelines for countries to include activities related to Article 6 in project proposals submitted for GEF funding. This principle of providing greater awareness and public support through the projects and programs that GEF supports is key to the communication strategy being presented to the GEF Council in November 2007. The guidelines will be available to countries by the end of 2007.

Carbon Capture and Storage

80. At their 11th Session in Montreal in December 2005, the COP requested the GEF to consider whether supporting Carbon Capture and Storage Technologies (CCS), in particular related capacity building activities, would be consistent with its strategies and objectives, and if so, how they could be incorporated within its operational programs. The GEF requested the assistance of its Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel in addressing this guidance. Together with the GEF Secretariat, STAP convened a two-day expert workshop to address this issue. A draft report from this workshop is expected for circulation by the end of calendar year 2007.

D. Capacity-Building under the Convention (Decision 4/CP.12)

COP 12 guidance

81. In decision 4/CP.12 on "*Capacity-building under the Convention*," paragraph 1, the COP decided that the following additional steps will be taken annually to regularly monitor the implementation of the capacity-building framework pursuant to decisions 2/CP.7 and 2/CP.10:
- (a) Parties to be invited to submit information on the activities that they have undertaken pursuant to decisions 2/CP.7 and 2/CP.10, which should include, inter alia, such elements as needs and gaps, experiences and lessons learned;
 - (b) The GEF to provide a report on its progress in support of the implementation of the framework in its reports to the COP;
 - (c) The secretariat to produce a synthesis report in accordance with paragraph 9 of decision 2/CP.7, drawing upon information contained in national adaptation programmes of action, technology needs assessments and national capacity self assessment and the information contained in subparagraph (a) above;
 - (d) Parties to consider the Global Environment Facility report mentioned in subparagraph (b) above and the synthesis report described in subparagraph (c) above as a basis for regular monitoring and as a contribution to the comprehensive review of the capacity-building framework;
82. In decision 4/CP.12, paragraph 2, the COP requested the secretariat to organize, before the thirteenth session of the COP, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility and subject to the availability of resources, an expert workshop:
- (a) To exchange views on experiences in monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building by Parties, and where relevant, multilateral, bilateral agencies as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;
 - (b) To discuss the work of the GEF with regard to the development of capacity-building performance indicators relevant for monitoring the implementation of the capacity-building framework.

83. In decision 4/CP.12, paragraph 5, the COP reiterated its request to the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, to take into account the key factors for capacity-building as laid out in paragraph 1 of decision 2/CP.10 when supporting capacity-building activities in developing countries.
84. In decision 4/CP.12, paragraph 6, the COP reiterated its request to the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide financial resources to support the development of the information sources named in paragraph 1 (c), above, as appropriate, in accordance with decisions 2/CP.7, 6/CP.7, 4/CP.9, 2/CP.10 and 8/CP.10.

GEF response

85. The GEF is providing the following report in response to para 1(b) of 4/CP.12.
86. In response to 2/CP.7 and 2/CP.10, the GEF has taken the following actions after several discussions with GEF Implementing Agencies, countries and the GEF Evaluation Office.
87. *Scope of capacity building* (para 15 of 2/CP.7): The GEF funding criteria for second national communications takes into consideration items (a), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (n) and (o) of para 15 through specific budget items in the enabling activity projects under implementation in 138 developing country Parties.
88. *Specific scope for capacity building in least developed countries* (para 17 of the Annex to 2/CP.7 and para 1(e) of 2/CP.10): The GEF-4 replenishment agreed to a specific allocation for LDCs, including SIDS, for cross-cutting capacity building activities as identified through their NCSAs.
89. *Financing and operation* (para 21 and 22 of the Annex 2/CP.7): In response to this framework the GEF has elaborated a country-driven strategy for its capacity building activities as highlighted below.
- Collaborated with the UNFCCC Secretariat and providing funding to develop and discuss indicators for monitoring capacity in countries as per the COP 12 guidance (para 2 (a) and (b) of 4/CP.12) GEF will present the draft indicators at the workshop to receive inputs from the Parties;
 - Revised the GEF strategy for cross-cutting capacity building (CB2) activities after having several rounds of discussion with the IAs and countries based on 2/CP.7 and 2/CP.10;
 - Programmatic and Systematic Approach: In implementing this framework, the GEF strategy is based on the following elements and activities identified in para 19 and paras 25, 28, 29 and 30 of the 2/CP.7 Annex and para 1 of 2/CP.10 as follows:
 - Considering institutional capacity building as a priority for the creation and strengthening of basic institutional structure (para 1(a) of 2/CP.10)
 - Including public awareness activities within the GEF projects for which simple guidelines will be issued by the end of 2007 (para 1(b) of 2/CP.10);
 - Following-up to the training workshops held (twice in some regions) on identifying and prioritizing capacity needs for developing Country Parties. The regions where such training activities were held are West and Central Africa, North Africa, Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia. (para 1(c) of 2/CP.10);
 - Following-up on the NCSAs completed by all eligible EIT countries that received funding from GEF for preparing the NCSAs (para 1 of 3/CP.10);

- Strategically fulfilling an established capacity requirement for implementing a priority capacity building activity in one of the GEF Focal areas. (para 1(d) iii and iv of 2/CP.10) In financial terms, capacity building projects, if stand alone, need to show its forward linkages reflecting the need and use of the capacity being built and not considered an isolated activity. Capacity building support (focal or cross-focal) has to be measurable through an agreed upon set of indicators and a system for monitoring, measuring impact and "online" reporting to conventions. Close coordination with other capacity building type projects and with capacity building in regular projects. Quite often, there has been duplication of capacity building support to countries especially when an earlier enabling activities portfolio was designed individually by focal area. The result is duplication at many levels.

Evaluation of capacity building

90. In 2007 the GEF Evaluation Office began work on the evaluation of GEF Capacity Development Activities. To date the evaluation team has completed its approach paper, literature reviews, and two country case studies. The country case studies examined the nature and results of the national, regional and global interventions and related these to capacity development targets at the policy, institutional and individual level in each country.
91. The country case studies found that the GEF portfolios include considerable capacity development activities. The results are generally positive and in some areas significant. GEF capacity development support has been relevant, in line with national policy priorities and with a good level of national ownership. However, it was also found in one country case study that there is no system which effectively integrates the objectives of capacity development across projects, so that aggregation of impacts can be achieved.
92. The effectiveness of capacity development activities has varied. In one country study, some activities were effective in providing new skills and institutional capacities that showed direct and immediate results in the concerned sector; but in other cases, the activities had less immediate results, although benefits may develop in the longer term. In cases of another country study, institutions have been unable to provide appropriate incentives for trained staff, and opportunities to use new skills have proved limited. Concerning efficiency, GEF capacity development activities have usually met their immediate output and outcome targets, although a few projects have suffered unusual delays in implementation. Cost-effectiveness of capacity development activities was difficult to assess, since the activities rarely comprise a defined budget heading during project implementation or monitoring.
93. The evaluation found that there has been no systematic monitoring or evaluation of overall capacity development performance at the country level, which could promote improvements to the coverage or approaches. The case studies revealed an underlying weakness in the training programs, namely, the tendency to plan and execute training as a "one-shot" solution. Extensive stakeholder consultations showed the importance of progression and repetition in training. Progression is needed to allow successful trainees, who have made use of their new knowledge and skills, to undertake more advanced courses, to reach higher levels of expertise, thereby further strengthening institutional performance. Sustainability of training is necessary to deal with the attrition of trained personnel, which is a common problem in government institutions and for increased needs as the value of improved approaches generates new demands.
94. In order to address this common deficiency in capacity development, it is necessary to build training approaches on the basis of existing bodies in the country or region, such as universities, or specialist public or private sector training institutions. These can be supported to adapt their existing programs or create new ones to address the key environment-related skills identified as necessary during project preparation. In some cases, it may be effective to develop new specialist training bodies in a region.

95. After reflecting on the issues identified by the country case studies, the Evaluation Office decided that further work is needed to analyze capacity development across the GEF portfolio. In particular, the evaluation team will conduct a meta-evaluation of capacity development findings based on a review of a sample of Terminal Evaluations and previous Evaluation Office reports, to explore the prevalence of the key issues identified by the country case studies. The team will also hold discussions with the GEF-UNDP-UNEP Support Program for Capacity Development to explore commonalities between its assessment of results and those of the evaluation. These additional activities will enable the development of a set of tools, which will enable forthcoming Annual Performance Reports, Country Program Evaluations, and OPS4 to evaluate the achievements of capacity development activities on a broader scale.

Montreal, Canada



XVII. COP 11 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) was held from 28 November to 9 December 2005 in Montreal, Canada. Decisions at COP 11 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance are included in its report to COP 12.¹ The reporting period is from 1 September 2005, to 31 August 2006.

A. Further Guidance for the Operation of the LDCF (Decision 3/CP.11)

COP 11 guidance

2. In decision 3/CP.11 on "*Further guidance for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund*," paragraph 1, the COP decided that the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund should be consistent with the following principles:
 - (a) A country-driven approach, supporting the implementation of urgent and immediate activities identified in national adaptation programmes of action, as a way of enhancing adaptive capacity
 - (b) Supporting the implementation of activities identified in national adaptation programmes of action, and of other elements of the least developed countries work programme identified in decision 5/CP.7, in order to promote the integration of adaptation measures in national development and poverty reduction strategies, plans or policies, with a view to increasing resilience to the adverse effects of climate change
 - (c) Supporting a learning-by-doing approach.
3. In decision 3/CP.11, paragraph 2, the COP decided that full-cost funding shall be provided by the Least Developed Countries Fund to meet the additional costs² of activities to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change as identified and prioritized in the national adaptation programmes of action.
4. In decision 3/CP.11, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility:
 - (a) To develop a co-financing scale for supporting activities identified in national adaptation programmes of action, taking into account the circumstances of least developed countries (paragraph 3);
 - (b) To develop flexible modalities that ensure balanced access to resources given the level of funds available, in accordance with decision 6/CP.9 (paragraph 5);

1 GEF responses to COP 11 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 12 (FCCC/CP/2006/3) was compiled (13 October 2006), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 12 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600004039>.

2 For the purpose of this decision, "additional costs" means the costs imposed on vulnerable countries to meet their immediate adaptation needs.

- (c) To ensure the separation of the administration and activities of the Trust Fund of the Global Environment Facility and the Least Developed Countries Fund (paragraph 9);
 - (d) To include, in its reports to the COP, information on the specific steps it has taken to implement this decision, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at subsequent sessions (paragraph 10);
5. In decision 3/CP.11, paragraph 4, the COP decides that activities, identified in national adaptation programmes of action, that are not supported through full-cost funding as described in paragraph 2 above, will be co-financed through the scale referred to in paragraph 3 above.
 6. In decision 3/CP.11, paragraph 11, the COP decides to assess progress in the implementation of this decision and consider the adoption of further guidance, as appropriate, at its fourteenth session (December 2008).

GEF response

Preparation of NAPAs

7. The LDCs requested financial support to prepare NAPAs. The rationale for developing NAPAs builds upon the high vulnerability and low adaptive capacity of the LDCs, which render them in need of support to begin adapting to the adverse effects of climate change. Activities proposed through the NAPAs would be those whose further delay could increase vulnerability, or lead to increased costs at a later stage. NAPAs are aimed at identifying priority activities that address the urgent and immediate needs and concerns of the LDCs relating to adaptation to climate change.
8. As of the end of August 2006, financial support had been provided for the preparation of 44 NAPAs and two global support projects. Total GEF funding for these activities came to US\$11.6 million. Four remaining LDCs eligible for NAPA support have yet to submit proposals for funding for their NAPAs: Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Myanmar, and Nepal. UNEP has assisted Angola, Myanmar, and Nepal to prepared draft proposals which have not received government endorsement to date. The government of Equatorial Guinea has not responded to information about NAPA preparation.
9. The first completed NAPA was submitted by Mauritania in November 2004, followed by Bangladesh, Bhutan, Malawi, Niger, and Samoa. Tanzania, Senegal, Rwanda, Liberia, Haiti, Lesotho, Comores, and Uganda have almost completed their NAPAs. The majority of the remaining NAPAs are expected to be completed during 2007-2008.
10. The NAPA preparation phase is considered complete when the NAPA official report is finalized, submitted to relevant recipients, and made public. Once the NAPA is completed, LDCs can develop and submit project proposals to the LDCF for implementing priority activities, as identified in the project profiles contained in the official NAPA document.
11. As countries have completed or are nearing completion of their NAPAs, some of the urgent and immediate activities that will need financial support have already been identified by them. Priority sectors, projects, and activities identified in NAPA documents as requiring urgent attention to adapt from potential climate change include water resources, food security and agriculture, health, disaster preparedness and prevention, infrastructure, and community-based adaptation.

Implementation of NAPAs

12. In response to decision 3/CP.11, which complements the previous decision 6/CP.9 and finalizes the guidance to the GEF with respect to funding the implementation of the NAPAs under the LDCF, the GEF prepared the document Programming Paper for Funding the Implementation of NAPAs under the LDCF Trust Fund.³ The

³ GEF/C.28/18.

document was prepared in consultation and collaboration with the LDCs, donor countries that contribute to the LDCF, other interested Parties and constituencies, the Implementing and Executing Agencies, and the UNFCCC Secretariat. The LDCF programming paper was approved by the GEF Council in May 2006.

13. The NAPA implementation phase will include the design, development, and implementation of projects on the ground, aimed to meet the adaptation needs identified by the official NAPA document in its preparation phase. Throughout this phase, projects will be monitored to measure progress, and at project completion, a terminal evaluation will assess the effectiveness of the adaptation measures implemented. The implementation phase will include provision for involving a comprehensive and open group of stakeholders, using the same participatory approach as for the NAP preparation phase. The implementation phase requires not only the mobilization of significant additional resources but also the identification and involvement of key agencies, individuals, communities, and entities with relevant expertise to address the problems given priority in the NAPA report.

Consultative process and LDC-GEF meeting in Dhaka

14. A continuous process of consultations with the LDCs and other interested stakeholders was followed in developing the programming paper for the LDCF. The most relevant meeting was the GEF-LDC consultation held in Dhaka from 4–6 April 2006, hosted by the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh through its Ministry of Environment and Forests. The consultation, financed by the LDCF, was aimed at strengthening the ongoing dialogue among the LDCs and the GEF with respect to issues related to adaptation to climate change in general and the role of the LDCF to support LDCs to meet their adaptation needs in particular. The results of the consultation were reflected in a revised version of the LDCF programming paper which was circulated to workshop participants and donors following the Dhaka meeting.

The LDCF programming paper

15. The document Programming Paper for *Funding the Implementation of NAPAs under the LDCF Trust Fund* comprises all elements listed above in the guidance from the COP. The LDCF is administratively separate from the GEF Trust Fund and operates through its own set of rules and procedures. Its implementation includes innovative elements linked to the unique circumstances of the LDCs based upon specific COP guidance.
16. In particular, the innovative elements are reflected in the following principles:
 - (a) Option for full cost funding for adaptation;
 - (b) The concept of additional costs of adaptation;
 - (c) A sliding scale as a tool to simplify project submissions and costs calculations;
 - (d) Existing development funds as basis for co-financing; and
 - (e) Expedited project cycle, including
 - i) MSPs up to US\$2 million;
 - ii) Submission of projects on a rolling basis (as opposed to fixed dates and deadlines);
 - iii) No objection-based approval: four written objections enough to stop (projects cannot be vetoed by one single party);
 - iv) Faster access to GEF/LDCF funding.

17. These principles set programming under the LDCF apart from programming under the GEF Trust Fund. LDCF projects are not funded on the basis of incremental costs. They are not expected to deliver global environmental benefits. The resources under the LDCF are outside the RAF. They are processed and approved through a simplified, transparent project cycle. The programming modalities of the LDCF will be kept under review and revised as necessary to take into account evolving guidance from the COP on the LDCF, advice from the LDC Expert Group and lessons learned in financing the implementation of NAPAs.

Mobilization of resources for the LDCF: Pledging meeting in Copenhagen

18. On 28 April 2006, the GEF organized a pledging meeting in Copenhagen, hosted by the Government of Denmark, to mobilize resources to fund the implementation of NAPAs. Participants welcomed the revised draft LDCF Programming Paper. They also embraced the proposed flexible approach proposed to streamline and simplify the procedures to meet the special needs of the LDCs with respect to adaptation to climate change.
19. At the pledging meeting, seven donors (Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom) made new pledges to the LDCF. In addition, three additional donors (New Zealand, Portugal, and Spain), although absent from the pledging meeting, made new pledges to the LDCF. The total new contributions pledged to the LDCF amount to US\$59.7 million. Adding together the available resources from previous contributions to these new amounts brings the total available resources under the LDCF to US\$89.6 million. Since these meetings were held, France has made a verbal pledge to the LDCF at the GEF Council meeting in June, and Italy announced a pledge of resources to the LDCF at the GEF Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa in August.
20. The first NAPA implementation project was submitted recently by the Royal Government of Bhutan with the assistance of UNDP. Several others are currently under preparation. For more detailed information, see *Programming Paper for Funding the Implementation of NAPAs under the LDC Trust Fund*⁴ and *Status Report on the Climate Change Funds*⁵.

B. Additional Guidance to an Operating Entity (Decision 5/CP.11)

COP 11 guidance

21. In decision 5/CP.11 on "*Additional guidance to an operating entity of the financial mechanism,*" paragraph 1, the COP requested the GEF, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, to include in its regular report to the COP information on:
 - (a) The initial application of the Resource Allocation Framework to resources allocated in the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility that is operational from July 2006, focusing on the climate change focal area;
 - (b) How the Resource Allocation Framework is likely to affect funding available to developing countries for the implementation of their commitments under the Convention.
22. In decision 5/CP.11, paragraph 2, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 4, of the Convention, and decision 11/CP.1, to assist, if so requested, Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention in formulating and developing project proposals identified in their national communications, when Parties are formulating their national programmes to address climate change issues.

4 GEF/C.28/18

5 GEF C/28./4/Rev.1

23. In decision 5/CP.11, paragraph 3, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to consider whether supporting carbon capture and storage technologies, in particular related capacity-building activities, would be consistent with its strategies and objectives, and if so, how they could be incorporated within its operational programmes.
24. In decision 5/CP.11, paragraph 4, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to the COP at its twelfth session (November 2006) information on specific steps undertaken to implement decisions relating to paragraphs 2 and 3 above.

GEF response

The Resource Allocation Framework

25. With respect to the RAF, in accordance with decision 5/CP.11, the GEF was requested to report on (a) the initial application of the RAF to resources allocated in GEF-4, focusing on the climate change focal area; and (b) how the RAF is likely to affect funding available to developing countries for the implementation of their commitments under the Convention.
26. The RAF is intended to enhance the impact of the limited resources available to the GEF on the global environment by channeling resources toward countries with the greatest potential to generate global benefits and the best performance. It is designed to enhance transparency by specifying a well-defined and publicly disclosed method for allocating GEF resources among eligible countries; improve predictability regarding availability of resources to countries; and provide a framework for countries to program these resources in accordance with national priorities and commitments to global environmental conventions. Each country can propose projects for GEF funding that are consistent with GEF operational policies, principles, and priorities that best meet its commitments to the global environmental conventions.
27. With the successful conclusion of the fourth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, the GEF Secretariat has informed GEF Operational Focal Points in GEF-recipient countries the initial indicative allocations available to them for programming in the climate change focal area for GEF-4 and has also published the same on its website. Countries can program up to half of the initial indicative allocations during the first two years of GEF-4 and submit proposals to the GEF in accordance with national priorities, Convention commitments, and GEF operational priorities and criteria. The indicative allocations may vary in the second half of GEF-4, depending on the actual resources available to the GEF and the performance of each country.
28. National focal points in GEF-recipient countries are expected to play an important role in facilitating a consultative process in their respective countries that leads to the best use of resources. The GEF Council has expanded support for GEF national focal point development and national capacity building so that countries can better address global environmental challenges and strengthen their capacities to work through the RAF approach. To this end, two new initiatives – CSP for Focal Points and the GEF National Dialogue Initiative – have provided opportunities for stakeholders to seek clarification and provide feedback about the RAF.
29. To facilitate the implementation of the RAF, between March and August 2006, the CEO of the GEF wrote three letters to the GEF Operational Focal Points to provide information regarding the implementation of the RAF and to inform them of the assistance available to help countries manage the GEF resources and prioritize country-driven projects for GEF funding. In this respect, the GEF Secretariat has published

Guidelines for Country Operational Focal Points to Manage GEF Resources, RAF at a Glance, Frequently Asked Questions, and other information on its website, and has communicated such information directly to all GEF Operational Focal Points in the countries.

30. The GEF convened eight sub-regional workshops from April to August 2006 for national focal points for GEF to provide in-depth information on the implementation of the RAF and to discuss and address related questions and issues. The consultations also helped identify the needs and areas for capacity building to support the GEF Operational Focal Points in light of their enhanced roles under the RAF. After the workshops, the participants were better informed about the RAF and its impact on GEF operations and were committed to sharing this information with a wide range of local stakeholders in their home countries. Many participants expressed appreciation for the adoption of the RAF as it will provide countries greater control over their programming of GEF resources.
31. The RAF will not affect funding available to developing countries for the implementation of their second national communication commitments under the UNFCCC. As previously reported upon, the NCSP was approved as a US\$60 million project in November, 2003. It provides funding for 129 countries to prepare their second national communications from the resources available under GEF-3.

Developing project proposals

32. The GEF was requested by decision 5/CP.11 to report on the specific steps taken to assist non-Annex I Parties, when requested, in formulating and developing project proposals identified in their national communications, when Parties are formulating their national programs to address climate change issues, in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 4, of the Convention and decision 11/CP.1.
33. During the current reporting period, the GEF allocated a total of US\$358 million to 66 projects to non-Annex I Parties to the Convention and other GEF-eligible countries. These projects continue to be country-driven, supporting the priority areas of climate change identified in the national communications and other national plans in the respective countries.
34. The GEF and its Implementing Agencies, particularly UNDP and UNEP, are responsible for supporting countries in implementing enabling activities to prepare second and subsequent national communications. In the past, a number of projects identified in enabling activities were funded by the GEF and other sources of funding. As part of the process of preparing second and subsequent national communications, the Implementing Agencies are making special efforts to advise countries on the practicality of obtaining funding for projects identified in the second and subsequent national communications that are suitable for funding from a number of sources, including the GEF. The adoption of the RAF will impose a discipline on programming that should make it easier for countries to obtain funding for priority projects identified as part of the national communications projects.

Support of carbon capture and storage technologies

35. The GEF was requested by decision 5/CP.11 to report on the specific steps taken to consider whether supporting CCS technologies, in particular, related capacity-building activities, would be consistent with its strategies and objectives, and if so, how they could be incorporated within its operational programs.
36. As CCS is a new technology, the GEF Secretariat considers it appropriate to draw upon the expertise of the GEF STAP to formulate a reasonable approach and to provide the support requested by the COP in the most efficient and appropriate manner. Consequently, in July 2006, the GEF Secretariat formally requested STAP to provide input and advice to the GEF Secretariat and Council regarding CCS and the related COP decision.

37. In response to the GEF Secretariat's request, STAP proposed that a paper be commissioned and a review meeting be convened, with the participation of 4-5 experts, including those from developing countries. The output of the review meeting would be a state-of-the-art understanding of CCS technologies, taking into account the existing body of knowledge and ongoing work on CCS by the IPCC and other relevant entities working in this area, including technological development, economics, environmental risks, and the needs for capacity building in developing countries; feedback on the consistency (and/or lack of) of supporting CCS technologies with GEF strategies and objectives; and the potential role of the GEF in supporting capacity building of CCS technologies over the next 5-10 years. STAP is currently working on commissioning the paper and arranging the review meeting.

C. National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties (Decision 8/CP.11)

COP 11 guidance

38. In decision 8/CP.11 on "*Submission of second and, where appropriate, third national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention,*" the COP acknowledged that the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, has agreed to fund, and has approved the funds for, the preparation of national communications, and has agreed on the Operational Procedures for Expedited Financing of National Communications from non-Annex I Parties.
39. In decision 8/CP.11, paragraph 5, the COP decided that any extensions (related to 8/CP.11) shall not imply additional financial resources from the Global Environment Facility.
40. In this regard, following decision 8/CP.11, SBI 24 invited the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide information on activities of non-Annex I Parties relevant to the status of the preparation of their national communications and to provide, in addition to the dates of approval, information on the dates of disbursement of funds.

GEF response

Status of funding for SNCs

41. The GEF continued to provide financial support to 139 Parties to prepare their national communications for the UNFCCC. To date, 129 Parties have submitted their first national communications and are in varying stages of preparing the second, and in a few cases, third national communications. Eleven Parties are still preparing their initial national communications, out of which one non-Annex I Party is preparing its national communications without seeking GEF assistance. The status of funding within the reporting period is included in Annexes 6-A and 6-B to the GEF report to COP 12.
42. As requested by the UNFCCC Secretariat, information on the date of initial disbursement of financial resources to individual non-Annex I Party is reflected in the GEF report to COP 12. In the case of parties choosing the expedited process to access GEF resources, the date for initial disbursement reflects the date when the initial payment was advanced to the country for undertaking the agreed activities in preparation for the national communications. Prior to this disbursement, many countries received funding for conducting stakeholder workshops to plan for the activities to be undertaken in the preparation of the national communications. This funding has not been considered initial disbursement in the table as it was prior to submission of the project document by the country to prepare the national communications. The data are based on the information provided by the banks concerned to the national representatives of the implementing agency.

43. For Parties which have chosen to use the non-expedited full project cycle to access GEF resources, the date of initial disbursement reflects the date when the Party received funding for project development and preparation (PDF-B).

Buenos Aires, Argentina



XVIII. COP 10 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The tenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) was held from 6–17 December 2004 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Decisions at COP 10 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance are included in its report to COP 11.¹ The reporting period is from 1 July 2004, to 30 August 2005.

A. Buenos Aires Programme of Work on Adaptation and Response Measures (Decision 1/CP.10)

COP 10 guidance

2. In decision 1/CP.10 on “*Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures*,” paragraph 5, the COP decided to further the implementation of actions under decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 7, including through:
 - (a) Information and methodologies
 - i) Improving data collection and information gathering, and the analysis, interpretation and dissemination of such data and information to end-users, under decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 7 (a) (i), within and by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) which are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including through the enhancement of systematic observation and monitoring networks in countries with observation stations that feed into the Global Climate Observing System and through increased data sharing between Parties, particularly among Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) and among non-Annex I Parties;
 - ii) Strengthening in-country capacity-building for generating, managing, processing and analysing data sets, for improving the quality of analytical tools, and for disseminating the results of these efforts in sectors that can contribute to climate change impact analysis, including through the development and strengthening of in-country modelling tools to assess the adverse effects of climate change and drivers of regional climate trends;
 - iii) Providing additional training in each specialized field relevant to adaptation identified in decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 7 (a) (iii), in order to create and sustain in-country capacity, including through overseas training, scholarship programmes and workshops, according to needs identified by Parties;

¹ GEF responses to COP 10 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 11 (FCCC/CP/2005/3) was compiled (4 October 2005), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 11 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600003550>.

- iv) Improving the availability of General Circulation Models, including their outputs and results, and providing training and financial and technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties for the development and application of downscaling tools at regional and national levels;
 - v) Strengthening institutions and centres through targeted research programmes under decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 7 (a) (v) and (vi), to address the adverse effects of climate change in vulnerable sectors;
 - vi) Supporting education and training in, and public awareness of, issues relating to climate change under decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 7 (a) (vii), as well as stakeholder participation in key sectors;
- (b) Vulnerability and adaptation
- i) Carrying out pilot and demonstration projects under decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 7 (b) (v), in particular to take forward adaptation projects identified in national communications and other relevant sources, including activities that strengthen adaptive capacity;
 - ii) Enhancing technical training for integrated climate change impact and vulnerability assessment across all relevant sectors, and for environmental management relating to climate change under decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 7 (b) (ii);
 - iii) Promoting the transfer of technologies for adaptation under decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 7 (b) (iv), on an urgent basis in priority sectors, including agriculture and water resources, for example through the exchange of experiences and lessons learned in enhancing resilience to the adverse effects of climate change in key sectors;
 - iv) Building capacity, including institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness and management of disasters relating to climate change, including contingency planning, in particular for droughts and floods and extreme weather events, in accordance with decision 5/CP.7, paragraphs 7 (b) (vi) and 8 (c).
3. In decision 1/CP.10, paragraph 6, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session and subsequent sessions on how the above-mentioned activities have been supported, and the barriers, obstacles and opportunities presented, through:
- (a) The strategic priority "Piloting an Operational Approach to Adaptation";
 - (b) The small grants programme;
 - (c) Efforts to address adaptation in the climate change focal area and to mainstream it into other focal areas of the GEF;
 - (d) The LDCF and efforts to finance the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action;
 - (e) The SCCF.
4. In decision 1/CP.10, paragraph 7, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to expand support for the elaboration of adaptation strategies as part of the national communication process in non-Annex I Parties.
5. In decision 1/CP.10, paragraph 2, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility and other bilateral and multilateral sources to provide feedback to the Conference of the Parties, at its twelfth session (November 2006), on activities undertaken in response to decision 5/CP.7, paragraphs 22–29 (in

accordance with decisions 6/CP.7 and 7/CP.7), with a view to the Conference of the Parties adopting a decision on further action at its thirteenth session.

GEF response

Activities to address the adverse impacts of climate change

6. In response to various COP decisions, the GEF currently has three avenues open for funding activities focusing on the adverse impacts of climate change: the SPA under the GEF Trust Fund, LDCF, and SCCF. Activities funded under the SPA receive funding from the GEF Trust Fund and are expected to generate global environmental benefits. Activities supported under the LDCF are intended to address the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of the Least Developed Countries. Adaptation efforts supported under the SCCF are aimed at addressing adaptation to climate change in key development sectors, such as water, agriculture, and health. In addition, the GEF is taking preliminary steps to operationalize the Adaptation Fund to further support adaptation activities. In response to a request from the COP 10, each of these sources of adaptation funding is addressed below.

Strategic priority "Piloting an operational approach to adaptation"

7. During COP 7 in 2001, the UNFCCC requested that the GEF provide financial resources for "establishing pilot or demonstration projects to show how adaptation planning and assessment can be practically translated into projects that will provide real benefits, and may be integrated into national policy and sustainable development planning on the basis of information provided in the national communications, or of in-depth national studies²." In response to this guidance, the GEF established the Strategic Priority "Piloting an Operational Approach to Adaptation (SPA)". In financing adaptation activities, the GEF Council requested that SPA projects "are consistent with the principles of the Trust Fund, including criteria concerning incremental costs and global environmental benefits³".
8. An indicative target of US\$50m for the SPA was included in the GEF Business Plan in November 2003. While the first MSP's under the SPA were approved during the current reporting period, the first full-sized projects funded under the SPA are expected to be included in the November 2005 Work Program.
9. The overall objective of the SPA is to support pilot and demonstration projects that both address local adaptation needs and generate global environmental benefits in the focal areas in which the GEF works: biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Projects that generate both local (development-focused) and global benefits will be eligible under the SPA if their benefits are considered to be primarily global in nature. The approach adopted to design these initiatives is expected to be consistent with rigorous scientific methodologies and best practice as demonstrated in scientific papers and peer-reviewed publications. The SPA will support activities that increase adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change in any of the GEF focal areas.
10. The need to promote integration between the climate change, biodiversity and desertification conventions has been endorsed by Parties, the Convention Secretariats and numerous scientific bodies. In the GEF context, synergies among conventions imply the need for integration between GEF focal areas. Adaptation to climate change offers a unique concrete opportunity to test these linkages at the operational level.

2 FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1, decision 6/CP.7.

3 Joint Summary of the Chairs, GEF Council meeting (19–21 May 2004), paragraph 26, pp 4

The Small Grants Programme and adaptation

11. Among the activities being prepared for support under the SPA is a US\$5m program to provide support to adaptation activities under the SGP. This project is expected to enter a GEF work program in early 2006.
12. This SGP adaptation program is expected to: (i) develop a framework, including new knowledge and capacity, to respond to unique community-based adaptation needs; (ii) identify and finance diverse community-based adaptation projects in a number of selected countries; and (iii) capture and disseminate lessons learned at the community level to all stakeholders, including governments.
13. The program will focus initial pilot activities in Bolivia, Niger, Samoa and Bangladesh, where local communities are actively participating in the preparation phase of the project. Six more countries will be selected for inclusion after the preparation phase is completed.

Least Developed Countries Fund

14. In 2001, COP 7 established the LDCF to address the special needs of the LDCs, taking into account their extreme vulnerability to climate change and their limited adaptive capacity. In response to this guidance from the COP, the GEF has operationalized the LDCF. To date, these operations include support to the full cost of the preparation of NAPAs. The majority of LDCs have received funds to prepare their NAPAs, many of which are now close to completion. NAPAs are aimed at identifying priority activities addressing the urgent and immediate needs of the LDCs relating to adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change. The GEF is currently consulting with the LDCs, donors, implementing agencies and others on how to move from the preparation of NAPAs to the implementation phase.
15. Initial voluntary contributions to the LDCF amount to US\$32.9m. Of this amount, about US\$12m has been allocated to NAPA preparation. In addition to the remaining US\$22.0m, the GEF is expected to mobilize additional funds to implement the projects identified in the NAPAs. After a significant number of NAPAs are completed and a programming paper is prepared, a meeting with donor countries to mobilize additional funds will be held (expected in 2006).
16. The overall objective of the adaptation program under the LDCF is to meet the urgent and immediate needs of the LDCs with respect to adaptation to climate change, as identified and prioritized in the NAPAs.

Special Climate Change Fund

17. The SCCF was established in response to guidance to the GEF from the COP at its seventh session. Parties agreed that the SCCF should support activities in the following areas: (a) adaptation; (b) technology transfer; (c) energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry, and waste management; and (d) economic diversification.
18. To date, guidance has been received for supporting adaptation—which is given the top priority—and technology transfer under the SCCF.
19. The GEF Council approved a proposed program outlining plans to utilize SCCF resources in November 2004.⁴ Subsequently, the GEF Secretariat met with donor countries and mobilized an initial US\$34m in pledges, of which approximately US\$33m are allocated to adaptation and US\$1m to technology transfer.
20. As called for in the guidance, the overall objective of adaptation projects under the SCCF is to address the adverse impacts of climate change. These activities will be country-driven, consistent with country's

⁴ GEF/C.24/12.

priorities, and integrated into development plans, projects and programs. Another objective of adaptation activities financed under the fund will be to support capacity building, project preparatory work, and awareness raising.

21. Activities will be implemented, inter alia, in the following areas: (a) water resources management; (b) land management; (c) agriculture; (d) health; (e) infrastructure development; (f) fragile ecosystems, including mountainous ecosystems; and (g) integrated coastal zone management.

B. Capacity-Building for Developing Countries (Decision 2/CP.10)

COP 10 guidance

22. In decision 2/CP.10 on "*Capacity-building for developing countries (non-Annex I Parties)*," paragraph 1, the COP decided that the scope of capacity-building needs, as contained in the framework for capacity-building in developing countries, annexed to decision 2/CP.7, is still relevant and that the following are key factors that should be taken into account and could assist in the further implementation of decision 2/CP.7:
 - (a) To make institutional capacity-building a priority for the creation and strengthening of basic institutional infrastructure;
 - (b) To raise awareness at various levels on climate change issues and increase the involvement of national governmental organizations in capacity-building activities;
 - (c) To develop and, where appropriate, promote exchange of best practices, experiences, and information on capacity-building activities undertaken by various Parties, including financial resources, case studies and tools for capacity-building;
 - (d) To ensure effectiveness of capacity-building activities so that:
 - i) They enhance the ability of developing country Parties to implement the Convention and to participate effectively in the Kyoto Protocol process; and
 - ii) Initial and subsequent national communications and national adaptation programmes of action provide a good measure of successful capacity-building as it relates to the implementation of the Convention
 - iii) Capacity-building is integrated as a priority by policy and decision makers
 - iv) Long-term sustainability of capacity-building activities is achieved through integration in planning processes
 - (e) Financial and technical resources should be made available, through an operating entity of the financial mechanism and, as appropriate, through multilateral and bilateral agencies and the private sector, to assist developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States among them, in the implementation of this framework;
 - (f) To further apply learning-by-doing approaches for capacity-building by supporting various types of capacity-building activities, projects and programmes at the national and local levels;

- (g) To continue to improve international donor coordination in the provision of financial resources, and to harmonize donor support in alignment with national priorities, plans and strategies;
 - (h) To ensure that resources are made available for the implementation of capacity-building activities;
 - (i) To strengthen institutional arrangements at the national level to coordinate implementation consistent with decision 2/CP.7 as a way of promoting integration of climate change issues into the national planning processes so as to increase effectiveness and sustainability of outcomes.
23. In decision 2/CP.10, paragraph 3, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, to take into account the key factors identified in paragraph 1 of this decision in the context of the projects of the operating entity of the financial mechanism, when supporting capacity-building activities in developing countries in accordance with decisions 2/CP.7 and 4/CP.9 and as defined in the Strategic Approach to Enhance Capacity-Building.⁵
24. In decision 2/CP.10, paragraph 6, the COP requests the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to the Conference of Parties, at its eleventh session (November–December 2005), information on how it is responding to this decision.
25. In decision 2/CP.10, paragraph 9, the COP requested the [UNFCCC] Secretariat to disseminate, in cooperation with the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies, an information document on best practices, lessons learned in capacity-building projects and programmes, and to facilitate its publication through the UNFCCC web site.

GEF response

26. Capacity building has always been a critical element of GEF climate change projects and more generally in almost all GEF activities. A review undertaken by the GEF Implementing Agencies to assess the role of capacity building in GEF projects found that GEF support for capacity building activities in all its focal areas exceeded US\$ 1.46 billion as of June 2002. The important role the GEF plays in the area of capacity building was recognized by the COP.⁶
27. This section focuses on the implementation of the GEF strategic approach to enhance capacity building through GEF projects approved during the reporting period. The strategy responds to 2/CP.10 and 2/CP.7 by focusing on institutional capacity building and integrating climate change issues in various sectors of the economy and in poverty reduction strategies and programs, as well into general sustainable development strategies.
28. The COP decisions on capacity building notes that there is no “one size fits all” formula for capacity building. Capacity building must be country-driven, addressing the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and reflecting their national sustainable development strategies, priorities and initiatives. It is primarily to be undertaken by, and in, developing countries. The special circumstances of least developed countries and small islands developing States need in particular to be taken into account.⁷
29. The GEF’s main support for capacity building continues to be through its projects supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation. However, following the COP decision, the GEF jointly with the implementing agencies implemented the initial strategy of the GEF Strategic Approach, Pathway I – National Capacity Self Assessment. By September 2005, 153 countries were engaged in this programme,

5 GEF/C.22/8.

6 Decision 10/CP.5.

7 Decision 2/CP.7 (Annex).

preparing to identify and prioritize their capacity needs, based on the country's circumstances, existing strengths and gaps. The NCSAs aim to facilitate an inclusive, comprehensive review and assessment of the country's capacity—strengths and needs—to manage global and national environmental issues, including UNFCCC. The NCSA action plan is expected to outline priority strategies and actions for developing capacities to address the priority issues identified, responding as well to 2/CP.7 and 2/CP.10.

Follow-up of NCSAs

30. Responding to the COP decision to ensure that resources are also made available for the implementation of capacity-building activities, not just for assessments⁸ a follow-up program to the NCSAs has been initiated by GEF to consider financing free-standing, capacity-building projects that address national priority capacity needs identified in the NCSA and responding to 2/CP.7 and 2/CP.10. The projects need to clearly demonstrate country ownership and based on synergies with other relevant environmental conventions as demonstrated by NCSAs.
31. Such cross-cutting capacity building projects will use the GEF medium-sized project cycle with funding not exceeding the level provided to expedited enabling activities. The activities considered under this modality are likely to be ones that miss support through the main GEF project portfolio and cannot be included in GEF projects that address focal area strategic priorities.
32. Given the enabling nature of capacity building activities where the baseline cost to be met from other resources may be zero, activities will be funded on an agreed full-cost basis. However, partnership is central to sustaining capacity building activities and proposals ensuring national and local commitment and building on complimentary initiatives are to be encouraged. Partnership with other donors will be considered co-financing.

Country programs for LDCs and SIDS

33. The COP Framework for capacity building in developing countries asked that the special circumstances of least developed countries and small island developing States need to be taken into account in the implementation of this framework.⁹ The GEF is in the process of finalizing these operational modalities and project criteria for the enhancement of country capacity building programs for LDCs and SIDS. This modality will be in addition to the funding available to all eligible developing countries for following-up on NCSAs in response to the findings of the CDI (Capacity Development Initiative) that it was necessary to address critical capacity bottlenecks in the LDCs and SIDS in view of their special situations. This concern was later confirmed by OPS3.
34. It is expected that the country programs for LDCs and SIDS will provide limited financing at the country level managed through a multi-stakeholder decision making process, to provide flexibility and agility to the countries for agreeing on small amounts of targeted assistance to remove bottlenecks at the country level that inhibit good management of global environmental issues. Financing through such a mechanism should be based on identified priority needs highlighted through an NCSA or similar exercise.
35. The objective of the country programs is to facilitate critical, incremental improvements in the country's capacity to use and manage its natural resources and environment. This will be achieved by means of a flexible, country-driven program of incisive capacity development actions and its scope will include relevant areas identified in the Annex to 2/CP.7.
36. The country programs for LDCs and SIDS will fund modest, yet vital, capacity building actions by disbursing small grants through a country-based decision making process. The actions will meet critical needs to make a significant difference in the capacity of the country in a short time for a specific

8 Decision 2/CP.10, paragraph 1(h).

9 Decision 2/CP.7 ANNEX para 9 and 17.

purpose. Grants will be awarded to actions which target critical bottlenecks, and have consensus across the relevant GEF national focal areas and are geared to early outcomes.

37. Each country program will be a single MSP having its own justification, logical framework, outcomes, activities, risks and assumptions. Each country program will be of specific budgetary size and scope responding to the capacity gaps identified and action plan prepared through the NCSA or a similar country process.
38. Countries can submit requests for regional capacity action programs where there are significant similarities of national circumstances, and a regional response would better deliver economies of scale. An alternative mechanism will be for a regional action to be supported by several country programs.

Global support program for capacity building

39. The GEF has initiated a GSP managed jointly by UNDP and UNEP to provide technical backstopping to countries and ensuring timely completion of NCSAs. This is in addition to the NCSP though based in the same unit of UNDP-GEF for close collaboration. The GSP responds to decision 2/CP.7¹⁰ to facilitate dissemination and sharing of information on capacity building activities conducted by developing countries for better coordination and South-South cooperation. The aim is to meet this demand with the rapid mobilization of technical backstopping and opportunities for countries to share experiences related to the preparation of NCSAs.
40. The Support Program is structured as a learning process and knowledge management mechanism, with an initial emphasis on analyzing information and knowledge generated by the NCSA process, which will be used as substantive inputs in the development of the follow-up activities in four ways:
 - (i) Develop targets and indicators for capacity building in the context of the NCSAs
 - (ii) Generate regional synthesis reports and "good practices" documents, which could form a foundation in designing the other capacity building activities
 - (iii) Review previous and ongoing capacity development activities, and develop proposals for follow-up to NCSAs
 - (iv) Advise on ways to ensure the most effective and cost-efficient way of providing country-focused technical support services to all GEF enabling activities.
41. Currently the Global Support Program is organizing 10 regional and sub-regional workshops. These workshops starting with one for East Europe and Countries with Economies in Transition will be held in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean in the coming months.
42. The sub-regional training and exchange workshops are being organized through regional institutions on the basis of countries' needs. The workshops will address technical and implementation issues, while promoting the exchange of experiences and networking. GEF and Convention focal points will be invited to workshops to ensure that the NCSA remains anchored in ongoing political processes. Workshops will also be synchronized with related events/processes.
43. The regional institutions will work with countries to define training agendas, ensuring active engagement of national teams in workshop design and content. Given that countries will likely be at different levels of implementation, the workshops will need to bring together countries with similar needs at a given stage of the NCSA process with those countries that are more advanced in their NCSA process to promote south-south collaboration. This approach will ensure more effective training and opportunities for addressing gaps and building capacity.

¹⁰ Paragraph 19 of the Framework for capacity building in developing countries.

Indicators

44. In view of the COP decision¹¹, the GEF is developing targets and indicators for measuring the results and impacts of capacity building activities. The Capacity Building Global Support Program is undertaking the analytical work necessary to propose indicators that allow effective benchmarking and assessing of outcomes and impacts of the four pathways envisaged in the GEF Strategic Approach to Enhance Capacity Building. This is to be done in collaboration with the monitoring and evaluation units of GEF, UNDP, UNEP, and the World Bank. The indicators will be shared with the UNFCCC Secretariat.
45. Project preparation will also include indicators to assess the success of capacity building in terms that are as specific as possible. Indicators will be agreed with recipient countries on a project-by-project basis, and monitored by the Implementing and national executing agencies.

Small Grants Programme and capacity enhancement

46. The COP decision (2/CP.10) identified as a key factor the need for increasing the involvement of NGOs in capacity building activities. The GEF SGP is a direct response to this COP decision continuously increasing the involvement of NGOs and community groups in climate change activities thus strengthening the national capacity.
47. During the reporting period, the SGP awarded 174 grants to NGO's and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) for community-based climate change projects totaling US\$4.59m in GEF financing, in addition to US\$4.61m in co-financing (US\$2.48m in cash, and US\$2.13m in-kind).
48. Among the projects during the reporting period, 54 projects (31%) addressed issues related to removal of barriers to energy efficiency and energy conservation under OP5, 105 projects (60%) addressed issues related to promoting the adoption of renewable energy under OP6, while 15 projects (9%) addressed issues related to sustainable transport under OP11. About half (52%) of the projects incorporated capacity building and development aspects related to climate change in their design.
49. The projects are on-going and several categories of impacts or benefits are expected, including: informing policy options for promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency, capacity building and development of communities and stakeholders, direct local livelihoods benefits, direct avoidance and reduction of production of GHGs and formation of partnerships in promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, and environmentally sustainable transport.

C. Capacity-Building for Countries with Economies in Transition (Decision 3/CP.10)

COP 10 guidance

50. In decision 3/CP.10 on "*Capacity-building for countries with economies in transition,*" paragraph 2, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility within its mandate, Parties included in Annex II to the Convention (Annex II Parties), and multilateral, bilateral and other international organizations that are in a position to do so, to provide financial support for capacity-building activities in Parties with economies in transition, as outlined in decision 3/CP.7.
51. In decision 3/CP.10, paragraph 3, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility within its mandate and its implementing agencies, Annex II Parties and multilateral, bilateral and other international organizations to provide information regarding opportunities for technical and financial support for capacity-building activities in Parties with economies in transition.

¹¹ Decision 2/CP.10, paragraph 9 (c).

52. In decision 3/CP.10, paragraph 7, the COP decided to review the status of implementation of decision 3/CP.7 at SBI 27 (November 2007) in preparation for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, making use of information provided by Parties with economies in transition and Annex II Parties in their national communications and other relevant documents and information to be provided by the GEF and its implementing agencies, and bilateral, multilateral and other international agencies.
53. In decision 3/CP.10, paragraph 8, the COP requested the secretariat to prepare a compilation and synthesis of information provided by Parties with economies in transition and Annex II Parties for the above-mentioned review and make it available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its twenty-seventh session.
54. In decision 3/CP.10, paragraph 9, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies, and bilateral, multilateral and other international organizations, to provide information for the review of decision 3/CP.7 as indicated in paragraphs 7 and 8 above.

GEF response

55. See paragraphs 26 to 49 in this section.

D. Implementation of the New Delhi Work Programme (Decision 7/CP.10)

COP 10 guidance

56. In decision 7/CP.10 on "*Status of, and ways to enhance, implementation of the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention,*" paragraph 3, the COP urged the Global Environment Facility to continue its work in improving the access to, and visibility of, opportunities for funding Article 6 activities and in providing information on Article 6 activities in its reports to the Conference of the Parties.

GEF response

57. The GEF Secretariat is consulting with the Convention Secretariat and Implementing Agencies to consider the possibility of further supporting public awareness and education activities on climate change in response to the guidance of COP 10.
58. Following the completion of the regional workshops organized by the Convention Secretariat on Article 6 activities, the Implementing Agencies are discussing project ideas with Parties that fit the GEF operational criteria and enhance public awareness in a cost-effective manner. COP will be kept informed on the progress on these activities.

E. Additional Guidance to an Operating Entity (Decision 8/CP.10)

COP 10 guidance

59. In decision 8/CP.10 on “*Additional guidance to an operating entity of the financial mechanism,*” paragraph 1, the COP requests the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, to take into account, on matters relating to capacity-building, the key factors identified in paragraph 1 of decision 2/CP.10 in the context of projects of the operating entity of the financial mechanism, when supporting capacity-building activities in developing countries in accordance with decisions 2/CP.7 and 4/CP.9 and as defined in the Strategic Approach to Enhance Capacity-Building.¹²
60. In decision 8/CP.10, paragraph 2, the COP urged the Global Environment Facility, on matters relating to Article 6 of the Convention, to continue its work in improving access to, and visibility of, opportunities for funding Article 6 activities.
61. In decision 8/CP.10, paragraph 3, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session and at subsequent sessions on how activities identified in paragraph 6 of decision 1/CP.10 have been supported, and the barriers, obstacles and opportunities presented, through:
 - (a) The strategic priority “Piloting an Operational Approach to Adaptation”
 - (b) The small grants programme
 - (c) Efforts to address adaptation in the climate change focal area and to mainstream it into other focal areas of the GEF
 - (d) The Least Developed Countries Fund and efforts to finance the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action
 - (e) The Special Climate Change Fund
62. In decision 8/CP.10, paragraph 4, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, to make available further financial and technical resources to implement the actions identified in paragraph 7 of decision 5/CP.7.
63. In decision 8/CP.10, paragraph 5, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to expand support for the elaboration of adaptation strategies as part of the national communication process in Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.
64. In decision 8/CP.10, paragraph 6, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to COP 11 information on specific steps undertaken to implement this decision.
65. In decision 8/CP.10, paragraph 7, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility to provide feedback to the COP, at its twelfth session (November 2006), on activities undertaken in response to decision 5/CP.7, paragraphs 22–29 (in accordance with decisions 6/CP.7 and 7/CP.7), with a view to the Conference of the Parties adopting a decision on further action at its thirteenth session (November 2007).

¹² GEF/C.22/8.

GEF response

Capacity building

66. See paragraphs 26 to 49 in this section.

Article 6

67. See paragraphs 57 and 58 in this section.

Activities to address the adverse impacts of climate change

68. See paragraphs 6 to 21 in this section.

National communications

69. The COP at its ninth session requested the GEF to closely monitor the performance of the global project to support the preparation of national communications and to provide financing in a timely manner for the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties whose project activities are not covered by the global project.¹³
70. Following the Operational Procedures for the Expedited Financing of National Communications from non-Annex I Parties¹⁴, the majority of the countries have already requested GEF funds for the self-assessment exercise recommended as a first step in preparing project proposals for NC. Since April 2004, UNDP and UNEP have approved 103 country requests for assistance to conduct stocktaking.
71. Phase II of the NCSP began its activities in June 2005. Based on the success of the NCSP Phase I, the objective of this program is to provide technical assistance to all non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their national communications. The NCSP will focus on sharing best practices, lessons learnt, knowledge network support, targeted training activities and the development of methodologies and tools.
72. One of the first activities of the NCSP is the organization of an initiation workshop for those countries already preparing their second national communications, to discuss implementation strategies for the different components of the national communications and technical assistance needs. Upon the kind invitation of the Government of Georgia, the workshop will be held in Tbilisi, Georgia from 26–28 October 2005. The participation of experts in this workshop will be funded from co-financing provided by the government of Switzerland.
73. Non-Annex I Parties are further being requested through a questionnaire to identify their technical assistance needs to ensure that NCSP and the Implementing Agencies tailor their services appropriately.
74. The Advisory Committee of the NCSP met in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 1 October 2005, to discuss the work plan of the activities of the NCSP for the next two years to ensure that the implementation of the program is consistent with the guidance provided by the COP. In addition, each Implementing Agency has provided a full status report of the funding provided to non-Annex I Parties for the preparation of their national communications, and has reported not only on difficulties arising from implementation of GEF projects in countries, but also on success stories from which the lessons can be used and replicated. The Advisory Committee meeting was held back-to-back with a training workshop of the UNFCCC Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) on national communications.
75. The Chair of the CGE participated at the NCSP Advisory Committee meeting to report on CGE activities. This is to ensure full coordination between the NCSP and the CGE.

13 Decision 4/CP.9.

14 GEF/C.22/Inf.16.

Impact of implementing response measures¹⁵

76. Taking into account of previous relevant COP decisions, the GEF was requested to report on activities undertaken in response to decision 5/CP.7, paragraphs 22–29 (in accordance with decisions 6/CP.7 and 7/CP.7).
77. Much of the GEF assistance for renewable energy projects has supported research and development and use of renewable energy highlighting opportunities for diversification of supply in the energy sector. During the reporting period, the GEF funded 18 renewable energy projects totaling US\$123 million in GEF financing. In fact, during the 15-year history of the GEF, funding for renewable energy has been growing steadily, totaling nearly US\$1.2 billion (OP6 and OP7). Some of these projects were based in countries with economies that are highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing and export of fossil fuels.
78. The GEF has also followed the upsurge of activities financed by Annex II Parties to explore technological option of CCS, applied to large stationary sources of CO₂ emissions, as detailed above. A STAP report on this topic will be ready in time for events planned in 2007.

F. Assessment of Funding to Assist Developing Countries (Decision 9/CP.10)

COP 10 guidance

79. In decision 9/CP.10 on “*Assessment of funding to assist developing countries in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention,*” paragraph 1, the COP decided that the report on the assessment of funding necessary to assist developing countries in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention shall constitute an input of the COP to the fourth replenishment negotiations of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.
80. In decision 9/CP.10, paragraph 2, the COP urged the Global Environment Facility Council to ensure that adequate funding is available to enable developing countries to meet their commitments under the Convention, taking into account Article 4, paragraph 7, as well as Article 11, paragraph 5, of the Convention which provides that developed country Parties may also provide through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels financial resources relating to the implementation of the Convention by developing country Parties.

GEF response

81. Information on the GEF-4 replenishment process was included in the GEF report to COP 11.

¹⁵ This part is included in the GEF report to COP 12.

Milan, Italy



XIX. COP 9 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) was held from 1–12 December 2003 in Milan, Italy. Decisions at COP 9 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance are included in its report to COP 10.¹ The reporting period is FY 2004, from 1 July 2003, to 30 June 2004.

A. Report of the GEF to the COP (Decision 3/CP.9)

COP 9 guidance

2. In decision 3/CP.9 on “Report of the GEF to the COP,” paragraph 1, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to include, in its report to the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties:
 - (a) Information on the implementation of the strategic approach to enhancing capacity-building in response to decisions 2/CP.7 and 3/CP.7;
 - (b) Information on its support for the implementation of the framework for meaningful and effective actions to enhance the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 5, of the Convention.
3. Furthermore, SBSTA 24 invited SBI 25 to request the Global Environment Facility, when providing support for TNAs, in accordance with decisions 4/CP.9 and 5/CP.9, to take into account actions to address barriers and constraints as well as the creation of enabling environments and capacity gaps, identified by the non-Annex I Parties as contained in a synthesis report prepared by the UNFCCC Secretariat.²

GEF response

Capacity building

4. Capacity building has always been a critical element of GEF climate change projects and more generally in almost all GEF activities. A review undertaken by the GEF Implementing Agencies to assess the role of capacity building in GEF projects found that GEF support for capacity building activities in all its focal areas exceeded US\$ 1.46 billion as of June 2002. The important role the GEF plays in the area of capacity building was recognized by the COP.³ It is also recognized that the GEF is not the only source to support countries’ capacity building to implement the UNFCCC. A more comprehensive report on GEF support for capacity building will be disseminated separately at COP 10. The GEF report to COP 10

1 GEF responses to COP 9 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 10 (FCCC/CP/2004/6) was compiled (7 October 2004), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 10 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?priref=600003268>.

2 FCCC/SBSTA/2006/INF.1.

3 Decision 10/CP.5.

focuses on the new GEF strategic approach to enhance capacity building and the implementation of this approach based on GEF projects approved during the reporting period.

5. With a view to preparing a comprehensive approach for developing the capacities needed at the country level to meet the challenges of global environmental action, the GEF Secretariat and UNDP managed the CDI in 2000 and 2001. The CDI was undertaken to: (i) make a broad assessment of capacity building needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition; (ii) take stock of earlier and ongoing efforts to assist national capacity building; and (iii) prepare a strategy as a basis for strengthening the GEF portfolio. The results of the CDI were, at each stage, shared with the Parties to UNFCCC.
6. To further respond to requests from the conventions, including the capacity building framework contained in decisions 2/CP.7 and 3/CP.7 and based on the CDI results, the GEF Council approved a Strategic Approach to Enhanced Capacity Building in November 2003. The Strategic Approach proposed that resources be channeled through the following pathways: 1) national capacity self-assessments, 2) strengthening the capacity building components of GEF projects, 3) targeted capacity building projects within focal areas, and 4) activities to critical crosscutting capacity building needs, especially for LDCs and SIDS.
7. The proposed pathways are intended to complement each other and should together be able to cover capacity building at systemic, institutional, and individual levels for both non-Annex I countries and economies in transition and thus contribute directly and indirectly to the implementation of the capacity building framework of the UNFCCC. The GEF business plan for 2005-2007 identified capacity building as a strategic priority of the GEF within each of the focal areas as well as an additional cross cutting priority and anticipated resources to support capacity building in countries.

Technology transfer

8. Almost all climate change projects funded from the GEF Trust Fund are concerned with either the initial introduction of modern technologies in developing countries or dissemination and broadening of their application. As the discussion of technology transfer under the UNFCCC has identified, a number of factors related to capacity building and enabling environments are crucial for successful technology transfer. This insight as well as other aspects of the UNFCCC Technology Transfer Framework (decision 4/CP.7) has been further integrated in the GEF programming framework.

B. Additional Guidance to an Operating Entity of the Financial Mechanism (Decision 4/CP.9)

COP 9 guidance

9. In decision 4/CP.9 on “Additional guidance to an operating entity of the financial mechanism,” paragraph 1, the COP decided that the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, should:
 - (a) On matters relating to national communications:
 - i) Closely monitor the performance of the global project to support the preparation of national communications, including its effectiveness and efficiency, and continue to ensure that implementation of this project is consistent with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;

- ii) Provide finance in a timely manner for the preparation of national communications by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) whose project activities are not covered by the global project;
- (c) On matters relating to capacity-building:
- i) Continue to provide financial support to non-Annex I Parties, in accordance with decision 6/CP.7, for the implementation of the capacity-building framework annexed to decision 2/CP.7;
 - ii) Take into account, in its work relating to the development of capacity-building performance indicators for the climate change focal area, the capacity-building framework annexed to decision 2/CP.7, and undertake this work in consultation with the Convention secretariat;
 - iii) Provide financial support to countries with economies in transition, within its mandate, for the implementation of the capacity-building framework annexed to decision 3/CP.7;
- (d) On matters relating to transfer of technology, continue to support enabling activities relating to technology needs assessments.
10. In decision 4/CP.9, paragraph 2, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility:
- (a) To continue its support for education, training and public awareness activities relating to climate change;
 - (b) To operationalize the new strategic priority in the climate change focal area (Piloting an operational approach to adaptation) as soon as possible;
 - (c) To include in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session information on specific steps undertaken to implement this decision.
11. In decision 4/CP.9, paragraph 3, the Conference of the Parties invited the Global Environment Facility to give appropriate consideration to addressing the priority needs identified by non-Annex I Parties in their regional action plans relating to global observing systems for climate, noting the existence of other bilateral and multilateral agencies and mechanisms that support global climate observing systems.

GEF response

12. To address the additional guidance, the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies reviewed current practices and considered whether new measures would be needed to ensure that the guidance was implemented. On-going approaches to other issues identified in the guidance will be continued and strengthened where necessary in response to country driven requests for projects.
13. The GEF has consistently strived to implement Convention guidance of the COP. Previous GEF reports to the COP have reported on these efforts. In addition to approval of GEF project activities in the climate change area, other activities undertaken during the reporting period responsive to earlier guidance as well as guidance contained in the relevant decisions adopted by the COP at its ninth session include measures to address national communications, climate change funds, capacity building, implementation of operational approach to adaptation, and other matters.

National communications

14. *Operational Procedures for the Expedited Financing of National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties*⁴ have been circulated in November 2003 after the Council approved expedited support for second national communications in May 2003. In order to further streamline the approval process for individual projects under expedited procedures, the project entitled National Communications Program for Climate Change (thereafter referred to as National Communications Program) was approved by the Council in November 2003. Under this program, UNDP and UNEP are authorized to approve projects that are in conformity with the operational procedures. Funds were approved for expedited financing to up to 130 countries. It is forecast that approximately 100 countries will work with UNDP and 30 will work with UNEP. This forecast is based on experience and operations in assisting countries to prepare their first national communications. For countries wishing to work with the World Bank through expedited procedures, a similar programmatic approach may be approved by the Council.
15. On the basis of experience in assisting countries to prepare first national communications, a technical support program (the National Communication Support Program - NCSP) has also been approved, with the objective of assisting all recipient countries. Throughout the support program, feedback from the countries will be solicited so that the program can target its service in countries with implementation difficulties and improve its responsiveness to country needs.
16. This global project provides for monitoring of the implementation of the project through a number of institutional arrangements. The program's Advisory Committee focuses on co-ordination issues. The Committee meets at regular intervals to keep fully apprised of the implementation of the program and to ensure that the implementation of the project is consistent with the guidance provided by the COP and that finance is provided in a timely manner for the preparation of national communication by non-Annex I Parties. Each Implementing Agency and the Convention Secretariat are represented on the committee. Each agency will be requested to provide a full status report of the progress of the enabling activities it is managing. In particular, agencies are requested to report on difficulties arising from implementation of GEF projects in countries, experiences of monitoring and evaluation, and progress on capacity building and mainstreaming. The committee annually reviews activities of the Support Program taking into account country feedback. The Chair of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) in an ex-officio capacity will report to this Committee on the activities of the Consultative Group of Experts on non-Annex I National Communications to ensure full co-ordination and non-duplication of activities. This is in line with the conclusions of SBI 20 that called on the CGE to interact more closely with the NCSP and avoid duplication of efforts.
17. The Project Implementation Committee (UNDP, UNEP, World Bank) is responsible for reviewing management of technical issues. It meets every month through teleconference to ensure that close collaboration takes place between the Implementing Agencies for all activities, including issues related to the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I countries whose projects are not covered by the National Communication Program.

Capacity building

18. See paragraphs 4 to 7 in this section.

Technical needs assessment

19. Assistance for technology needs assessments was provided through additional financing, also known as "top-ups" to enabling activities for the first national communication. Around 100 non-Annex I countries received expedited funding for top-ups as of June 2004. With the start of the National Communication Program, a new practical and expeditious modality has been suggested for the GEF continued support of technology needs assessments for those countries that have not received "top-ups".

4 GEF/C.22/Inf.16.

20. Expedited funding for technology needs assessments for those countries that have not yet received financial assistance and are working with an Implementing Agency on the preparation of the second national communication should include in the budget for the second national communication a budget for the technical needs assessment. If a country chooses not to initiate its next national communications, but wishing to prepare a technology needs assessment, it should approach the Implementing Agency with which it works. Experience from past efforts has demonstrated that budgetary allocations for technology needs assessments averaged approximately US\$50,000. The Implementing Agencies have been authorized to provide up to this amount of resources for those countries which have not yet requested support for their technology needs assessments.

Implementation of operational approach to adaptation

21. At its meeting in November 2003, the GEF Council took note of the GEF Business Plan FY05 - 07 which proposes a new strategic priority: Piloting an Operational Approach to Adaptation. The COP at its ninth session requested the GEF to operationalize the new strategic priority in the climate change focal area as soon as possible and to include in its report to COP 10 information on specific steps undertaken to implement this decision.
22. Information on the operationalization of the strategic priority on piloting an operational approach to adaptation in document GEF/C.23/Inf.8/Rev.1 was circulated at the Council meeting in May 2004. This paper provides guidelines on how that new strategic priority will be implemented. The guidelines are designed to ensure that the strategic priority will lead to broad based results and lessons that will inform the international community as it seeks effective ways to respond to the issue of adaptation. The paper was developed in collaboration with the Implementing Agencies and STAP. The Convention Secretariat also contributed to discussions on the paper and collaborated with the GEF to analyze and summarize the results of the vulnerability and adaptation sections of first and, when available, second national communications.
23. *Strategic priority on adaptation.* The strategic priority on adaptation seeks to implement the UNFCCC guidance by supporting a portfolio of projects which will be designed to maximize the opportunity for learning and capacity building and will be representative of particularly vulnerable regions, sectors, geographic areas, ecosystems and communities. Such an approach will provide the GEF and its partners with the opportunity to implement and learn about adaptation within a wide scope, thereby providing valuable lessons and guidance for the international community as it moves forward in assisting developing countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
24. Operational guidelines. The operational guidelines⁵ will be followed in developing projects for the strategic priority. The following points merit highlighting:
 - (a) Activities to be funded should be country-driven, cost-effective and integrated into national sustainable development and poverty-reduction strategies. The adaptation measures will be guided such preparatory work as the first and second national communications, NAPAs, and other relevant country studies.
 - (b) The strategic priority on adaptation portfolio is designed to maximize the opportunity for learning and capacity building and will be representative of particularly vulnerable regions, sectors, geographic areas, ecosystems, communities.
 - (c) The experiences and lessons from the strategic priority on adaptation projects should be applicable in a wide context. The GEF will use experience from the strategic priority on adaptation to develop good practices and estimates of the costs of adaptation to better mainstream adaptation into the full range of GEF activities.

⁵ Annex C to the document GEF/C.23/Inf.8/Rev1.

- (d) The pilot or demonstration projects must include: (i) activities within a natural resources management context that generate global environmental benefits, and (ii) adaptation measures that provide other major development benefits (e.g. WEHAB, i.e. water, energy, health, agriculture, biodiversity).
 - (e) The existing eligibility criteria for GEF funding, such as country drivenness, ecological and financial sustainability, replicability, stakeholder involvement, M&E, will be applied to the projects submitted under the strategic priority on adaptation.
25. *Mainstreaming adaptation into the other GEF focal areas.* The projects funded under this strategic priority will build on and expand the scope of the existing adaptation experience of the GEF portfolio, which generates global environmental benefits and emphasizes linkages among all focal areas.
 26. Vulnerability and adaptation to climate change are becoming increasingly more relevant components in projects across all GEF focal areas. The GEF portfolio in biodiversity, international waters, and land degradation includes selected examples of activities that build capacity or support measures that help countries respond to the consequences of climate change. However, this support is typically indirect and rarely if ever undertaken specifically due to ongoing or expected climate risks. There would appear to be untapped opportunities to integrate adaptation concerns into these focal areas, thereby strengthening within GEF-financed projects the linkages between climate change and the attainment of other global environmental objectives.
 27. The GEF will work with its partners to ensure that greater attention is paid in all GEF projects to the issue of adaptation. At the end of the pilot, in addition to the lessons that are learned from the projects directly financed under the strategic priority, the GEF should also be able to point to a strengthened portfolio of activities in all areas that serve to enhance the capabilities of countries to adapt to climate change impacts in all focal areas. At the end of the pilot, adaptation should be fully mainstreamed in the GEF portfolio.
 28. *Mainstreaming adaptation into sustainable development.* Mainstreaming adaptation into sustainable development is an overall goal of GEF's support. Adverse impacts of climate change will negatively affect a country's sustainable development in diverse ways and across a number of key areas, including water resources, energy, health, agriculture, and biodiversity. Consequently, activities to address the challenges of adaptation will need to be placed within the context of a country's sustainable development policies and strategies. The overall goal of GEF's support in the area of adaptation will be to assist countries to mainstream adaptation into their development planning.

C. Further Guidance for the Operation of the SCCF (Decision 5/CP.9)

COP 9 guidance

29. In decision 5/CP.9 on "*Further guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the SCCF,*" paragraph 1, the COP decided that:
 - (a) The Special Climate Change Fund should serve as a catalyst to leverage additional resources from bilateral and other multilateral sources;
 - (b) Activities to be funded should be country-driven, cost-effective and integrated into national sustainable development and poverty-reduction strategies;
 - (c) Adaptation activities to address the adverse impacts of climate change shall have top priority for funding;

- (d) Technology transfer and its associated capacity-building activities shall also be essential areas to receive funding from the Special Climate Change Fund.
30. In decision 5/CP.9, paragraph 2, the COP decided also that the implementation of adaptation activities shall be supported through the Special Climate Change Fund, taking into account national communications or national adaptation programmes of action, and other relevant information provided by the applicant Party, and include:
- (a) Implementation of adaptation activities where sufficient information is available to warrant such activities, inter alia, in the areas of water resources management, land management, agriculture, health, infrastructure development, fragile ecosystems, including mountain ecosystems, and integrated coastal zone management;
 - (b) Improving the monitoring of diseases and vectors affected by climate change, and related forecasting and early warning systems, and in this context improving disease control and prevention;
 - (c) Supporting capacity-building, including institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness and management of disasters relating to climate change, including contingency planning, in particular, for droughts and floods in areas prone to extreme weather events;
 - (d) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national and regional centres and information networks for rapid response to extreme weather events, utilizing information technology as much as possible.
31. In decision 5/CP.9, paragraph 3, the COP decided that resources from the Special Climate Change Fund shall be used to fund technology transfer activities, programmes and measures that are complementary to those currently funded by the Global Environment Facility taking into account national communications or any other relevant documents in accordance with decision 4/CP.7 and its annex containing the framework for meaningful and effective actions to enhance the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 5, of the Convention, in the following priority areas:
- (a) Implementation of the results of technology needs assessments;
 - (b) Technology information;
 - (c) Capacity-building for technology transfer;
 - (d) Enabling environments.
32. In decision 5/CP.9, paragraph 4, the COP decided further that activities under paragraph 2 (c) and (d) in decision 7/CP.7 are also to be funded by the Special Climate Change Fund.
33. In decision 5/CP.9, paragraph 5, the COP requested the entity entrusted with the operation of the fund to arrange expedited access to the Special Climate Change Fund in keeping with current practices of the Global Environment Facility, taking into account the need for adequate resources to implement eligible activities, programmes and measures.
34. In decision 5/CP.9, paragraph 6, the COP invited the entity entrusted with the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund to make the necessary arrangements to mobilize resources to make the fund operational without delay;

35. In decision 5/CP.9, paragraph 7, the COP requested the entity referred to in paragraph 5 above to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties, at its tenth session, the specific steps it has undertaken to implement this decision.

GEF response

36. The GEF Secretariat, the Implementing Agencies and the Convention Secretariat are collaborating on how best to respond to the guidance on the new funds.
37. For purposes of making the fund operational a number of meetings were scheduled in 2004 to discuss programming for the SCCF and mobilization of resources for the Fund. Two meetings were held at the World Bank Conference Center in Paris on 1 July 2004, and 29 September 2004. A meeting at which donors will be invited to make pledges to the SCCF will be convened in Washington on 15 November.
38. The GEF will submit a programming document for the SCCF to the Council for endorsement at its meeting in November 2004, together with information on the resources initially mobilized for the fund. This report will also be available at COP 10. It is expected that the fund will begin to finance projects in 2005.

D. Further Guidance for the Operation of the LDCF (Decision 6/CP.9)

COP 9 guidance

39. In decision 6/CP.9 on "*Further guidance for the operation of the LDCF*," paragraph 1, the COP decided to adopt the further guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund, as set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 below.
40. In decision 6/CP.9, paragraph 2, the COP requested the entity to support the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action as soon as possible after their completion.
41. In decision 6/CP.9, paragraph 3, the COP requested the entity to take into account, inter alia, the following elements when developing operational guidelines for funding of the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action:
 - (a) Ensuring a country-driven approach, in line with national priorities, which ensures cost-effectiveness and complementarity with other funding sources;
 - (b) Equitable access by least developed country Parties to funding for the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action;
 - (c) Criteria for supporting activities on an agreed full-cost basis, taking account of the level of funds available;
 - (d) Guidelines for expedited support;
 - (e) Urgency and immediacy of adapting to the adverse effects of climate change;
 - (f) Prioritization of activities.

42. In decision 6/CP.9, paragraph 5, the COP requested the entity to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties information on the specific steps it has undertaken to implement this decision as well as the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action.
43. In decision 6/CP.9, paragraph 5, the COP decided to assess progress in the implementation of this decision (6/CP.9) and consider the adoption of further guidance at its tenth session.

GEF response

44. The GEF Secretariat, the Implementing Agencies and the Convention Secretariat are collaborating on how best to respond to the guidance on the new funds.
45. From 6 November 2002, to June 2004, total contributions for the LDC Trust Fund amount to US\$ 16.5 million, received by the Trustee from Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.
46. Projects for the preparation of NAPAs in 43 countries have been approved as of June 2004. The total approved resources for 43 national NAPAs and two global support projects are US\$ 9.4 million.⁶
47. Among the 48 Least Developed Countries Parties to the UNFCCC, five (Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Myanmar, Nepal, and Solomon Islands) have yet to receive financing for the preparation of NAPAs. Solomon Islands is currently working with UNDP, in consultation with UNEP, to prepare a project proposal. UNEP is also working with Myanmar and Nepal to prepare their project proposals. UNDP and UNEP have agreed to consult in order to initiate work with Angola and Equatorial Guinea on developing their project proposals.
48. Most of the approved projects foresee the completion of the NAPA within a period of 12 to 18 months. It is expected that the first NAPAs will be completed in the first three months in 2005.⁸ The decision of the COP requests Parties to make completed NAPAs available to the GEF and to the Convention Secretariat for further dissemination to the Parties to the Convention. At the request of the Chair of the LDC Expert Group,⁹ the approved project documents to provide assistance for the operation of NAPAs are now posted on the GEF website: www.theGEF.org.
49. The GEF is preparing proposals to take into account the elements listed in decision 6/CP.9 when financing the implementation of NAPAs. These proposals will be presented to the Council for information at its meeting in November 2004 and will also be made available to COP 10.

⁶ The number does not include 11% fees for the Implementing Agencies.

New Delhi, India



XX. COP 8 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8) was held from 23 October to 1 November 2002 in New Delhi, India. Decisions at COP 8 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance are included in its report to COP 9.¹ The reporting period of the report is from 1 June 2002 to 30 June 2003.

A. Review of the Financial Mechanism (Decision 5/CP.8)

COP 8 guidance

2. In decision 5/CP.8 on "*Review of the financial mechanism*," paragraph 1, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to report to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session on progress in the implementation of its plan of action developed in response to the recommendations of the Second Overall Performance Study of the Global Environment Facility, and also on how it has taken into consideration the recommendations of the second review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism by the Conference of the Parties.
3. In decision 5/CP.8, paragraph 2, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility secretariat, in consultation with the Convention secretariat, to initiate a dialogue in order to implement more effectively the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to the Global Environment Facility as an entity operating the financial mechanism, drawing upon the experience gained and lessons learned from the projects and programmes funded by the Global Environment Facility, and to explore opportunities for streamlining guidance, and to report on the outcome of this dialogue in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session.
4. In decision 5/CP.8, paragraph 3, the COP requested the Convention secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its twentieth session a report on the implementation of decisions 12/CP.2 and 12/CP.3 in accordance with Article 11 on the determination of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention.
5. In decision 5/CP.8, paragraph 4, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility:
 - (a) To review, in cooperation with the implementing and executing agencies as well as national focal points, its project cycle, with a view to making it simpler and more efficient, taking into account the lessons learned and the findings of the Global Environment Facility Monitoring and Evaluation Unit;

¹ GEF responses to COP 8 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 9 (FCCC/CP/2003/3) was compiled (29 September 2003), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 9 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600002618>.

- (b) To continue its efforts to increase the administrative efficiency and cost-effectiveness of its operations in line with the recommendations of the Second Overall Performance Study of the Global Environment Facility and the Beijing Declaration;
- (c) To continue to make the concept of agreed incremental costs and global benefits more understandable, recognizing that the process for determining incremental costs should be transparent, flexible and pragmatic, consistent with the Beijing Declaration;
- (d) To strengthen efforts to promote consistency of Global Environment Facility activities with national priorities and to integrate them into national planning frameworks, such as national sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategies.

GEF response

- 6. Guidance to the financial mechanism concerning policies, program priorities, and eligibility criteria is mainly contained in the decisions of the COP. Five additional decisions adopted by the COP at its eighth session in 2002 are of direct relevance to the GEF.
- 7. In these decisions, the COP welcomed the successful and substantial third replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, as well as the Beijing Declaration of the GEF's Second Assembly. The COP also requested that the GEF make its project cycle and concept of incremental costs simpler, more efficient, and transparent. These recommendations are also consistent with the Beijing Declaration of the Second GEF Assembly.
- 8. The GEF Council will keep under annual review an action plan describing steps to respond to the recommendations.² The proposed action plan includes actions that respond to Convention guidance in areas concerning capacity building, strategic planning, streamlining the project cycle, incremental costs, transfer of technology and private sector.

Effective implementation of the COP guidance

- 9. Both the GEF Council and the COP requested the GEF Secretariat to initiate, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat, a dialogue in order to implement Convention guidance more effectively on the basis of its experience with projects and programs, and to explore opportunities to streamline guidance to the financial mechanism. A process of closer consultations was initiated between the two secretariats to strengthen collaboration and to renew regular communication and information exchange. This process aims to facilitate greater coherence between the guidance of the COP and GEF financing assistance. A number of activities reflected in the current report have already benefited from this process of increased inter-secretarial cooperation.

Streamlining the project cycle

- 10. The GEF is further streamlining the project cycle to respond to requests of the Convention and the GEF Council. This will aim to meet the objective of "driving for results" through efforts to improve operational efficiency and balance the focus between project preparation and implementation. Efforts are also aimed at further modification of the project review criteria undertaken by the GEF and establishment of project supervision and management service norms to be met by the Implementing Agencies. An up-dated project cycle paper will be submitted to the Council in November 2003.

² GEF/C.21/Inf.4.

Consultation with the Convention secretariat³

11. The GEF Secretariat and the Convention Secretariat continue to collaborate on matters relevant to the Convention through bilateral meetings, participation of appropriate representatives in working groups and task forces, joint hiring of consultants, and frequent communication. In addition to the cooperation on issues related to the *National Communication Program for Climate Change*, the Strategic Priorities on Adaptation, capacity building, and the Climate Change funds, the two secretariats have initiated discussions on issues related to follow-up to paragraph 2 of decision 5/CP.8.

B. Additional Guidance to an Operating Entity (Decision 6/CP.8)

COP 8 guidance

12. In decision 6/CP.8 on "*Additional guidance to an operating entity of the financial mechanism,*" paragraph 1, the COP decided that the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, should:
 - (a) On matters relating to national communications:
 - i) Provide financial resources at an appropriate level to cover the requirements of the guidelines annexed to decision 17/CP.84, in an expedited manner, by an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, on an agreed full cost basis for the preparation of national communications, as well as capacity-building activities relating to the preparation of national communications pursuant to decision 2/CP.7, and in particular paragraphs 1 (c), 3, 4 and 5 of decision 6/CP.7;
 - ii) Continue to provide funding to Parties that have initiated the process of preparing second national communications and received funding under the expedited procedures or on an agreed full cost basis prior to the approval of the guidelines annexed to decision 17/CP.8.
 - (b) On matters relating to capacity-building: further the prompt implementation of decision 2/CP.7, taking into account paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of decision 6/CP.7, and also take into account decisions 2/CP.7, 3/CP.7 and 6/CP.7 when developing its "Elements of strategic collaboration and a framework for GEF action for capacity-building on the global environment" to be presented to the Council of the Global Environment Facility in May 2003;
 - (c) On matters relating to transfer of technologies: provide financial resources to non-Annex I Parties, in particular the least developed country Parties and the small island developing States among them, in accordance with decision 4/CP.7, through its climate change focal area and the Special Climate Change Fund established under decision 7/CP.7, for the implementation of the framework for meaningful and effective actions to enhance the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 5, of the Convention, contained in the annex to decision 4/CP.7;
 - (d) On matters relating to Article 6: provide financial resources to non-Annex I Parties, in particular the least developed country Parties and the small island developing States among them, in accordance with decisions 11/CP.1 and 6/CP.7, to support the implementation of the work programme on Article 6 of the Convention contained in the annex to decision 11/CP.8;

³ This part is included in the GEF report to COP 10.

⁴ Decision 17/CP.8.

- (e) On matters relating to the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties: include in its report to the Conference of the Parties detailed information in accordance with the conclusions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation,⁵ at its seventeenth session, on the report of the GEF.
13. In decision 6/CP.8, paragraph 2, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to the COP at its ninth session information on the specific steps undertaken to implement the provisions of this decision.

GEF response

National communications

14. In response to this new guidance, the GEF Secretariat, in consultation with the GEF Implementing Agencies and Convention Secretariat, is preparing operational guidelines for the expedited funding of national communications on the basis of decision 17/CP.8. These guidelines are expected to be finalized prior to the ninth session of the Parties. Once the guidelines are finalized, the GEF expects to begin to assist countries in the development and approval of projects for the preparation of second national communications.

Capacity building

15. Capacity building is a critical element of GEF climate change projects and more generally in almost all GEF activities. A review undertaken by the GEF Implementing Agencies to assess the role of capacity building in GEF projects found that 96 % of the UNDP projects, 100 % of the UNEP projects and 86 % of the World Bank projects have capacity development components. In addition, some projects are designed primarily to address capacity needs.
16. GEF support for capacity building activities as of June 2002 exceeds \$1.46 billion. The largest source of financial support for capacity building is through mitigation projects, which typically include large components providing for training, information dissemination, institution building, and related activities. Additional support is provided through funding of national communications and other enabling activities. A table listing GEF support to countries for first national communications of non-Annex I countries, additional financing for capacity assessment, and relevant regional and global projects is attached as Annex B of the GEF report to COP 9. It should also be noted that GEF resources provided through other focal areas (biodiversity, land degradation, ozone, and international waters) often have cross-cutting benefits for climate change by supporting development of human resources and institutions supporting a range of global environmental goals.
17. GEF capacity building activities have focused on improving wind and energy resource data; providing technical and institutional support for building and appliance efficiency standards; adapting efficient boiler and other industrial technologies to the needs and circumstances of developing countries; supporting changes in utility regulatory policies to facilitate renewable energy technologies; improving business plans for small and medium enterprises with environmentally beneficial products; and in a myriad of other ways contributing to capacity development⁶. In addition to all enabling activity projects, 20 out of the 26 medium and full-sized projects approved during this reporting period, explicitly incorporate capacity building activities. The regional project titled "*Capacity Building for Improving the Quality of Greenhouse Gas Inventories*" is designed primarily to address capacity needs for West and Francophone Central Africa.

⁵ FCCC/SBI/2002/17, paragraphs 22–24.

⁶ The GEF provided to SBI 18 in June 2003 information on progress in the implementation of capacity-building projects and programs responding to the capacity-building framework for developing countries. These submissions are compiled in documents FCCC/SBI/2003/MISC.2 and FCCC/SBI/2003/MISC.5.

18. The GEF is increasing its support of capacity building and the GEF Business Plan for FY 04-06⁷12 proposes the preparation and approval of a strategic framework to give greater focus to capacity building in the GEF consistent with recent decisions by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Second GEF Assembly. The GEF capacity building strategy will build on the results of the CDI undertaken in partnership with UNDP and includes four elements: (i) clearer identification of capacity building elements in GEF investment projects; (ii) targeted capacity building within the focal areas; (iii) clarifying the scope of enabling activities to focus more on assisting countries to meet their reporting requirements under the conventions; and (iv) cross-cutting capacity building projects to allow countries to establish the basic capacity needed to meet global environmental goals and to meet requirements for accessing GEF funds for projects. The strategy will also take into consideration the various decisions of the COP on capacity building. An increasing percentage of GEF resources is anticipated for capacity building over the four fiscal years covered by the Business Plan. Targets, indicators, and details of the strategy are to be submitted for Council review in November 2003.
19. Another important component of the GEF capacity building framework aims to further help developing countries access GEF funding for capacity building. As reported to COP 8, the Council in May 2002 approved resources for the preparation of NCSA at the country level. The primary objective of the assessments by countries of their capacity needs is to identify country level priorities and needs for capacity building to address global environment issues, in particular in the areas of biological diversity, climate change, and land degradation. By identifying gaps in capacity, countries are encouraged to develop a plan of action to fill the gaps. One key principle of NCSAs is that they must respond to national priorities and be country driven, undertaken by national institutions and experts to the extent feasible. NCSAs will contribute to identifying national capacity building needs in the area of climate change. As of June 2003, projects of up to US\$200,000 per country have been approved for 48 countries, and another 50 country applications are in the pipeline.

Other related activities

20. The COP asked the GEF to provide financial support to non-Annex I Parties for technology transfer, education, training, and public awareness in furtherance of Article 6 of the Convention and related COP decisions. Substantive reporting on the GEF activities to support transfer of technology and implementation of Article 6 is contained in the GEF report to COP 8. The GEF has also prepared a targeted publication in this issue, 10 Cases of Technology Transfer, that was circulated at COP 6. A recent survey of GEF projects approved in the last three years in the climate change area shows that many projects include transfer of technology and most include components addressing public awareness, education activities and community involvement. The GEF will continue to support these activities in accordance with the guidance of the COP and requests of developing country Parties.

GEF Strategic planning and strategic priorities in the area of climate change

21. Decision 6/CP.8 requests the GEF to "include in its report to the COP detailed information in accordance with the conclusions of the SBI 17." In its conclusions, the SBI noted that as reflected in the Beijing Declaration of the Second GEF Assembly, the GEF should enhance its strategic business planning for the allocation of scarce GEF resources to high priority areas for developing country Parties, taking into account national priorities.
22. The Second Overall Performance Study (OPS2) and the Policy Recommendations of the Third Replenishment also recommended that the GEF undertake strategic business planning to enhance impacts of GEF supported activities.
23. Strategic business planning aims to direct allocation of GEF resources in a manner that catalyzes actions towards maximizing global environmental impacts. There are two major imperatives that drive GEF's strategic business planning. First, as a learning-based institution, the GEF periodically needs to take stock and factor in extensive implementation experience emerging from its portfolio. Second, in recent

⁷ GEF/C.21.9.

years, as demand for GEF support has surpassed the financial resources available to the GEF Trust Fund, there has been an increasing need to match the demand with the supply of GEF resources, employing factors beyond simple eligibility criteria.

24. Strategic priorities define the major themes and approaches under which resources would be programmed within each of the focal areas. These priorities, consistent with the operational programs, guidance from the conventions, and country priorities in each focal area, reflect a sharpening of approach as follows:
- *Lessons from the portfolio.* The Second Overall Performance Study and other reports and studies from the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Unit have provided substantial insight from project implementation and impacts at both the project and program level that need to be reflected in the future portfolio. In addition, there is a rich body of experience with non-GEF supported efforts towards global sustainability. These lessons also provide guidance on how to target convention guidance and national priorities more closely, and achieve results on the ground.
 - *Sequencing of response to convention priorities.* The current practice ensures that GEF projects are consistent with convention priorities by requiring projects to conform to the criteria of an Operational Program that reflects convention guidance. GEF needs to progress to an approach where response to convention guidance is strategically sequenced while maintaining the flexibility to program resources to meet the evolving needs of the conventions and to program for synergies across the various conventions.
 - *Responsiveness to national priorities.* Targeting the highest national priorities more actively through review of national reports, assessments, strategies, plans, and dialogue, in addition to relying upon country focal point endorsement.
 - *Incorporation of scientific and technical advice.* Identifying the priority interventions, consistent with scientific knowledge, through the work of the STAP, to reduce global environmental risks.
 - *Portfolio gaps.* Identifying gaps in the GEF portfolio and niches for innovation that need to be explored.
25. In the climate change focal area, GEF support during the first decade has focused largely on mitigation. The portfolio has tried and tested a range of project approaches and interventions, with an emphasis on the long-term, but also with some short-term measures. As the second decade begins, it is proposed that there be an acceleration in the shift from technology-based towards market-based approaches, emphasizing policies and institutions towards enhancing sustainable development benefits. In addition, activities in climate change area will expand support for vulnerability assessment and adaptation.
26. At its meeting in May 2003 the GEF Council approved an initial set of strategic priorities. These priorities will be reviewed annually by the Council. The initial priorities approved in the area of climate change are:
- (a) Transformation of Markets for High Volume Energy Efficient Products and Processes - to catalyze both demand and supply with relatively small resource inputs, resulting in a significant and lasting market penetration or transformation;
 - (b) Increased Access to Local Sources of Financing for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - to provide capital for investment in (near-) commercial energy efficient equipment, energy conservation or renewable energy technologies for modern energy services;
 - (c) Power Sector Policy Frameworks Supportive of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency – to incorporate clean energy into energy policy frameworks;

- (d) Productive Uses of Renewable Energy – to provide income generation and other essential social services in the application of renewable energy technologies;
- (e) Global Market Aggregation and National Innovation for Emerging Technologies – to support the reduction of cost in the long run of emerging clean energy technologies; and
- (f) Modal Shifts in Urban Transport and Clean Vehicle/Fuel Technologies – to promote the use of less energy intensive transportation through public transit (such as bus rapid transit), non-motorized transport (such as bicycles and pedestrian areas), and non-technology measures (such as traffic demand management and economic incentives).

C. Initial Guidance for the Operation of the SCCF (Decision 7/CP.8)

COP 8 guidance

27. In decision 7/CP.8 on "*Initial guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund,*" paragraph 1, the COP decided that, for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund, the Global Environment Facility, as an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, should:
- (a) Promote complementarity of funding between the Special Climate Change Fund and other funds with which the operating entity is entrusted;
 - (b) Ensure financial separation of the Special Climate Change Fund from other funds with which the operating entity is entrusted;
 - (c) Ensure transparency in the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund;
 - (d) Adopt streamlined procedures for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund while ensuring sound financial management;
28. In decision 7/CP.8, paragraph 2, the COP decided to further define the prioritized activities, programmes and measures to be funded out of the Special Climate Change Fund in areas enumerated in paragraph 2 of decision 7/CP.7 by undertaking the activities described below:
- (a) Initiating a process now with a view to providing further guidance to the Global Environment Facility, this process to consist of:
 - i) Requesting Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 February 2003, views on activities, programmes and measures referred to in paragraph 2 of decision 7/CP.7;
 - ii) Requesting the Expert Group on Technology Transfer and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to submit to the secretariat, as soon as possible, views, relevant to their mandates, on activities, programmes and measures referred to in paragraph 2 of decision 7/CP.7;
 - iii) Requesting the secretariat to prepare for consideration by SBI 18, a report summarizing and analyzing the above-mentioned submissions;
 - (b) Upon completion of such a process, a decision at its ninth session will provide guidance to the Global Environment Facility in order for the Global Environment Facility to operationalize the fund without delay thereafter.

GEF response

29. Once guidance is received from the COP with regard to the SCCF, the GEF will mobilize resources for those funds to make them operational.

D. Guidance for the Operation of the LDCF (Decision 8/CP.8)

COP 8 guidance

30. In decision 8/CP.8 on "*Guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund,*" paragraph 1, the COP decided to adopt the following additional guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund established under decisions 5/CP.7 and 7/CP.7.
31. In decision 8/CP.8, paragraph 2, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, including its implementing agencies, to ensure the speedy release and disbursement of funds and timely assistance for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action.
32. In decision 8/CP.8, paragraph 3, the COP requested the entity in its capacity referred to in paragraph 1 above to support, where sufficient voluntary funding has not been provided from bilateral sources, the organization, under the guidance of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, of four regional workshops in 2003 (one in Africa for francophone least developed countries, one in Africa for anglophone least developed countries, one in Asia, and one in a small island developing State) to advise least developed countries in order to advance the process for preparing national adaptation programmes of action in these regions.
33. In decision 8/CP.8, paragraph 4, the COP requested the entity referred to in paragraph 1 above to undertake the necessary arrangements for the implementation of the above-mentioned guidance, and to include in its report to COP 9 the specific steps it has undertaken to implement this guidance.
34. In decision 8/CP.8, paragraph 6, the COP invited all Parties, and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, and the Global Environment Facility and its implementing and executing agencies, to submit to the secretariat, by 15 April 2003, views on strategies for implementing national adaptation programmes of action and ways and means to address the various elements of the least developed countries work programme, in order to meet the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of least developed countries, for consideration by Parties at SBI 18.

GEF response

35. Pursuant to the guidance provided by the COP at its seventh and eighth sessions with regard to the LDCF, the GEF has moved ahead with making the LDCF fully operational. The World Bank, as the Trustee of the LDCF, has completed the legal and administrative arrangements necessary for the establishment and operation of the LDCF as a separate trust fund.
36. To mobilize resources to meet the requirement for the LDCF, a consultation with donors to the LDCF was organized by the GEF in Stockholm on 26 September 2002 at the kind invitation of the Swedish Government. Pledges amounting to over US\$11.6 million were announced or confirmed at the

consultation while a number of other participants indicated that they were seriously considering making contributions to the fund although they were unable to pledge specific amounts at the consultation.

37. As of 30 June 2003, 10 donors, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden, had confirmed pledges to the LDCF totaling \$16 million. The cumulative resources available to the LDCF were \$9 million as of 30 June 2003. The remainder of the pledged amounts is expected to be paid into the LDCF by early FY04. Commitments totaling \$5 million have been allocated by the GEF Council and CEO for projects.
38. The GEF's assessment of total funding requirements under the LDCF pursuant to the guidance of the Parties for FY 03 and 04 is about US\$12 million, based on the decision of the COP that the first priority under the fund is support to LDCs for the urgent preparation of NAPAs.
39. In pursuance of guidance from the eighth session of the COP calling on the LDC Trust Fund to support regional workshops to advance the preparation of NAPAs, UNDP, as the GEF Implementing Agency, working in consultation with the Convention Secretariat and the LDC Expert Group, prepared a medium sized project for this purpose. The project is being executed through the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Parallel funding for the effort has been contributed by the Government of Switzerland. As of June of 2003, two of the workshops have been successfully held.
40. The following table lists the projects that have been approved under the LDC Trust Fund. Other projects were at an advanced stage of consideration as of June 2003.

E. Article 6 of the Convention (Decision 11/CP.8)

COP 8 guidance

41. In decision 11/CP.8 on "*New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention,*" paragraph 6, the COP requested the GEF to provide financial resources to Parties not included in Annex I of the Convention (non-Annex I Parties), in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, in accordance with decisions 11/CP.1 and 6/CP.7, to support the implementation of the work programme.

GEF response

42. See paragraph 19 in this section.

Marrakech, Morocco



XXI. COP 7 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 7) was held from 29 October to 10 November 2001 in Marrakech, Morocco. Decisions at COP 7 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance are included in its report to COP 8.¹ The reporting period is from 1 July 2001, to 31 May 2002.
2. In addition, the letter from the GEF CEO and Chairman to the Executive Secretary of the Convention submitting the Second Study of GEF's Overall Performance to COP 8 should be viewed as an additional input to this report. The study raises essential issues, such as how to improve the guidance from the COP and its dialogue with the GEF with a view to applying more strategic approaches at national, regional, and global levels to support the implementation of the Convention.

A. Capacity Building in Developing Countries (Decision 2/CP.7)

COP 7 guidance

3. In decision 2/CP.7 on "*Capacity building in developing countries (non-Annex I Parties)*," paragraph 5, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, to report on its progress in support of the implementation of this framework in its reports to the Conference of the Parties.
4. In decision 2/CP.7, paragraph 6, the COP urged the operating entity of the financial mechanism to adopt a streamlined and expedited approach in financing activities within this framework.
5. In the Annex of decision 2/CP.7, the "*Framework for Capacity Building in Developing Countries*," under section D on Implementation, paragraph 22, it is stated that in response to the mentioned framework, the operating entity of the financial mechanism should elaborate a country-driven strategy for its capacity-building activities.
6. In the Annex of decision 2/CP.7, under section D on Implementation, paragraph 27, it is also stated that the results of activities conducted by the Global Environment Facility as a multilateral financial institution, including the Capacity Development Initiative, as well as activities undertaken by multilateral, bilateral and private sector entities, may be considered in further developing capacity-building activities within this framework at the regional and subregional levels.
7. In the Annex of decision 2/CP.7, under section D on Implementation, paragraph 32, it is mentioned that the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, is requested to report on its progress in support of the implementation of this framework in its reports to the Conference of the Parties.

¹ GEF responses to COP 7 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 8 (FCCC/CP/2002/4) was compiled (23 August 2002), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 8 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600001997>.

GEF response

8. The GEF has followed the COP's deliberations on capacity building carefully, and attempted to keep pace with emerging decisions and guidance. The GEF's CDI, concluded in May 2001, echoed the COP's desire to bring capacity building into an identifiable and focused set of activities with clearly stated objectives. The results of the CDI were, at each stage, shared with the Parties to the UNFCCC. The emerging framework for capacity building in decisions of the COP was recognized by the CDI, and its final output maintains the centrality of the Parties' decisions with regard to capacity building for climate change.
9. With regard to the LDC, the GEF responded to a general need expressed by Parties to the UNFCCC during deliberations in the SBI meetings of June 2001 for building the capacities of climate change focal points in LDCs to obtain, handle and exchange data and improve electronic communication with the UNFCCC Secretariat. A global enabling activity proposal, prepared by UNITAR and UNDP, was approved by the CEO and Chairman of the GEF in September 2001 (total GEF financing of US \$904,000). The project is nearing completion and has provided information/technology support and training to climate change focal points in LDCs.
10. While the GEF stands ready to respond to the COP guidance on capacity building, modalities will need to be kept under review in the context of the new convention funds proposed and the relationship between the activities each fund supports. Decisions on capacity building adopted at the seventh session of the COP will be factored into the revised paper on 'Elements of strategic collaboration and a framework for GEF action for capacity building or the global environment' to be presented for Council's consideration in May 2003.
11. Apart from the above mentioned activities, capacity building opportunities continue to be available through regular GEF projects and enabling activities for the preparation of first national communications. Additional GEF funding is available for interim measures for capacity building in priority areas identified by COP 5.² Recently, funding has also been made available for national self assessments of capacity building needs, as approved by the GEF Council in May 2001. GEF also supports activities aimed at strengthening public awareness and education as part of its support for capacity building in the area of climate change.

National capacity needs self assessments

12. The primary objective of the assessment by countries of their capacity needs is to identify country level priorities and needs for capacity building to address global environmental issues, in particular biological diversity, climate change, and land degradation, with the aim of catalyzing domestic and/or externally assisted action to meet those needs in a coordinated and planned manner. While these three thematic areas are central to the exercise, it is fully recognized that NCSAs will need to explore the synergies among them, as well as linkages with wider concerns of environmental management and sustainable development.
13. These initial NCSAs are not intended to be definitive and final, and that the identification of needs and priorities is a dynamic process which depends on a number of factors including emerging scientific and technological information, collective decisions through global environmental conventions, and the development of national policy frameworks. It is envisaged that the identification of capacity building needs will remain an ongoing process, beyond the initial NCSA. Countries are encouraged to determine the scope and coverage of the NCSA in this light.

2 Decision 10/CP.5.

14. NCSA outputs can be a useful and relevant framework for domestic action and external assistance for capacity building. However, NCSAs are neither a precondition for GEF assistance through regular projects and enabling activities, nor a necessary first step before launching capacity building activities in particular sectors. Countries where earlier work has identified capacity building needs may not feel the need to undertake NCSAs at all. It is expected that countries will closely follow the framework for capacity building developed by the COP in undertaking these needs assessments for the climate change focal area.
15. The GEF's *Operational Guidelines for Expedited Funding of National Self Assessment of Capacity Building Needs* were finalized in September 2001. Funds up to US\$200,000 per country are available through expedited procedure for undertaking NCSAs. In addition, *A Guide for Self Assessment of Country Capacity Needs for Global Environment Management* has been developed to assist countries as needed.

B. Development and Transfer of Technologies (Decision 4/CP.7)

COP 7 guidance

16. In decision 4/CP.7 on "*Development and transfer of technologies (decisions 4/CP.4 and 9/CP.5)*," paragraph 3, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, to provide financial support for the implementation of the annexed framework through its climate change focal area and the special climate change fund established under decision 7/CP.7.

GEF response

17. Decision 4/CP.7 Development and transfer of technologies requested GEF financial support to assist countries to implement an agreed framework for meaningful and effective actions to enhance the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 5 of the Convention. The framework describes five basic areas of activity: technology needs assessments; technology information; measures to create "enabling environments" conducive to technology transfer; capacity building; and mechanisms for technology transfer (defined as stakeholder coordination and cooperation to facilitate project development). The decision calls for financial support to be provided from the GEF Trust Fund as well as the special climate change fund.
18. In general the present scope and objectives of the GEF climate change focal area include activities such as those proposed in decision 4/CP.7. GEF climate projects often address technology needs assessments, information systems, capacity building elements, and mechanisms for technology transfer as defined in the decision. One distinction is that the GEF strategy and operational programs provide support for these activities within the context of broader actions and commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
19. Almost all GEF projects in the area of climate change provide for some transfer of technologies. A number of publications, such as, *10 cases of Technology Transfer* (available at the GEF website), *Renewable energy markets and the Global Environment Facility* (See Financial Times Renewable Energy Report no.12 (February 2000), pp 18-22), and *Promoting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: GEF*

Climate Change Projects and Impacts (available at the GEF website), illustrate examples of technology transfer supported by the GEF. Several GEF projects were also described in the *IPCC Special Report on Technology Transfer*.

20. In addition, several recent GEF projects specifically emphasize technology transfer, such as, UNDP "Assessing Technology Needs project" and UNEP "Technology Transfer Networks project".

C. Implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9 (Decision 5/CP.7)

COP 7 guidance

21. In decision 5/CP.7 on "Implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention," paragraph 7, the COP decided that the implementation of the following activities shall be supported through the Global Environment Facility (in accordance with decision 6/CP.7) and other bilateral and multilateral sources:

(a) Information and methodologies:

- i) Improving data collection and information gathering, as well as their analysis, interpretation and dissemination to end-users;
- ii) Integrating climate change considerations into sustainable development planning;
- iii) Providing training in specialized fields relevant to adaptation such as climate and hydroclimate studies, geographical information systems, environmental impact assessment, modelling, integrated coastal zone management, soil and water conservation and soil restoration
- iv) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national and regional systematic observation and monitoring networks (sea-level rise, climate and hydrological monitoring stations, fire hazards, land degradation, floods, cyclones and droughts);
- v) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national and regional centres and institutions for the provision of research, training, education and scientific and technical support in specialized fields relevant to climate change, utilizing information technology as much as possible;
- vi) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national and regional research programmes on climate variability and climate change, oriented towards improving knowledge of the climate system at the regional level, and creating national and regional scientific capability;
- vii) Supporting education and training in, and public awareness of, climate change related issues, for example through workshops and information dissemination;

(b) Vulnerability and adaptation:

- i) Supporting enabling activities for vulnerability and adaptation assessment;

- ii) Enhancing technical training for integrated climate change impact and vulnerability and adaptation assessments across all relevant sectors, and environmental management related to climate change;
 - iii) Enhancing capacity, including institutional capacity, to integrate adaptation into sustainable development programmes;
 - iv) Promoting the transfer of adaptation technologies;
 - v) Establishing pilot or demonstration projects to show how adaptation planning and assessment can be practically translated into projects that will provide real benefits, and may be integrated into national policy and sustainable development planning, on the basis of information provided in the national communications from non-Annex I Parties and/or other relevant sources, and of the staged approach endorsed by the COP in its decision 11/CP.1;
 - vi) Supporting capacity building, including institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness of disasters relating to climate change, including contingency planning, in particular, for droughts and floods in areas prone to extreme weather events;
 - vii) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing early warning systems for extreme weather events in an integrated and interdisciplinary manner to assist developing country Parties, in particular those most vulnerable to climate change.
22. In decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 8, the COP also decided that the implementation of the following activities shall be supported through the special climate change fund (in accordance with decision 7/CP.7) and/or the adaptation fund (in accordance with decision 10/CP.7), and other bilateral and multilateral sources:
- (a) Starting to implement adaptation activities promptly where sufficient information is available to warrant such activities, inter alia, in the areas of water resources management, land management, agriculture, health, infrastructure development, fragile ecosystems, including mountainous ecosystems, and integrated coastal zone management;
 - (b) Improving the monitoring of diseases and vectors affected by climate change, and related forecasting and early-warning systems, and in this context improving disease control and prevention;
 - (c) Supporting capacity building, including institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness and management of disasters relating to climate change, including contingency planning, in particular, for droughts and floods in areas prone to extreme weather events;
 - (d) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national and regional centres and information networks for rapid response to extreme weather events, utilizing information technology as much as possible.
23. In decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 12, the COP decided that a least developed countries fund shall be established (in accordance with decision 7/CP.7), to be operated by an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, to support the work programme for the least developed countries. This work programme shall include, inter alia, the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action.
24. In decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 19, the COP decided that the implementation of the activities included in paragraphs 25 to 32 below shall be supported through the Global Environment Facility (in accordance

with decision 6/CP.7), the special climate change fund (in accordance with decision 7/CP.7), and other bilateral and multilateral sources.

25. In decision 5/CP.7, paragraphs 25 to 32, the COP:
- (a) Encouraged Parties to cooperate in the technological development of non-energy uses of fossil fuels, and requests Annex II Parties to support developing country Parties to this end (paragraph 25);
 - (b) Encouraged Parties to cooperate in the development, diffusion and transfer of less greenhouse gas-emitting advanced fossil-fuel technologies, and/or technologies relating to fossil fuels, that capture and store greenhouse gases, and requests Annex II Parties to facilitate the participation of the least developed countries and other non-Annex I Parties in this effort (paragraph 26);
 - (c) Urged Annex II Parties to provide financial and technological support for strengthening the capacity of developing country Parties identified in Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention for improving efficiency in upstream and downstream activities relating to fossil fuels, taking into consideration the need to improve the environmental efficiency of these activities (paragraph 27);
 - (d) Encouraged Annex II Parties to promote investment in, and to support and cooperate with, developing country Parties in the development, production, distribution and transport of indigenous, less greenhouse gas-emitting, environmentally sound,³ energy sources, including natural gas, according to the national circumstances of each of these Parties (paragraph 28);
 - (e) Urged Annex II Parties to provide support for research into, and the development and use of, renewable energy, including solar and wind energy, in developing country Parties (paragraph 29);
 - (f) Decided to consider, at its eighth session, the implementation of insurance-related actions to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing country Parties arising from the adverse effects of climate change, based on the outcome of the workshops referred to in paragraphs 37 and 38 below (paragraph 30);
 - (g) Requested the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to consider, at their subsequent sessions, the response by Parties to the actions listed in paragraphs 25 to 32 above (paragraph 31);
 - (h) Requested the secretariat to organize regional workshops in order to facilitate information exchange and integrated assessments, including for adaptation (paragraph 32).

GEF response

26. Decision 6/CP.7 and decision 5/CP.7 as well as other decisions adopted at COP 7 provide additional guidance to the GEF on adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change.
27. GEF activities related to adaptation can be summarized under the following three categories: a) GEF support for adaptation under the climate change area; b) GEF support for adaptation under other focal areas; and c) development of a GEF Adaptation Strategy.

GEF support for adaptation under the climate change focal area

28. The GEF has provided non-Annex I Parties with the opportunity to undertake Stage I adaptation activities through its climate change enabling activities aimed at supporting the preparation of national communications. In accordance with Article 4.3 of UNFCCC, funding for enabling activities covers the

agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12.1 of UNFCCC, which requires each Party to prepare a national communication.

29. To date, 132 countries have received financial support and technical guidance to assist them in preparing their first national communications. Total GEF funding for enabling activities to date is \$86.97 million.³ Some of these funds were used by recipient countries to conduct voluntary vulnerability and adaptation assessments within the context of their national communications.⁴ These studies have been carried out using the methodology first set out in the IPCC Technical Guidelines. In some instances, the results of these studies have been reported in the first national communications.
30. Within the context of Stage I adaptation efforts, GEF has also financed two regional enabling activity projects: (a) *"Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC)"*; and (b) *"Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP)"*.
31. Stage I adaptation is not yet complete because not all countries have fully addressed their objectives. As of May 2002, 82 countries have formally submitted their national communications to the UNFCCC, and 79 of these communications were prepared with GEF funds. Many non-Annex I Parties have not completed their analysis of vulnerability. Only a few have identified policy options for adaptation. Work on Stage I adaptation will continue where needed, particularly to ensure that assessments of vulnerability address all potentially significantly vulnerable sectors and regions.
32. The GEF has also provided funding for Stage II activities in response to country requests. To date, six projects have been approved. These projects with Stage II adaptation activities are also being funded as climate change enabling activities within the context of national communications, and, therefore the GEF is providing funds for these projects based on the agreed full cost principle.

GEF support for adaptation under other focal areas

33. The GEF has also provided funds to adaptation related activities through projects that focus on biodiversity, land degradation and international waters. These projects illustrate the multi-disciplinary and cross-cutting nature of efforts to address the impacts of climate change. They also demonstrate how the GEF can use a multi-focal area approach to support adaptation activities that provide global environmental benefits.
34. One example of such funding is the project entitled, *"Climate, Water and Agriculture: Impacts on and Adaptation of Agro-Ecological Systems in Africa"*. This targeted research project aims to develop multiple analytical methods and procedures for assessing the impact of climate change on agriculture in Africa, to estimate how climate affects the current agricultural system, and to project how climate change might affect this system in the future. This project intends to address methodological issues and develop suitable plans for adaptation, working closely with policy makers. GEF allocation to this project was \$0.70 million.
35. Similarly, a global International Waters targeted research project, *"Effects of Localized Anthropogenic Stress and Compounding Impacts of Climate Change on the Sustainability of Coral Reef Ecosystems and the Implications for Management under Integrated Land and Water Multiple Focal Area Operational Program"*, has recently entered the GEF pipeline.

3 This amount includes regional and global enabling activity projects that cover limited components of first national communications from non-Annex I Parties as well.

4 In addition, many countries have conducted independent impact studies aimed at the identification of vulnerable regions and sectors, and adaptation options with support from sources such as the U.S. Country Studies Program, the Netherlands, the European Union, and others.

Development of GEF adaptation strategy

36. In addition to providing funds to adaptation projects, the GEF is currently preparing a comprehensive Adaptation Strategy that addresses the guidance provided by the COP to the GEF on adaptation. The goal of this paper is to identify elements of and options for a comprehensive framework for GEF to support adaptation related activities in accordance with its mandate to support projects that produce global environmental benefits within the context of sustainable development efforts in developing countries. In order to provide scientific guidance to the preparation of this strategy, the GEF STAP held an Expert Group Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change in February 2002 in Nairobi, Kenya. The recommendations of the STAP workshop will be taken into account in developing the strategy.⁵ The proposed strategy will be prepared in consultation with the Implementing Agencies, and other relevant stakeholders, and will be presented to the GEF Council. The strategy will also be made available to the COP.
37. On the LDCF and SCCF, see paragraphs 56 to 60 in this section.

D. Additional Guidance to an Operating Entity (Decision 6/CP.7)

COP 7 guidance

38. In decision 6/CP.7 on *"Additional guidance to an operating entity of the financial mechanism,"* paragraph 1, the COP decided that, in accordance with Articles 4.3, 4.5 and 11.1 of the Convention, the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, should provide financial resources to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, for the following activities, including those identified in paragraph 7 of decision 5/CP.7:
- (a) Strengthening, in particularly vulnerable countries and regions identified in stage I activities and especially countries vulnerable to climate-related natural disasters, the implementation of country-driven stage II adaptation activities, pursuant to decision 2/CP.4, paragraph 1 (a), that build upon work done at the national level, either in the context of national communications or of in-depth national studies, including national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs);
 - (b) Establishing pilot or demonstration projects to show how adaptation planning and assessment can be practically translated into projects that will provide real benefits, and may be integrated into national policy and sustainable development planning, on the basis of information provided in the national communications, or of in-depth national studies, including NAPAs, and of the staged approach endorsed by the COP in its decision 11/CP.1;
 - (c) Supporting the continuation of the "country-team" approach, which enhances the collection, management, archiving, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of data on climate change issues and increases national commitment to the implementation of the objective of the Convention;
 - (d) Enhancing the capacity of their subregional and/or regional information networks to enable such networks to serve as repositories of climate change related information on vulnerability and adaptation assessments and geographic information systems;
 - (e) Improving climate change related data collection (for example, local emission and regional factors) and information-gathering, as well as the analysis, interpretation and dissemination of these data to national policy makers and other end-users;

⁵ GEF/C.19/Inf.12.

- (f) Strengthening and, where necessary, establishing:
 - ii) National, subregional or regional databases on climate change;
 - iii) Subregional and/or regional climate change related institutions and “centres of excellence”, to enable these institutions and centres to provide a supportive framework, which would include information retrieval and technical support;
- (g) Developing and implementing, as appropriate, prioritized projects identified in their national communications;
- (h) Undertaking more in-depth public awareness and education activities and community involvement and participation in climate change issues;
- (i) Building the capacity, including, where appropriate, institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness for disasters related to climate change, including in particular, contingency planning for droughts and floods in areas prone to extreme weather events;
- (j) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing early warning systems for extreme weather events in an integrated and interdisciplinary manner to assist developing country Parties, in particular those most vulnerable to climate change;
- (k) Supporting the continuation of GEF-related programmes which assist Parties that are at various stages of preparing and/or completing their initial national communications.

39. In decision 6/CP.7, paragraph 2, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility:

- (a) To continue its efforts to minimize the time between the approval of project concepts, the development and approval of the related projects, and the disbursement of funds by its implementing/executing agencies to the recipient countries of those projects;
- (b) Further to streamline its project cycle with a view to making project preparations simpler, more transparent and country-driven. In this regard, the project cycles of its implementing/executing agencies should be coordinated with the GEF project cycle;
- (c) To urge its implementing/executing agencies to be more responsive to requests for Global Environment Facility assistance from developing country Parties for climate change related project activities aimed at implementing the guidance of the COP;
- (d) Further to encourage the use of national and regional experts and/or consultants to enhance project development and implementation; in this regard, it should make its list of national and regional experts and/or consultants publicly available;
- (e) To give consideration to measures to increase opportunities available to developing country Parties for accessing GEF funds for climate change activities aimed at implementing the guidance of the COP, including a review of the adequacy of the number of implementing/executing agencies available to deliver GEF programmes and projects.

40. In decision 6/CP.7, paragraph 3, the COP urged the Global Environment Facility to adopt a streamlined and expedited approach to financing activities within the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (non-Annex I Parties) contained in decision 2/CP.7.

41. In decision 6/CP.7, paragraph 4, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to the COP at its eighth session the specific steps it has taken to implement the provisions of this decision and to include information on its implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (non-Annex I Parties) contained in decision 2/CP.7.
42. In decision 6/CP.7, paragraph 5, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, to provide financial support to implement the capacity-building framework annexed to decision 2/CP.7 and further to support, enhance and implement its capacity-building activities in accordance with this framework.

GEF response

Support for adaptation

43. In response to decision 6/CP.7, paragraph 1(b), the SPA was approved in November 2003 and launched in 2005 as a \$50 million allocation within the GEF Trust Fund. The objective of SPA was to finance pilot and demonstration projects that generate real benefits in the field of adaptation by reducing vulnerability and increasing adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change in vulnerable countries.⁶ In 2010, the GEF Evaluation Office carried out an independent evaluation of SPA, which concludes that the projects supported under the initiative succeeded in integrating climate resilience across several GEF focal areas. In particular, SPA supported no-regrets measures that generated multiple gains for adaptation, the global environment, and development. SPA represents an important step towards mainstreaming adaptation in the GEF Trust Fund.⁷

44. See also paragraphs 26 to 33 in this section.

Further streamlining the GEF project cycle

45. Issues raised by the GEF project cycle have been reviewed by the OPS2. Factors contributing to the time necessary to process proposals identified by the OPS2 team, include:

- (a) variations in the capacities of the UNDP and the World Bank country offices to initiate and facilitate projects;
- (b) delays in obtaining endorsements from national operational focal points for NGO executed projects;
- (c) the involvement of new and inexperienced country partners that require more extensive inputs from the Implementing Agency to enable them to navigate through GEF program priorities and operational procedures;
- (d) unclear and sometimes conflicting technical reviews from different sources in the Implementing Agencies and the GEF Secretariat that have added considerably to processing time;
- (e) adjustments in legal, procurement, and disbursement procedures of the Implementing Agencies to fit smaller projects in remote locations.

46. In addition to previous efforts to expedite GEF project procedures, the GEF and its Implementing Agencies are preparing further follow-up measures to respond to the guidance of the COP and policy recommendations made by the OPS 2 team. Relevant issues may also be considered in the context of the second review of the financial mechanism to be undertaken by the Convention.

⁶ GEF Council documents GEF/C.22.6 (November 2003), pp. 5–7; and GEF/C.27/Inf.10 (October 2005).

⁷ GEF/ME/C.39/4, October 2010.

Capacity building

47. See paragraphs 8 to 15 in this section.

E. Funding under the Convention (Decision 7/CP.7)

COP 7 guidance

48. In decision 7/CP.7 on "*Funding under the Convention*," paragraph 2, the COP decided that a special climate change fund shall be established to finance activities, programmes and measures, relating to climate change, that are complementary to those funded by the resources allocated to the climate change focal area of GEF and by bilateral and multilateral funding, in the following areas:
- (a) Adaptation, in accordance with paragraph 8 of decision 5/CP.7;
 - (b) Transfer of technologies, in accordance with decision 4/CP.7;
 - (c) Energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management;
 - (d) Activities to assist developing country Parties referred to under Article 4, paragraph 8(h), in diversifying their economies, in accordance with decision 5/CP.7.
49. In decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 3, the COP decided further that Parties included in Annex II, and other Parties included in Annex I that are in a position to do so, shall be invited to contribute to the fund, which shall be operated by an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, under the guidance of the COP.
50. In decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 4, the COP invited the entity referred to in paragraph 3 above to make the necessary arrangements for this purpose and report thereon to the COP at its eighth session for appropriate action.
51. In decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 5, the COP decided to provide guidance to the entity referred to in paragraph 3 above on the modalities for operating this fund, including expedited access.
52. In decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 6, the COP also decided that a least developed countries fund shall be established, which shall be operated by an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, under the guidance of the COP, to support a work programme for the least developed countries. This work programme shall include, *inter alia*, national adaptation programmes of action in accordance with Section II, "Implementation of Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention", of decision 5/CP.7.
53. In decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 7, the COP invited the entity referred to in paragraph 6 above to make the necessary arrangements for this purpose and report thereon to the COP at its eighth session for appropriate action.
54. In decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 8, the COP decided to provide guidance to the entity referred to in paragraph 6 above on the modalities for operating this fund, including expedited access;

GEF response

LDCF and other new funds

55. At its seventh session, the COP requested the GEF, as the financial mechanism of the Convention to operate two new funds related to the Convention (the SCCF and the LDCF) as well a new fund related to the Kyoto Protocol (the Adaptation Fund). At the GEF Council meeting in December 2001, the Council, having reviewed the decisions of the seventh session of the UNFCCC.
56. At its meeting in May 2002, the Council approved the arrangements proposed by the Secretariat for the establishment of the LDCF and the SCCF, including their scope, guidance, financing, and eligibility criteria.⁸ These arrangements are described in the paper submitted to the COP entitled, *Arrangements for the Establishment of the New Climate Change Funds*. In approving the arrangements, the Council:
- (a) invited the World Bank to act as Trustee for the three new funds;
 - (b) requested the Secretariat to mobilize resources for the funds based on an assessment of financing needs that takes into account the guidance approved by the COP to the UNFCCC; and
 - (c) requested the Secretariat to inform the eighth session of the COP to the UNFCCC on the arrangements for the establishment of these funds.

Least Developed Countries Fund

57. In view of the urgency expressed by the UNFCCC and the GEF Council, the GEF moved speedily to bring the decisions of the seventh session of the COP with regard to NAPAs and the establishment of the LDCF into operation. After extensive consultations with the GEF Implementing Agencies and the UNFCCC Secretariat, operational guidelines for expedited funding for the preparation of NAPAs were drafted. The draft was discussed with experts from LDCs, other experts, the Implementing Agencies, the UNFCCC Secretariat and UNITAR at a consultation held in Arusha on 28 February and 1 March 2002 at the kind invitation of the Government of Tanzania.
58. On the basis of all these inputs and consultations, Operational guidelines for expedited funding for the preparation of national adaptation programs of action by least developed countries were issued by the CEO and Chairman of the GEF in early April 2002. Under the operational guidelines, country requests for GEF funding up to US\$200,000 may be approved using expedited procedure. The operational guidelines outline the few simple steps required to be taken by countries to access funds from the LDCF for the preparation of NAPAs. The guidelines are sufficiently flexible to allow countries to undertake the preparation of NAPAs in the light of their own particular situations and priorities, while following the broad format adopted by decision 28/ CP.7. The operational guidelines are available in both English and French.
59. The GEF Secretariat plans to convene a meeting of donors, prior to the eighth session of the COP in October 2002, to solicit voluntary contributions to finance the activities called for in the initial guidance for the LDCF.

8 GEF Council Document GEF/C.19/6 (May 2002).

F. Funding under the Kyoto Protocol (Decision 10/CP.7)

COP 7 guidance

60. In decision 10/CP.7 on “*Funding under the Kyoto Protocol*,” paragraph 4, the COP decided that 4. Decides also that the adaptation fund shall be operated and managed by an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, with guidance to be provided by the Conference of the Parties in the period prior to entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol.

GEF response

61. See paragraph 55 in this section.

Bonn, Germany



XXII. COP 6-2 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. Resumed sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 6-2), was held from 16–27 July 2001 in Bonn, Germany. Decisions at COP 6-2 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance are included in its report to COP 7. The reporting period is FY 2000, from 1 July 2001, to 31 May 2002.

A. The Bonn Agreements on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (Decision 5/CP.6)

COP 6 guidance

2. In the Annex of the decision 5/CP.6 on “*Core Elements for the Implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action*”, under the Special Climate Change Fund section, paragraph 1, the COP agreed to that a special climate change fund shall be established to finance activities, programmes and measures related to climate change, that are complementary to those funded by the resources allocated to the Global Environment Facility climate change focal area and by bilateral and multilateral funding, in the following areas:
 - (a) Adaptation;
 - (b) Technology transfer;
 - (c) Energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management; and
 - (d) Activities to assist developing country Parties referred to under Article 4, paragraph 8 (h), in diversifying their economies.
5. In the Annex of the decision 5/CP.6 under the Special Climate Change Fund section, paragraph 2, the COP also agreed that the Parties included in Annex II and other Parties included in Annex I that are in a position to do so shall be invited to contribute to the fund, which shall be operated by an entity which operates the financial mechanism, under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties.
6. In the Annex of the decision 5/CP.6 under the Special Climate Change Fund section, paragraph 3, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility to make the necessary arrangements for the purpose outlined in the paragraphs 1 and 2 under the Special Climate Change Fund section of the Annex to the decision 2/CP.7.
7. In the Annex of the decision 5/CP.6 under the Least developed countries section, paragraph 1, the COP agreed to agree that a least developed countries fund shall be established, which shall be operated by an entity which operates the financial mechanism, under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, to support a work programme for the least developed countries. This work programme shall include, inter alia, National Adaptation Programmes of Action.

8. In the Annex of the decision 5/CP.6 under the Least developed countries section, paragraph 2, the COP agreed to invite the entity referred to in paragraph 1 (under the Least developed countries section of the Annex to the decision 2/CP.7) to make the necessary arrangements for this purpose.
9. In the Annex of the decision 5/CP.6 under the Least developed countries section, paragraph 3, the COP agreed to provide guidance to the entity referred to in paragraph 1 (under the Least developed countries section of the Annex to the decision 2/CP.7) on the modalities for operating this fund, including expedited access.
10. In the Annex of the decision 5/CP.6 under the Adverse effects of climate change section, paragraph 1, the COP agreed that the implementation of the identified activities shall be supported through the Global Environment Facility (in accordance with decision -/CP.6), the special climate change fund (in accordance with decision -/CP.6), and other bilateral and multilateral sources.
11. In the Annex of the decision 5/CP.6 under the Impact of the implementation of response measures section, paragraph 1, the COP agreed that the implementation of the identified activities shall be supported through the Global Environment Facility (in accordance with decision -/CP.6), the special climate change fund (in accordance with decision -/CP.6), and other bilateral and multilateral sources.

GEF response

12. GEF responses can be reviewed in Chapter 13, COP 7 and GEF responses.

The Hague, The Netherlands



XXIII. COP 6 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 6) was held from 13–25 November 2000 in The Hague, The Netherlands. One of the principal aims of COP 6 was to reach agreement on the implementation details of the Kyoto Protocol. Despite the promising atmosphere at the outset of negotiations, countries were unable to reach agreement on key issues at the end of the two weeks, and the talks were suspended. No guidance to the GEF was provided at the COP 6.
2. In its report to COP 7¹, the GEF described GEF activities approved by the Council during the reporting period (1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001) in the areas covered by the Convention. During this reporting period, the GEF continued to follow the guidance provided by the previous COP.

¹ The GEF report to COP 7 (FCCC/CP/2001/8) is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600001557>.

Bonn, Germany



XXIV. COP 5 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 5) was held from 25 October to 5 November 1999 in Bonn, Germany. Decisions at COP 5 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance are included in its report to COP 6.¹ The reporting period is FY 2000, from 1 July 1999, to 30 June 2000.

A. National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties (Decision 8/CP.5)

COP 5 guidance

2. In decision 8/CP.5 on "*Other matters related to communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention,*" paragraph 1 (d), the COP decided that all Parties that have submitted their initial national communications before the adoption of revised guidelines for national communications, and wish to start the preparation of their second national communications before the seventh session of the COP, may do so using the initial guidelines; that the Global Environment Facility shall provide funding for the preparation of the second national communications of such Parties, following the guidance to the Global Environment Facility set out in decisions 11/CP.2 and 2/CP.4; and that Parties which start to prepare their second national communications after adoption of the revised guidelines shall use the revised guidelines.
3. In decision 8/CP.5, paragraph 2, the COP decided further that the frequency of submission of national communications by non-Annex I Parties shall be determined at its seventh session; for this purpose, adequate information from the operating entity of the financial mechanism on the effective availability of financial resources to non-Annex I Parties and the timing of disbursement of these resources to developing countries for the preparation of initial national communications will be necessary to determine the timetable for non-Annex I Party submissions, in accordance with Article 4.3 of the Convention.
4. In decision 8/CP.5, paragraph 6, the COP invited the Global Environment Facility to include in the report on its activities to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session specific references to the implementation of decisions 2/CP.4 and 10/CP.2.

GEF response

5. This decision makes clear that a Party that has submitted its initial national communication may decide:

¹ GEF responses to COP 5 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 6 (FCCC/CP/2000/3) was compiled (28 September 2000), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 6 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600000931>.

- (a) to begin activities for the preparation of its second national communication using the existing guidelines for the preparation of initial national communications contained in the annex to decision 10/CP.2; or
 - (b) to wait until revised guidelines for the preparation of national communications have been approved by the time of COP 7.
6. Decision 8/CP.5 requests the GEF to provide funding for the preparation of second national communications to Parties wishing to prepare the second national communications. The GEF has fully implemented the decision of the COP by making available financial resources to any eligible Party seeking assistance to prepare its second national communication prior to the revision of the guidelines. In so doing, the GEF has endeavored to respond as expeditiously and flexibly as possible, consistent with the guidance of the COP. During the reporting period, a proposal for the second national communication in Uruguay was approved by the GEF Council in May 2000.
7. Following the decisions of the fourth session of the COP and the additional funding for expedited enabling activities approved by Council in May 1999, the operational guidelines for climate change enabling activities have been extended to allow eligible countries to address priority concerns with GEF assistance. Additional funds to the extent of \$100,000 are available through the expedited procedure pathway for countries to address priority capacity building needs identified in decision 2/CP.4.² A Party may choose to access these funds if it would like to undertake capacity building activities identified in decision 2/CP.4 while waiting for revised guidelines for the preparation of second national communications. As of 30 June 2000, 9 projects to address capacity building in priority areas have been approved.

B. Capacity-Building in Developing Countries (Decision 10/CP.5)

COP 5 guidance

8. In decision 10/CP.5 on “*Capacity-building in developing countries (non-Annex I Parties)*,” paragraph 5, the COP requested the UNFCCC Secretariat:
- To develop in accordance with this decision, in close consultation with Parties at the twelfth sessions of the subsidiary bodies, and based on the information compiled and synthesized, elements of a draft framework for capacity-building activities, including elements related to capacity-building emerging from discussions of other issues under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, for consideration by the subsidiary bodies at their thirteenth sessions (subparagraph (d));
 - To coordinate closely with, and seek the assistance of, the GEF, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, and the secretariat of relevant United Nations agencies and international organizations, and bilateral and multilateral institutions, in preparing the elements of the draft framework referred to in subparagraph (d) above; to continue to coordinate with these agencies, organizations and institutions regarding their climate change capacity-building activities in support of the implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol; and in reporting on this coordination, to include information on the financing of these activities, at regular intervals (subparagraph (e));

2 Priorities for capacity building identified by decision 2/CP.4 in the context of its second national communications include capacity building to assist in: (i) identification and submission of prioritized technology needs, (ii) participation in systematic observation networks, (iii) improvement of emission factors, (iv) assessment of technology needs and modalities to acquire and absorb them, (v) design, evaluation and hosting of projects.

- To report to the subsidiary bodies, at their twelfth sessions, on progress in the review by the GEF of its enabling activities, its capacity-building activities in its normal work programme, its Country Dialogue Workshops and its capacity Development Initiative (subparagraph (f)).

GEF response

9. In its report to the fifth session of the COP, the GEF introduced the CDI. The first phase of the CDI was to undertake a comprehensive assessment of capacity development needs. Assessment of country needs has been undertaken on a regional basis in Africa, Asia/Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean by teams of regional experts in climate change, biodiversity and land degradation. A separate report was also prepared on the capacity development needs of Small Island developing states. Regional workshops to review the experts' reports were organized in the regions. The reports were made available to the 13th session of the SBI in September, 2000.
10. In view of the considerable work on capacity building already undertaken, the CDI has also prepared a number of other studies, including assessments of the capacity development activities through GEF projects, and an assessment of relevant capacity development work of other multilateral and bilateral institutions.
11. A comprehensive report on the CDI was submitted to the 12th session of the SBI in June, 2000. As requested by the Parties, this report also included information on the GEF review of enabling activities and the country dialogue workshops. Several presentations were also organized on these issues to better inform delegates during the 12th and 13th sessions of the SBI.

Buenos Aires, Argentina



XXV. COP 4 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 4) was held from 2–13 November 1998 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Decisions at COP 4 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance are included in its report to COP 5.¹ The reporting period is FY 1999, from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999.

A. Additional Guidance to the Operating Entity (Decision 2/CP.4)

COP 4 guidance

2. In decision 2/CP.4 on “Additional guidance to the operating entity of the financial mechanism,” paragraph 1, the COP decided that, in accordance with Articles 4.3, 4.5 and 11.1 of the Convention, the GEF should provide funding to developing country Parties to:
 - (a) Implement adaptation response measures under Article 4.1 of the Convention for adaptation activities envisaged in decision 11/CP.1, paragraph 1(d)(ii) (Stage II activities) in particularly vulnerable countries and regions identified in Stage I activities, and especially in countries vulnerable to climate-related natural disasters, taking into account their preparatory adaptation planning frameworks in priority sectors, the completion of Stage I activities, and in the context of their national communications;
 - (b) Enable them, in light of their social and economic conditions and taking into account state-of-the-art environmentally sound technologies, to identify and submit to the Conference of the Parties their prioritized technology needs, especially as concerns key technologies needed in particular sectors of their national economies conducive to addressing climate change and minimizing its adverse effects;
 - (c) Build capacity for participation in systematic observational networks to reduce scientific uncertainties relating to the causes, effects, magnitude and timing of climate change, in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention;
 - (d) Meet the agreed full costs of preparing initial and subsequent national communications, in accordance with Articles 4.3 and 12.5 of the Convention and decision 11/CP.2, paragraph 1(d), by maintaining and enhancing relevant national capacity, so as to prepare the initial and second national communications which will take into account experiences, including gaps and problems identified in previous national communications, and guidelines established by the Conference of the Parties. Guidance on subsequent national communications will be provided by the Conference of the Parties;

¹ GEF responses to COP 4 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 5 (FCCC/CP/1999/3) was compiled (3 September 1999), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 5 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600000687>.

- (e) Assist them with studies leading to the preparation of national programmes to address climate change, compatible with national plans for sustainable development, in accordance with Article 4.1(b) of the Convention and paragraph 13 of the annex to decision 10/CP.2;
 - (f) Assist in developing, strengthening and/or improving national activities for public awareness and education on climate change and response measures, in full accordance with Article 6 of the Convention and decision 11/CP.1, paragraph 1(b)(iii), and taking into account, where appropriate, relevant GEF operational programmes;
 - (g) Support capacity-building for:
 - i) The assessment of technology needs to fulfill the commitments of developing countries under the Convention, the identification of sources and suppliers of these technologies, and the determination of modalities for the acquisition and absorption thereof;
 - ii) Country-driven activities and projects to enable Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) to design, evaluate and manage these projects;
 - iii) Strengthening the capacity of non-Annex I Parties to host projects, including from project formulation and development to their implementation;
 - iv) Facilitating national/regional access to the information provided by international centres and networks, and for working with those centres for the dissemination of information, information services, and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and know-how in support of the Convention;
3. In decision 2/CP.4, paragraph 2, the COP requested the GEF to continue to provide, and developing country Parties to avail themselves of, funding to translate, reproduce, disseminate and make available their initial national communications electronically.
 4. In decision 2/CP.4, paragraph 3, the COP encouraged the GEF to:
 - (a) Further streamline its project cycle with a view to making project preparation simpler, less prescriptive, more transparent and country-driven;
 - (b) Further simplify and expedite its procedures for the approval and implementation of GEF-funded projects, including disbursements for such projects;
 - (c) Make the process for the determination of incremental costs more transparent, and its application more pragmatic.
 5. In decision 2/CP.4, paragraph 4, the COP requested the GEF to ensure that its implementing/ executing agencies are made aware of Convention provisions and decisions adopted by the COP in the performance of their GEF obligations and are encouraged, as a first priority, whenever possible, to use national experts/consultants in all aspects of project development and implementation;
 6. In decision 2/CP.4, paragraph 5, the COP further requested the GEF to include in its report to the COP the specific steps it has undertaken to implement the provisions of this decision.

GEF response

Support for adaptation activities

7. Funding for Stage II adaptation activities will be made available to particularly “vulnerable countries and regions identified in Stage I activities, and especially countries vulnerable to climate-related natural disasters, taking into account their preparatory adaptation planning frameworks in priority sectors, the completion of Stage I activities, and in the context of their national communications.” In making available such resources, the GEF will follow guidance to be provided by the COP on subsequent national communications.

Enabling activities

8. The GEF has reported in its previous reports to the COP on steps it has taken to implement the guidance contained in decision 11/CP.2 through its financing for enabling activities. During the reporting period, national enabling activity projects covering 21 countries were approved. To date, financing for enabling activities in 127 non-Annex I countries and seven Annex I countries has been approved. All these projects have been developed with the full collaboration of the recipient country Parties, and to varying extent, all these projects provide assistance for the preparation of national communications.

National communications

9. The global project entitled, “*National Communications Support Programme*”, approved by the Council during the previous reporting period aims to improve the quality, comprehensiveness, and timeliness of the initial communications from non-Annex I Parties. After the organization of a number of thematic and regional workshops, the UNDP Support Programme team is reviewing the program in light of countries’ feedback with the objective of refocusing the work program. To respond to the evolving needs of countries, they are undertaking a needs assessment and setting up an open forum to strengthen consultation with countries. The assessment will be carried out with inputs from non-Annex I Parties.

Capacity building

10. Recognizing the continued and strong emphasis on capacity building from the COP to both the UNFCCC, particularly in decision 2/CP.4, as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the GEF Council agreed that a comprehensive and targeted assessment of capacity building would be timely. Through a strategic partnership, UNDP and the GEF Secretariat, in collaboration with the other Implementing Agencies, the Convention Secretariats, and STAP, have initiated a process leading to a comprehensive study of capacity building needs and a recommended strategy for addressing those needs. The process will draw upon the experiences of the GEF family through its enabling activities (including evaluations of enabling activities and relevant GEF-financed projects) and other projects, as well as the experiences of other bilateral and multilateral institutions that are contributing to capacity building. The initiative should provide both the COP and the GEF Council information on capacity building needs and priorities as well as recommendations for an effective and pragmatic strategy for capacity building.
11. The GEF Council also authorized the CEO, pending the results of this initiative and the approval of a comprehensive strategy for capacity building, to approve revisions/additions to the present scope of the expedited procedures for enabling activities in order to better assist recipient countries to address immediate capacity building priorities consistent with the most recent guidance of the COP (decision 2/CP.4). With this new decision, the GEF may approve under its expedited procedures for enabling activities assistance up to US\$450,000 per country. By the time of COP 5, GEF will have in place guidelines for accessing these additional funds. It is recognized that these resources are unlikely to adequately address all capacity building needs, they should be sufficient to allow countries to move forward with planning and initial assessment of their priority concerns while the proposed capacity building initiative better identifies effective means to move forward on the crucial issue of effectively building capacity in recipient countries.

12. In revising the ongoing enabling activity projects, a recipient country will be able to select activities to address its priority needs from among those identified by the fourth session of the COP (e.g., capacity building for: assessing technology needs; participating in systematic observational networks; preparing a national program to address climate change; conducting national activities for public awareness; designing, evaluating, and managing projects; and facilitating access to information). Furthermore, it must be emphasized that most GEF projects include capacity building components and activities that directly address the country's highest priority needs and target capacity building outputs related to specific objectives identified in the project. While the GEF is making available additional funds under its enabling activity projects as a direct response to COP 4 guidance, it also welcomes country-driven project proposals developed pursuant to the guidance. To date, no specific project proposals have been received for consideration.

Incremental cost

13. The COP encouraged the GEF to "make the process for the determination of incremental costs more transparent and its application more pragmatic." The GEF Council also called upon the Secretariat, in consultation with the Implementing Agencies and the Secretariats of the biodiversity and climate change conventions, to continue its work on incremental costs to further clarify definitions and facilitate application of the concept.
14. The GEF Secretariat has sought to base its work on a consultative process that would be as comprehensive as possible and take into account the views of a range of stakeholders who may participate in a GEF project at different stages of the project cycle. As a first step, the Secretariat commissioned the preparation of a scoping/issues assessment related to incremental cost determinations for GEF funded projects.
15. The assessment summarized the opinions and comments of over 30 individuals who were involved in different stages of the GEF project cycle, including: Council Members, Alternates, political and operational focal points, Convention focal points, executing agencies, project directors, NGOs, consultants, task managers and staff from the Implementing Agencies, Convention Secretariats, STAP and GEF Secretariat. The report outlined the main issues and challenges that were identified in the interviews and written submissions as well as suggestions for addressing those challenges.
16. After reviewing the assessment and proposed recommendations, the GEF Council requested the Secretariat to continue its work to make the application of incremental costs more pragmatic by addressing the concerns raised. The GEF Secretariat, together with the Implementing Agencies and the Convention Secretariats, then worked in partnership with the International Institute for Environment and Development, to organize a workshop to provide inputs into the development of guidelines for agreeing upon incremental costs as well as simplified approaches to incremental costs determination in the GEF focal areas. Prior to the workshop, three sets of papers were commissioned which served to focus the discussion of the workshop: country experience papers, focal area papers, and expert review papers. At the workshop, a general consensus emerged on a number of recommendations:
17. Based on the report of the workshop, the Council requested the Secretariat and Implementing Agencies to continue their efforts to make the process of determining incremental costs more transparent and its application more pragmatic. The Secretariat will report back to the GEF Council on this issue at its meeting in December 1999. Specifically, work is proceeding on:
 - (a) simplifying and better clarifying key conceptual issues integral to the estimation of incremental costs;
 - (b) articulating guidelines for incorporation in the GEF project cycle to emphasize that estimation of incremental costs should be through an agreement process with the recipient;

- (c) applying the incremental cost approach more systematically through logical framework project design;
- (d) piloting even more streamlined procedures for medium-sized project; and
- (e) developing more “user friendly” materials for outreach and training.

B. Review of the Financial Mechanism (Decision 3/CP.4)

COP 4 decisions

18. In decision 3/CP.4 on “*Review of the financial mechanism,*” paragraph 1, the COP, taking note of the study of the overall performance of the restructured GEF, decided that the restructured GEF shall be an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism referred to in Article 11 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
19. In decision 3/CP.4, paragraph 2, the COP decided also, in accordance with Article 11.4 of the Convention, to review the financial mechanism every four years, on the basis of the guidelines² as contained in the annex to this decision or as they may subsequently be amended, and to take appropriate measures.

C. National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties (Decision 12/CP.4)

COP 4 guidance

20. In decision 12/CP.4 on “*Initial national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention,*” paragraph 1 (d), the COP decided to ensure that issues and concerns identified by non-Annex I Parties in their initial communications are brought to the attention of the GEF and, through it, as appropriate, its implementing agencies when undertaking the comprehensive review of enabling activities projects.

GEF response

21. See paragraphs 8 and 9 in this section.

² On the guidelines, see Annex 3 of this booklet.

Kyoto, Japan



XXVI. COP 3 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 3) was held from 1–10 December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan. Decisions at COP 3 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance are included in its report to COP 4.¹ The reporting period is FY 1998, from 1 June 1997 to 30 June 1998.

A. Annex to the MOU (Decision 12/CP.3)

COP 3 guidance

2. In decision 12/CP.3 on “Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding on the determination of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention,” the COP:
 - (a) Took note of the approval by the Council of the Global Environment Facility of the annex to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;
 - (b) Decided to approve the annex to the Memorandum of Understanding, thereby bringing it into force.²

GEF response

Implementation of guidance

3. The guidance provided by the COP at its first session to the GEF, “to adopt a mixed strategy wherein projects will be selected with a double set of program priorities as described in paragraph 9(c) of the (GEF) report, that is, if they meet either one of the long-term program priorities or one of the short-term program priorities.” Provided clear direction for the GEF as it developed its Operational Strategy. The GEF has financed climate change projects under both cost-effective and short-term response measures and under three Operational Programs³ that address the long-term priorities of the Convention. Operational programs concerning transport and carbon sequestration are being developed. The short-term response measures are also an opportunity to develop projects with objectives that might serve as the basis for future long-term operational programs, consistent with the guidance of the COP.
4. The policies and program priorities identified in decision 11/CP.1 are fully reflected in the GEF Operational Strategy and the three Operational Programs, and have been consistently followed in developing project activities.

1 GEF responses to COP 3 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 4 (FCCC/CP/1998/12) was compiled (26 August 1998), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 4 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?piref=600000731>.

2 On the annex to the MOU, see Annex 2 of this booklet.

3 Operational Programs in the area of climate change are: removing barriers to energy conservation and energy efficiency; promoting the adoption of renewable energy by removing barriers and reducing implementation costs; and, reducing the long-term costs of low greenhouse gas-emitting energy technologies.

Preparation of national communications of non-Annex I Parties

5. The GEF has reported in its previous reports to the COP on steps it has taken to implement the guidance contained in decision 11/CP.2 through its financing for enabling activities. During the reporting period, the CEO/Chairman approved national enabling activity projects covering 38 countries. To date, financing for enabling activities in 113 countries has been approved.⁴ All these projects have been developed with the full collaboration of the recipient country Parties, and all address to some extent the need to prepare national communications. In addition to Jordan and Argentina, which submitted their national communications during the previous reporting period, six more non-Annex I countries (Mexico, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Uruguay and Zimbabwe) have submitted their initial national communications during this reporting period. Five of them were assisted through GEF enabling activities.
6. During the reporting period the Council approved a global project entitled, "*National Communication Support Programme*". The activities of the project aim to improve the quality, comprehensiveness, and timeliness of the initial communications from non-Annex I Parties in accordance with the Convention guidance through: (i) the operation of a desk for climate change enabling activities, (ii) provision of additional technical assistance, and (iii) organization of a number of thematic and regional workshops. This project is expected to significantly enhance the capacity of non-Annex I Parties to prepare their initial national communications.
7. Recently, the GEF secretariat requested the Implementing Agencies to ensure that GEF funded enabling activities meet the cost of translation of the communication into an official language of the United Nations. The Implementing Agencies were also encouraged to meet the costs of translation of the national communication into English where that is not the UN language chosen by the Party concerned.⁵

⁴ FCCC/CP/1998/12/Add.1.

⁵ Decision 10/CP.2 provides: "The communication may be submitted in one of the official languages of the United Nations. Non-Annex I Parties are also encouraged to submit, to the extent possible and where relevant, a translation of their communications into English".

Geneva, Switzerland



XXVII. COP 2 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 2) was held from 8–19 July 1996 in Geneva, Switzerland. Decisions at COP 2 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance are included in its report to COP 3.¹ The reporting period is from 1 May 1996 to 30 June 1997.

A. Guidance to the GEF (Decision 11/CP.2)

COP 2 guidance

2. In decision 11/CP.2 on “*Guidance to the Global Environment Facility*,” paragraph 1, the COP, decided to adopt the following guidance to the Global Environment Facility, as the interim operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention. In this regard, the Global Environment Facility should:
 - (a) In the initial period, implement strategies on enabling activities in accordance with decision 11/CP.1 which facilitate endogenous capacity-building, including data collection and archiving, consistent with the policy guidance, programme priorities and eligibility criteria provided to it by the Conference of the Parties;
 - (b) In providing the financial resources needed by developing country Parties to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures covered by Article 4.1 of the Convention in accordance with Article 4.3, take steps to facilitate this provision of financial resources, including the enhancement of transparency and the flexible and pragmatic application of its concept of incremental costs on a case-by-case basis;
 - (c) Together with its implementing agencies, expedite the approval and the disbursement of financial resources to meet the agreed full costs incurred by the developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12.1 of the Convention, in accordance with Article 4.3, and in particular for the initial and subsequent preparation of national communications of non-Annex I Parties. In this regard, the guidelines and format adopted by the COP at its second session on the preparation of initial national communications by non-Annex I Parties contained in decision 10/CP.2 shall form the basis for the funding of communications from non-Annex I Parties under Article 12.1 of the Convention;
 - (d) Consider country-specific needs and other approaches which may be used for several countries with similar needs, upon request, and take into account that the preparation of national communications is a continuing process;

¹ GEF responses to COP 2 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 3 (FCCC/CP/1997/3) was compiled, unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 3 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600000439>.

- (e) When funding the agreed full costs for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties, finance the agreed full incremental costs of projects related to other commitments contained in the Convention only upon request of the Party concerned;
3. In decision 11/CP.2, paragraph 2, the COP invited developing country Parties that are interested in receiving assistance for enabling activities, in particular for the preparation of national communications in accordance with Article 12 of the Convention, to avail themselves of the financial resources being made available from the financial mechanism for such purposes.
4. In decision 11/CP.2, paragraph 3, the COP requested the Global Environment Facility, as the interim operating entity of the financial mechanism, to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on the implementation of this guidance, including on experience gained in the application of the concept of agreed full incremental costs.

GEF response

5. The preambular paragraphs of this decision express concern over certain difficulties experienced by developing countries in receiving financial assistance from the GEF. In particular, problems are stated to arise from the application of GEF's "*operational policies on eligibility criteria, disbursement, project cycle and approval, the application of its concept of incremental costs, and guidelines which impose considerable administrative and financial costs on developing country Parties.*" These concerns have been addressed to some extent in the GEF's report to COP 2 and in detail in the current report. Nonetheless, the following encapsulates a general response to these concerns.
6. The application of *operational policies on eligibility criteria, disbursement, project cycle and approval*: As the GEF's second report to the COP noted, its Operational Strategy was developed to guide the GEF in the preparation of country-driven initiatives in its four focal areas, which include climate change. The Strategy explicitly states that "...all GEF-funded activities in climate change will be in full conformity with the guidance provided by the COP to the Convention." Eligibility *in terms of access to resources* is unambiguously determined by the Parties, and no other criteria are applied by the GEF for Parties to the Convention. *Eligibility in term of projects*, equally, is determined by the guidance received so far from the COP and the priorities it has laid down, in particular decision 11/CP.1. Operational policies provide for a fully transparent and participatory system of project preparation, evaluation and approval and there is no evidence that the GEF policies and procedures create any disbursement difficulties. The annual performance implementation reviews undertaken by the GEF indicate that annual disbursement of GEF grants is equal to or more rapid than disbursement under the normal operations of the Implementing Agencies. Furthermore, the operational procedures are flexible enough to allow changes and improvements whenever necessary. The *project cycle*, too, is an effort by the GEF to formulate easily understood, transparent procedures for accessing GEF resources through cost-effective, high quality projects.
7. The *application of its concept of incremental costs*: It needs to be reiterated here that the COP has not yet provided any guidance on incremental costs, preferring to wait until more experience has been gained on the subject. Pending any guidance, the GEF has applied the concept in a "flexible, pragmatic and on a case-by-case basis" in keeping with decision 11/CP.1.
8. *Guidelines which impose considerable administrative and financial costs on developing countries*: the development of a GEF-financed project is undertaken in full partnership with the recipient country concerned, and the criteria of country-drivenness, is the touchstone on which all proposals are tested. In the case of enabling activities, agreed full costs are met by GEF funding, while for other projects, full incremental costs are met. Country endorsement of projects and responsibility for implementation ensure that the recipient country is fully supportive of, and accountable for, the implementation of the project.

9. During COP 2, the GEF did not always have the benefit of detailed information substantiating the concerns voiced in the preambular paragraphs. It welcomes efforts undertaken within the context of the review of the GEF by the Convention through its SBI to invite written comments from Parties on their experience with the GEF. This provides the GEF with a constructive opportunity to respond to the concerns and difficulties felt at the operational level, and to continue to effect improvements in the GEF's processes and procedures when necessary.

Expedited procedures for enabling activities and the preparation of national communications

10. In its report to COP 2, the GEF elaborated upon the procedures that it had approved to expedite the preparation and implementation of enabling activities projects. These include:
 - (a) the preparation of operational criteria for enabling activities related to national communications;
 - (b) an expedited approval process for enabling activity project proposals consistent with the operational criteria;
 - (c) approval of an initial allocation of \$US 30 million for purposes of expediting enabling activity projects; and
 - (d) concerted outreach efforts to inform eligible countries about the availability of financial resources and expedited procedures to facilitate the approval and implementation of enabling activities.
11. Shortly after COP 2, in light of decision 11/CP.2, the CEO convened a senior management meeting of the Implementing Agencies and secretariat. Agreement was reached on a number of ways to streamline GEF internal working procedures and to further expedite GEF enabling activity approval and implementation. There was general agreement on the need to ensure rapid preparation, approval, and implementation of enabling activities. Approval by the Council in April 1996 of expedited procedures was recognized as an important, but still quite recent, step towards improving the process. Nevertheless, it was agreed that even more could be done to facilitate early disbursement of funds at the country level. In particular, steps were agreed to:
 - (a) expedite task force review of project proposals;
 - (b) enable approval of enabling activities to occur on a rolling basis, as and when proposals are prepared; and
 - (c) provide for up to 15% of the total budget activity to be available for startup work as soon as the CEO approves the projects proposal.

B. MOU between the COP and the GEF Council (Decision 12/CP.2)

COP 2 decision

12. In decision 12/CP.2 on "*Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility*," paragraph 2, the COP adopted the Memorandum of Understanding annexed to the present decision, thereby bringing it into force.²
13. In decision 12/CP.2, paragraph 3, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to inform the Council of the Global Environment Facility of this decision.

² On the MOU, see Annex 1 of this booklet.

14. In decision 13/CP.2 on "*Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility: annex on the determination of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention*," paragraph 1, the COP decided to refer the text of the annex on the determination of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention adopted by the Council of the Global Environment Facility and the draft annex submitted by the Group of 77 and China³ for consideration by the SBI at its next session;

C. Geneva Ministerial Declaration

Geneva Ministerial Declaration

15. In the "*Geneva Ministerial Declaration*," the Ministers and other heads of delegations present at the second session of the COP to the UNFCCC welcomed the efforts of developing country Parties to implement the Convention and thus to address climate change and its adverse impacts and, to this end, to make their initial national communications in accordance with guidelines adopted by the COP at its second session; and call on the GEF to provide expeditious and timely support to these Parties and initiate work towards a full replenishment in 1997.

³ FCCC/SBI/1996/L.4.

Berlin, Germany



XXVIII. COP 1 Guidance and GEF Responses

1. The first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 1) was held from 28 March to 7 April 1995 in Berlin, Germany. Decisions at COP 1 include guidance to the GEF. GEF responses to the guidance are included in its report to COP 2.¹ The report was submitted with the GEF Annual Report for 1995, which covers the activities of the GEF in the climate change area for FY 1995, from 1 July 1994, to 30 June 1995. An update of the activities, covering the period from 1 July 1995 to 30 April 1996, is contained within the GEF report to COP 2.

A. Interim Arrangements referred to in Article 21, paragraph 3 (Decision 9/CP.1)

COP 1 decisions

2. In decision 9/CP.1 on "*Maintenance of the interim arrangements referred to in Article 21, paragraph 3, of the Convention,*" paragraph 1, the COP decided that the restructured Global Environment Facility shall continue, on an interim basis, to be the international entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism referred to in Article 11 of the Convention.
3. In decision 9/CP.1, paragraph 2, the COP decided, in accordance with Article 11.4 of the Convention, to review the financial mechanism within four years and take appropriate measures, including a determination of the definitive status of the Global Environment Facility in the context of the Convention.

B. Arrangements between the COP and the Operating Entity (Decision 10/CP.1)

COP 1 guidance

4. In decision 10/CP.1 on "*Arrangements between the Conference of the Parties and the operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism,*" paragraph 1, the COP requested the secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and bearing in mind comments made at the eleventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, to prepare draft arrangements for consideration by the SBI at its first session and adoption by the COP at its second session.
5. In this regard, the SBI, at the first meeting in August 1995,

¹ GEF responses to COP 1 guidance are as of the date when the GEF report to COP 2 (FCCC/CP/1996/8) was compiled (14 June 1996), unless stated otherwise. The GEF report to COP 2 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600001370>.

- (a) Recommended that the COP adopt the draft decision and the draft Memorandum of Understanding annexed thereto, subject to the necessary editorial adjustments;
- (b) Requested the secretariats of the Convention and the Global Environment Facility to elaborate jointly the annex to the Memorandum of Understanding on procedures to facilitate the joint determination in a predictable and identifiable manner of the amount of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention and the conditions under which that amount shall be periodically reviewed, as referred to in paragraph 9 of the Memorandum;
- (c) Decided to consider the above-mentioned annex after its adoption by the Council of the Global Environment Facility and prior to its adoption by the COP.

GEF response

- 6. In accordance with the decision, the secretariats of the Convention and the GEF prepared a draft annex to the draft MOU regarding procedures to facilitate the joint determination of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention. The Council reviewed the draft prepared by the two secretariats. The draft annex approved by the Council has been submitted to the Convention secretariat for transmittal to the SBI and the second session of the COP.

C. Initial Guidance to the Operating Entity (Decision 11/CP.1)

COP 1 guidance

- 7. In decision 11/CP.1 on "*Initial guidance on policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria to the operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism,*" paragraph 1, the COP decided to adopt the following initial guidance on policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria to the operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism:
 - (a) Regarding activities undertaken under Article 11 of the Convention,

Within the framework of the financial mechanism:

 - i) The operating entity or entities should, in all funding decisions related to the financial mechanism, take into account Article 4.1, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9 and 4.10 of the Convention. In particular, in order to take full account of the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries, funds allocated to their projects/programmes should be on a grant basis;
 - ii) Projects funded through the financial mechanism should be country-driven and in conformity with, and supportive of, the national development priorities of each country;
 - iii) The operating entity or entities should ensure that, with reference to activities involving transfer of technology, such technology is environmentally sound and adapted to suit local conditions;
 - iv) As far as possible, due consideration should be given to the following aspects concerning activities undertaken under the financial mechanism. Activities should be:
 - supportive of the national development priorities which contribute to a comprehensive national response to climate change;

- consistent with and supportive of the relevant provisions of internationally agreed programmes of action for sustainable development in line with the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 and UNCED-related agreements;
 - sustainable and lead to wider application;
 - cost-effective.
 - v) The operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism should strive to leverage other funds in support of the activities of developing country Parties to address climate change;
 - vi) In mobilizing funds, the operating entity or entities should provide all relevant information to developed country Parties and other Parties included in Annex II to the Convention, to assist them to take into full account the need for adequacy and predictability in the flow of funds. The entity or entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism should take full account of the arrangements agreed with the Conference of the Parties, which, inter alia, shall include determination in a predictable and identifiable manner of the amount of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention, as provided for in Article 11.3(d) of the Convention.
- (b) Regarding programme priorities,
- i) Priority should be given to the funding of agreed full costs (or agreed full incremental costs, as appropriate) incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Article 12.1 and other relevant commitments under the Convention. In the initial period, emphasis should be placed on enabling activities undertaken by developing country Parties, such as planning and endogenous capacity-building, including institutional strengthening, training, research and education, that will facilitate implementation, in accordance with the Convention, of effective response measures;
 - ii) In this context, activities aimed at strengthening research and technological capabilities for the implementation of the Convention in developing country Parties should be supported through international and intergovernmental efforts. Such support would include networking and the training of experts and, as appropriate, institutional development;
 - iii) Emphasis should also be placed on improving national public awareness and education on climate change and response measures;
 - iv) The operating entity or entities should finance the formulation by developing country Parties of nationally determined programmes to address climate change issues which are in accordance with national development priorities. To facilitate the formulation of these programmes, it should finance capacity-building and all other activities related to the formulation, management and regular updating of these programmes, which should, as far as possible, be comprehensive;
 - v) The operating entity or entities should, in accordance with the policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria as established by the Conference of the Parties, be available to assist, if so requested, in the implementation of the national programmes adopted by developing country Parties;
 - vi) In the implementation of these national programmes, the operating entity or entities should support agreed activities to mitigate climate change, as referred to in the Convention, in particular in Article 4.1, consistent with Article 4.3.

- (c) Regarding eligibility criteria,
- (d) Eligibility criteria shall apply to countries and to activities and shall be applied in accordance with Article 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3;
 - i) Regarding eligibility of countries, only countries that are Parties to the Convention would be eligible to receive funding upon entry into force of the Convention. In this context, only developing country Parties would be eligible to receive funding through the financial mechanism, in accordance with Article 4.3;
 - ii) Regarding eligibility of activities,
 - Those activities related to obligations under Article 12.1 to communicate information for which the “agreed full costs” are to be met are eligible for funding;
 - Measures covered by Article 4.1 are eligible for funding through the financial mechanism in accordance with Article 4.3. Such measures should be agreed between the developing country Party and the international entity or entities referred to in Article 11.1, in accordance with Article 4.3;
 - In addition to the above, such measures would be eligible for financial support under Article 11.5.
- (e) Regarding adaptation, the following policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria should apply:
 - i) Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, as defined by the Convention, will require short, medium and long term strategies which should be cost effective, take into account important socio-economic implications, and should be implemented on a stage-by-stage basis in developing countries that are Parties to the Convention. In the short term, the following stage is envisaged:
 - Stage I: Planning, which includes studies of possible impacts of climate change, to identify particularly vulnerable countries or regions and policy options for adaptation and appropriate capacity-building;
 - ii) In the medium and long term, the following stages are envisaged for the particularly vulnerable countries or regions identified in Stage I:
 - Stage II: Measures, including further capacity-building, which may be taken to prepare for adaptation, as envisaged by Article 4.1(e);
 - Stage III: Measures to facilitate adequate adaptation, including insurance, and other adaptation measures as envisaged by Article 4.1(b) and 4.4;
 - iii) Based on the outputs of the Stage I studies, as well as other relevant scientific and technical studies, such as those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and any emerging evidence of the adverse effects of climate change, the COP may decide that it has become necessary to implement the measures and activities envisaged in Stages II and III, consistent with the relevant conclusions of the Committee and with the provisions of the Convention;

- iv) Funding for the implementation of such adaptation measures and activities would be provided as follows:
- For Stage I, the Conference of the Parties at its first session, shall entrust to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the interim operating entity of the financial mechanism, the task of meeting the agreed full costs of the activities required by Article 12.1 of the Convention. This would include meeting the agreed full costs of relevant adaptation activities undertaken in the context of the formulation of national communications; such activities may include studies of the possible impacts of climate change, identification of options for implementing the adaptation provisions (especially the obligations contained in Article 4.1(b) and 4.1(e) of the Convention), and relevant capacity building;
 - If it is decided in accordance with paragraph (iii) above, that it has become necessary to implement the measures envisaged in Stages II and III, the Parties included in Annex II to the Convention will provide funding to implement the adaptation measures envisaged in these stages in accordance with their commitments contained in Article 4.3 and 4.4 of the Convention;
 - In its review of the financial mechanism of the Convention under Article 11.4, the Conference of the Parties, taking into account studies conducted and options for adaptation identified during Stage I, any emerging evidence of the adverse effects of climate change, as well as the relevant conclusions reached by the Committee and its own decisions on this issue, must decide on the channel or channels, under Article 11 of the Convention, to be used for the funding referred to in the preceding subparagraph, to implement the adaptation measures envisaged in Stages II and III.
- (f) Regarding agreed full incremental costs,
- (g) The various issues of incremental costs are complex and difficult and further discussion on the subject is therefore needed. The application of the concept of agreed full incremental costs should be flexible, pragmatic and on a case-by-case basis. Guidelines in this regard will be developed by the Conference of the Parties at a later stage on the basis of experience.

GEF response

Enabling activities

8. Decision 11/CP.1 stresses the importance of enabling activities. The GEF Operational Strategy section on climate change provides:
- Enabling activities provide the foundations to address climate change through country-driven activities. They have been defined by the FCCC as “planning and endogenous capacity-building, including institutional strengthening, training, research and education, that will facilitate implementation, in accordance with the Convention, of effective response measures.”

Support For the Preparation of National Communications

9. Among the enabling activities, those that are specifically related to countries' obligations concerning national communications under Article 12.1 of the Convention are eligible for GEF financing on the basis of "agreed full costs." Such enabling activities will result in plans on which the national communications will be based; these plans will serve as the basis for sustainable and effective response measures. The assistance provided under these enabling activities will conform fully to the guidance of the COP with respect to national communications. Because the format for national communications is still under consideration, the content will, for the interim, be based on the provisions of Article 12.1. The GEF has prepared operational criteria to guide the preparation and scheduling of support for these activities to ensure:
 - (a) coverage without duplication of the efforts of others (including bilaterally financed studies);
 - (b) appropriate sequencing of the activities;
 - (c) the use of best practices; and
 - (d) cost-effectiveness (including use of norms).
10. Among the project proposals in the area of climate change approved by the Council since February 1995, 24 (60 percent) are for enabling activities. Of these, five are regional and global projects focusing on enabling activities in 36 countries. To date, the GEF has financed enabling activity projects in 55 countries.
11. In order to expedite preparation and implementation of enabling activities projects, the GEF has taken the following steps:
 - (a) It has prepared operational criteria for enabling activities related to national communications in the climate change area. These criteria have been developed in consultation with the GEF Implementing Agencies and the UNFCCC secretariat. The criteria recognize that "because the guidelines for national communications by non-Annex I Parties are still under consideration by the COP, the criteria will, for the interim, be based broadly on the requirements of Article 12.1, taking into account the common, but differentiated responsibilities of countries. The criteria will be revised as necessary once the guidelines of non-Annex I Parties have been developed by the COP. Other decisions by the COP, including guidance on enabling activities related to subsequent communications, will similarly be incorporated as necessary;"
 - (b) It approved an expedited approval process for enabling activity project proposals consistent with the operational criteria. The Council recognized the urgency for implementing these activities in light of their preparatory nature to enable countries to move forward in implementing the Convention;
 - (c) In April 1996, an initial additional allocation of US\$ 30 million was approved to expedite a broad effort of enabling activities that support the climate change and biodiversity conventions; and
 - (d) The GEF has taken steps to inform eligible countries about the availability of financial resources to assist the implementation of enabling activities.

Funds allocated to projects/programmes in the LDCs

12. All GEF project financing to date has been provided on a grant basis. Approved projects have included ten enabling activity components in the least developed countries.

Country-driven approach

13. Operational Principle Number 4 of the GEF Operational Strategy provides, "The GEF will fund projects that are country-driven and based on national priorities designed to support sustainable development, as identified within the context of national programs."
14. The GEF Project Cycle provides that the country operational focal point is responsible for reviewing project ideas, endorsing their consistency with respect to national programs, and confirming that project ideas are supportive of national priorities. All project proposals, as well as requests for project preparation funding, submitted for approval need Government endorsement from the given operational focal point.

Transfer of technology

15. The GEF Operational Strategy provides that GEF-financed activities are to be environmentally, socially and financially sustainable, and not merely more benign forms of current, but unsustainable, activities. In addition, GEF-financed activities are to avoid the transfer of negative environmental impacts. Project designs are to be consistent with the Operational Strategy, as it applies to the other focal areas. They must avoid creating negative impacts in other focal areas.
16. The GEF policy on incremental costs provides that no GEF activity should have a negative domestic environmental impact. If the project proposal contains a component that could have a negative impact, the proposal must also include a component that would mitigate this impact fully.
17. Transfer of technology is a significant factor in GEF-financed climate change activities, particularly those concerned with renewable energy and energy efficiency, such as the Efficient Industrial Boilers project in China, the Solar Thermal-Electric project in India, and the Renewable Energy, Small Power project in Indonesia.

Cost-effectiveness

18. A basic operational principle of the Operational Strategy is that the GEF will ensure the cost-effectiveness of its activities to maximize global environmental benefits.

Leverage other funds

19. Another operational principle provides that in seeking to maximize global environmental benefits, the GEF will catalyze and leverage additional financing from other sources.
20. For the climate change project proposals approved to date, at least US\$ 680 million in additional financing has been leveraged, mainly from bilateral donors, the Implementing Agencies, and recipient countries of GEF projects.

Adequacy and predictability in the flow of funds

21. This issue has been addressed in the draft annex to the memorandum of understanding concerning the determination of funding necessary and available for implementation of the Convention.

Priority for agreed full cost and enabling activities

22. Since its restructuring, the GEF has financed 24 projects that will contribute to countries' abilities to prepare first national communications to the COP. In most instances, these projects will pay the full costs of preparing national communications. In other cases, financial support provided by the GEF will complement support from other resources to meet the full costs of communications. These 24 projects will provide assistance to 55 countries. In addition, GEF funded projects in its Pilot Phase are currently providing assistance to 20 more countries. In total, US\$53 million has been provided by the GEF to support 75 countries in preparing part or all of their first national communications to the COP.

23. In addition, the Council recently approved an initial allocation of funds, as well as an approach for expedited approval of enabling activities, to help countries party to the Convention to meet, as appropriate, the Convention's deadline for national communications and planning exercises.
24. As requested by the GEF Council, the GEF is acting proactively to inform eligible countries of the availability of financial support for preparing national communications.

Strengthening research and technological capabilities

25. Some of the enabling activities projects support research and technological capabilities, such as those for Brazil and Mexico. Some of the global projects have a strong research component (for example, the Country Case Studies on Impacts and Adaptation, Economics of GHG Limitation, and Alternatives to Slash and Burn.)
26. Future targeted research activities must be developed within the context of the long-term operational programs identified in the Operational Strategy.

Improving public awareness and education

27. The operational criteria for enabling activities provide for activities, as well as funding, for building public awareness.

Formulation of comprehensive, nationally determined programmes to address climate change

28. Included in the preparation of enabling activities for national communication is the preparation of a national plan to fulfill commitments under the Convention.

Availability support national programmes

29. A basic GEF operational principle is to fund projects that are country-driven, based on national priorities, and are designed to support sustainable development, as identified within the context of national programs.

Support of agreed activities to mitigate climate change

30. The largest amount of funding to date in the climate change focal area has been directed to agreed activities that mitigate climate change either by addressing anthropogenic emissions by sources or through removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol. By emphasizing long-term mitigation measures, the initial reductions of greenhouse gas emissions will be less than those resulting from a strategy exclusively focused on short-term measures. However, the cumulative long-term impact is expected to be much greater because the projects will drive down costs, build capacity, and start to put in place technologies that can ultimately avoid (rather than merely reduce) greenhouse gas emissions.

Eligibility of countries

31. GEF grants made available within the framework of the financial mechanism of the Convention conform with the eligibility criteria set forth by the COP. The criteria provide that only developing country parties are eligible to receive funding from the GEF under the financial mechanism.

Eligibility of Activities

32. The guidance of the COP concerning eligibility of activities is strictly followed. Even when the GEF provides assistance to countries outside the Convention's financial mechanism, it ensures that the activities are fully consistent with the guidance provided by the COP.

Agreed full costs of Stage I adaptation activities

33. The operational criteria for developing enabling activities projects allow for vulnerability assessments in agriculture, forestry, coastal zones, water resources, health and natural ecosystems as components of national communications. Additionally, the GEF has financed, on an agreed full cost basis, several enabling activities projects that emphasize Stage I adaptation activities. Examples include, the Maldives

project, the regional PICCAP and CARICOM projects, the Global CC: TRAIN Programme and UNEP's Country Case Studies on Impacts and Adaptation.

34. In addition, the GEF Operational Strategy on climate change further defines Stage I adaptation activities.

Agreed full incremental costs

35. While approving the approach on incremental costs, the GEF Council recognized the need for a flexible application of the concept of incremental costs. The application of the concept in GEF operations has been both pragmatic and on a case-by-case basis.

D. Report of the GEF to COP (Decision 12/CP.1)

COP 1 guidance

36. In decision 12/CP.1 on "*Report of the GEF to the COP on the development of an operational strategy and on initial activities in the field of climate change,*" paragraph 1, the COP welcomed the decision of the GEF Council to follow a "two-track" programming approach in 1995: while work is undertaken by the GEF secretariat to develop a long-term comprehensive operational strategy, supported by analytical work and consultations, and allowing for the guidance from the Conference of the Parties (track one), some project activities are to be undertaken to allow a smooth transition between the operations of the pilot phase and the restructured GEF (track two).
37. In decision 12/CP.1, paragraph 2, the COP decided to adopt a mixed strategy wherein projects will be selected with a double set of programme priorities as described in paragraph 9(c) of the report, that is, if they met either one of the long-term programme priorities or one of the short-term programme priorities.
38. In decision 12/CP.1, paragraph 4, the COP invited the GEF in future reports to take fully into account relevant aspects of the modalities for the functioning of operational linkages between the COP and the operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism.

GEF response

39. The GEF Operational Strategy provides that GEF operations will be programmed in three broad, interrelated categories: long-term operational programs, enabling activities, and short-term response measures. These three categories follow the guidance of the COP. The strategy also provides that in view of GEF's limited resources and the finite capacities of recipient countries and Implementing Agencies to program activities at any given time, the GEF must structure and sequence activities to best achieve global environmental objectives. The sequencing of GEF tasks will be a dynamic process, shaped in part by the evolving nature of guidance from the relevant Conventions and the increased capacity for program development.



Lisbon, Portugal

Annex 1. Memorandum of Understanding between the COP and the Council of the GEF¹

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 11.3 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recalling also its decision 9/CP.1 on the maintenance of the interim arrangements referred to in Article 21, paragraph 3, of the Convention,

Having considered the recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation,

1. **Takes note** of Part Two, section III (a), paragraph 5, of the report of the Conference of the Parties at its first session,² which states that the Conference of the Parties should receive and review at each of its sessions a report from the Global Environment Facility;
1. **Adopts** the Memorandum of Understanding annexed to the present decision, thereby bringing it into force;
1. **Requests** the Executive Secretary to inform the Council of the Global Environment Facility of this decision.

*8th plenary meeting
19 July 1996*

1 Decision 12/CP.2.

2 FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1.

Annex

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE COUNCIL OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

This Memorandum of Understanding is concluded between the Conference of the Parties (hereinafter referred to as "the COP") to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention") and the Council of the Global Environment Facility (hereinafter referred to as the "Council of the GEF"), the international entity entrusted on an interim basis with the operation of the financial mechanism referred to in Article 11 of the Convention.

INTRODUCTION

The Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding,

Recalling Article 11 of the Convention and recognizing that the financial mechanism is to provide financial resources on a grant and concessional basis, including for the transfer of technology, and is to function under the guidance of and be accountable to the COP, which shall decide on its policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria related to the Convention,

Recalling Article 11.1 which states that the operation of the financial mechanism shall be entrusted to one or more existing international entities,

Recalling also the decision of the first session of the COP on the maintenance of the interim arrangements referred to in Article 21.3 that the restructured GEF shall continue, on an interim basis, to be the international entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, referred to in Article 11,

Recalling further the willingness of the GEF to serve for the purposes of the financial mechanism of the Convention as provided in paragraph 6 of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (hereinafter referred to as "the Instrument"),

Recalling that, in accordance with Article 11.3, the COP and the entity or entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism shall agree upon arrangements to give effect to Article 11.1 and 11.2,

Recalling further that, in accordance with paragraph 27 of the Instrument, the Council of the GEF is to consider and approve cooperative arrangements with the COP,

Have agreed as follows:

Purpose of arrangements

1. The purpose of this Memorandum is to give effect to the respective roles and responsibilities of the COP, the supreme body of the Convention, and the GEF, the international entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism and to provide for the required interaction between them under Article 11 of the Convention and paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Instrument.

Determination and communication of guidance from the COP

2. The COP will, pursuant to Article 11.1, decide on policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria related to the Convention for the financial mechanism which shall function under the guidance of and be accountable to the COP.
3. The COP will, after each of its sessions, communicate to the Council of the GEF any policy guidance approved by the COP concerning the financial mechanism.

Conformity with COP guidance

4. The Council will ensure the effective operation of the GEF as a source of funding activities for the purposes of the Convention in conformity with the guidance of the COP. It will report regularly to the COP on its activities related to the Convention and on the conformity of those activities with the guidance received from the COP.

Reconsideration of funding decisions

5. The funding decisions for specific projects should be agreed between the developing country Party concerned and the GEF in conformity with policy guidance from the COP. The Council of the GEF is responsible for approving the GEF work programmes. If any Party considers that a decision of the Council regarding a specific project in a proposed work programme does not comply with the policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria established by the COP in the context of the Convention, the COP should analyse the observations presented to it by the Party and take decisions on the basis of compliance with such policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria. In the event that the COP considers that this specific project decision does not comply with the policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria established by the COP, it may ask the Council of the GEF for further clarification on the specific project decision and in due time may ask for a reconsideration of that decision.

Reports from the GEF to the COP

6. Annual reports of the GEF will be made available to the COP through its secretariat. Other official public documentation of the GEF will also be made available to the COP through its secretariat. In order to meet the requirement of its accountability to the COP, the Annual Report of the GEF will cover all GEF-financed activities carried out in implementing the Convention, whether such activities are carried out by the GEF Implementing Agencies, the GEF Secretariat or by executing agencies implementing GEF-financed projects. To this end, the Council of the GEF will require all such bodies, with respect to GEF-financed activities, to comply with GEF policy on disclosure of information.
7. In its reporting on GEF-financed activities under the financial mechanism, the GEF should include specific information on how it has applied the guidance and decisions of the COP in its work related to the Convention. This report should be of a substantive nature and incorporate the programme of GEF activities in the areas covered by the Convention and an analysis of how the GEF, in its operations related to the Convention, has implemented the policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria established by the COP. In particular, a synthesis of the different projects under implementation and a listing of the projects approved by the Council in the climate change focal area as well as a financial report with an indication of the financial resources required for those projects should be included. The Council should also report on its monitoring and evaluation activities concerning projects in the climate change focal area.
8. The Council of the GEF may seek guidance from the COP on any matter it considers relevant to the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention.

Determination of funding necessary and available

9. In accordance with Article 11.3(d) of the Convention, which calls for arrangements to determine in a predictable and identifiable manner the amount of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention and the conditions under which that amount shall be periodically reviewed, the COP and the Council shall jointly determine the aggregate GEF funding requirements for the purpose of the Convention. Procedures to facilitate such a joint determination will be developed by the COP and the Council and annexed to this Memorandum.

Cooperation between secretariats

10. The secretariats of the Convention and of the GEF shall cooperate and exchange on a regular basis views and experiences necessary to facilitate the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in assisting Parties to implement the Convention.

Representation in meetings of governing bodies

11. The participation of representatives of the Council of the GEF in meetings of the COP and of its subsidiary bodies will be governed by the rules of procedure of the COP. Likewise, the participation of representatives of the Convention in meetings of the Council of the GEF will be determined in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council of the GEF. In formulating and applying its rules, each organization will make every effort to accord the other organization reciprocal representation privileges.

Review and evaluation of the financial mechanism

12. The COP will periodically review and evaluate the effectiveness of all modalities established in accordance with Article 11.3. Such evaluations will be taken into account by the COP in its decision, pursuant to Article 11.4, on arrangements for the financial mechanism.

Modification of the Memorandum of Understanding

13. This Memorandum of Understanding may only be modified in writing by agreement between the COP and the Council of the GEF.

Entry into effect

14. This Memorandum of Understanding shall come into force upon its approval by the COP of the Convention and the Council of the GEF.

Termination

15. This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Party giving six months' notice in writing to the other.

Annex 2. Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding¹

Determination of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention

In accordance with Article 11.3(d) of the Convention, which calls for arrangements to determine in a predictable and identifiable manner the amount of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention and the conditions under which that amount shall be periodically reviewed, the COP and the Council will jointly determine the aggregate GEF funding requirements for the purpose of the Convention in accordance with the following procedures.

1. In anticipation of a replenishment of the GEF, the COP will make an assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries, in accordance with the guidance provided by the COP, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention over the next GEF replenishment cycle, taking into account:
 - (a) The amount of funds necessary to meet the agreed full costs to be incurred by developing country Parties in order to prepare their national communications under Article 12.1 of the Convention on the basis of the guidelines for national communications of non-Annex I Parties adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second session, and the information communicated to the COP under Article 12 of the Convention;
 - (b) Financial resources needed by the developing country Parties to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures that are covered by Article 4.1 of the Convention and that are agreed between a developing country Party and the international entity or entities referred to in Article 11 of the Convention;
 - (c) Information communicated to the COP from the GEF on the number of eligible programmes and projects that were submitted to the GEF, the number that were approved for funding, and the number that were turned down owing to lack of resources;
 - (d) Other sources of funding available for the implementation of the Convention.
2. The GEF replenishment negotiations will take into account fully and comprehensively the COP's assessment.
3. On the occasion of each replenishment, the GEF will, in its regular report to the COP as provided for in paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Memorandum of Understanding, indicate how it has responded during the replenishment cycle to the COP's previous assessment prepared in accordance with paragraph 1 of this annex, inform the COP of the conclusion of replenishment negotiations and indicate the amount of new and additional funding to be contributed to the GEF Trust Fund in the next replenishment cycle for the purposes of the GEF, including the implementation of the Convention. The COP may, in its action on the GEF reports, consider the adequacy of the resources available for implementation of the Convention.
4. The reiteration of this process on the occasion of each replenishment will present the opportunity to review the amount of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention in accordance with Article 11.3(d).

¹ FCCC/SBI/1996/14.

Annex 3. Guidelines for the Review of the Financial Mechanism¹

A. Objectives

1. In accordance with Article 11.4 of the Convention, the objectives will be to review the financial mechanism and take appropriate measures regarding:
 - (a) Its conformity with the provisions of Article 11 of the Convention;
 - (b) Its conformity with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties (COP);
 - (c) The effectiveness of the activities it funds in implementing the Convention;
 - (d) Its effectiveness in providing financial resources on a grant or concessional basis, including for the transfer of technology, for the implementation of the Convention's objective on the basis of the guidance provided by the COP;
 - (e) Its effectiveness in providing resources to developing country Parties under Article 4.3 of the Convention.

B. Methodology

6. The review shall draw upon the following sources of information:
 - (a) Information provided by the Parties on their experiences regarding the financial mechanism;
 - (b) Annual reviews by the COP on the conformity of the activities of the financial mechanism with the guidance of the COP;
 - (c) The annual report of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to the COP on its activities as the operating entity of the financial mechanism, the annual reports of the GEF and other relevant GEF policy and information documents;
 - (d) Reports from the GEF monitoring and evaluation programme;
 - (e) Reports from the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and relevant bilateral and multilateral funding institutions;
 - (f) Relevant information provided by other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

¹ Decision 3/CP.4.

C. Criteria

7. The effectiveness of the financial mechanism will be assessed taking into account the following:
 - (a) The transparency of decision-making processes;
 - (b) The adequacy, predictability and timely disbursement of funds for activities in developing country Parties;
 - (c) The responsiveness and efficiency of the GEF project cycle and expedited procedures, including its operational strategy, as they relate to climate change;
 - (d) The amount of resources provided to developing country Parties, including financing for technical assistance and investment projects;
 - (e) The amount of finance leveraged;
 - (f) The sustainability of funded projects.

Annex 4. Additional Guidelines for the Review of the Financial Mechanism¹

A. Objectives

1. In accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, an additional objective of the review of the financial mechanism is to examine how to facilitate consistency in financing activities and how to improve the complementarity of the financial mechanism with other sources of investment and financial flows, including:
 - (a) Examining relevant sources and means of financing, as indicated in Article 11, paragraph 5, of the Convention, that would assist developing countries to contribute to the achievement of the objective of the Convention, in particular innovative means of financing, such as for the development of endogenous technologies in developing countries;
 - (b) Examining the role of the financial mechanism in scaling up the level of resources;
 - (c) Assessing enabling environments for catalysing investment in, and the transfer of, sustainable technologies that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and for enhancing resilience to climate change.

B. Methodology

4. The review shall draw upon the following additional sources of information:
 - (a) Technical papers and reports prepared by the secretariat upon the request of the Conference of the Parties, which are relevant to the financial needs of developing countries under the Convention;
 - (b) Information contained in the national communications of Parties to the Convention, technology needs assessments and national adaptation programmes of action;
 - (c) All relevant information provided by other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including in particular the Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as well as information on enabling environments for catalysing investment in, and the transfer of, sustainable technologies that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and for enhancing resilience to climate change;
 - (d) Relevant information available on private-sector financing and investment for climate change activities.

¹ Decision 6/CP.13.

Annex 5. GEF Project Terms¹

GEF Projects and Programs

GEF support can be grouped into two main types: (a) projects, including full-sized (over \$5 million) and medium-sized (up to \$5 million) that address a particular priority need; and (b) programs, which are a strategic combination of projects and activities with a common focus structured to build upon or complement one another to produce results that would not be possible through a project-by-project approach. Projects under parent programs are called “child” projects.

GEF Agencies

The GEF Agencies are the operational arm of the GEF in project implementation. Currently, 18 Agencies manage GEF financed projects. These Agencies are: the Asian Development Bank (ADB); the African Development Bank (AfDB); Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO), Conservation International (CI); the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA); the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); West African Development Bank (BOAD), the World Bank (WB); and the World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF-US).

GEF Funding and Co-Financing

The GEF provides new and additional grant and concessional funding to meet the agreed incremental costs of measures to achieve agreed global environmental benefits (GEBs). In addition to the GEF financing, co-financing is an essential part of GEF projects and programs. The types of co-financing include: grants, concessional or market-rate loans, credits, risk mitigation instruments, equity investments, and in-kind contributions. Co-financing is provided from a variety of sources, including recipient country governments, the private sector, GEF Agencies, other donor agencies, civil society organizations, and project recipients. The GEF recalibrated its approach to co-financing in June 2018 in response to policy recommendations by the Participants to the seventh replenishment.

The updated Co-Financing Policy (i) defines co-financing in GEF-financed projects; (ii) establishes a level of ambition for the ratio of GEF financing to co-financing, and GEF-financing to investment mobilized; and (iii) sets forth requirements for the documentation of and reporting on co-financing in GEF-financed projects and programs.² The policy defines co-financing as “financing that is additional to GEF project financing, and that supports the implementation of a GEF-financed project or program and the achievement of its objective(s)” and investment mobilized as “co-financing that excludes recurrent expenditures”. The Co-Financing Policy is supported by guidelines.³ The Co-Financing Policy does not apply to projects or programs financed through the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) or the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

1 The GEF has evolved since its inception in 1991.

2 GEF, 2018, Updated Co-financing Policy, Council Document GEF/C.54/10/Rev.01.

3 GEF, 2018, Co-Financing Guidelines, FI/GN/01.

GEF Project Cycle

For full-sized projects (FSPs) financed from the GEF Trust Fund, there are four steps in the project cycle where the GEF Secretariat and/or GEF Council review and make decisions on providing funding for projects. The four steps are: (i) GEF CEO review of the Project Identification Form (PIF); (ii) GEF Council approval of the Work Program which comprises cleared PIFs; (iii) GEF CEO endorsement of the project; and (iv) implementation, supervision, monitoring and final evaluation of the project. Since the PIF provides the overall outline of the proposal, a more detailed project document is required at the GEF CEO endorsement stage. For medium-sized projects (MSPs), the above project cycle is expedited.

GEF Replenishment Cycle

Resources for the GEF Trust Fund are replenished every four years when countries that wish to contribute to the GEF Trust Fund pledge resources. The eighth replenishment process of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-8) was concluded in June 2022 when 29 countries have jointly pledged US\$5.33 billion. The GEF-8 cycle covers GEF operations and activities for the period from 1 July 2022 through 30 June 2026.

For the GEF-8 cycle, new programming directions, including Climate Change Mitigation, Biodiversity, Land Degradation, Chemicals and Waste, and International Waters have been adopted, and they include long-term strategic goals and objectives.⁴The programming directions respond to guidance from the Conventions.

System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR)

In GEF-8, three focal areas (Climate Change Mitigation, Biodiversity, and Land Degradation) are covered under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR).⁵ The STAR is a system that allocates resources to countries based on objective criteria in the focal areas. It was developed during 2009-2010 and applied in the GEF-5 period to upgrade the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF), which was the former GEF resource allocation system used in the fourth replenishment period of the GEF (GEF-4). It was updated in 2022 ahead of the 8th Replenishment period of the GEF (GEF-8).⁶ The main benefits of the STAR for countries are predictability of funding and flexibility in programming. The STAR is expected to enhance planning at the country level and to contribute to improving country ownership of GEF projects and programs. In GEF-8, all STAR recipient countries have full flexibility to utilize their resources across their focal area specific allocations without restrictions.

4 GEF, 2022, Summary of the Negotiations of the Eighth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, Council Document, GEF/C.62/03/.

5 GEF, 2022, Initial GEF-8 STAR Country Allocations, Council Document GEF/C.63/Inf.05.

6 GEF, 2022, Updating the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), Council Documents, GEF/C.62/04/.

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1 Parenthesis denote COP decision paragraph number.

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2/CP.12(1c)

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5/CP.7(12), 7/CP.7, 8/CP.8, 6/CP.9, 8/CP.10(3), 3/CP.11, 5/CP.14, 5/CP.16, 5/CP.17, 9/CP.17, 11/CP.17(1c), 10/CP.18, 4/CP.20, 10/CP.20, 1/CP.21(58), 8/CP.21(8), 10/CP.23, 1/CP.24(8), 8/CP.24(9), 3/CMA.1(7), 7/CP.25, 13/CP.25(3), 13/CP.25(10), 1/CP.26 (13), 4/CP.26(2), 7/CP.26(2,8), 1/CMA.3(17), 1/CP.27 (23), 10/CP.27(11), 13/CP.27(5,8), 17/CP.27(2,7), 11/CMA.4(11), 7/CP.28

Least developed countries work programme

5/CP.14, 5/CP.16, 9/CP.17, 10/CP.18, 1/CP.21, 16/CP.24(4)

Linkages between the technology mechanism and the financial mechanism

13/CP.21, 14/CP.22, 13/CP.24(6), 14/CP.24, 18/CP.27(9,10), 10/CP.28, 1/CMA.5

Long Term Strategies (LTS)

20/CP.27(25), 23/CMA.4(26)

Loss and Damage

2/CP.27, 2/CMA.4, 7/CP.28

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

10/CP.1, 12/CP.2, 12/CP.3, 6/CP.19(5)

National adaptation plans (NAPs)

5/CP.17, 12/CP.18, 12/CP.18, 6/CP.19(4), 18/CP.19, 4/CP.20, 6/CP.22, 8/CP.24(9), 7/CP.25, 13/CP.25(9), 7/CP.26(18), 10/CP.27(10), 17/CP.27(8), 11/CMA.4(10), 7/CP.28

National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)

6/CP.7(1a), 8/CP.8, 6/CP.9, 8/CP.10(3), 3/CP.11, 5/CP.14, 2/CP.16(5), 5/CP.16, 9/CP.17

Nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs)

2/CP.17(48), 16/CP.18

National communications (NCs)

11/CP.2(1, 2), 2/CP.4, 12/CP.4, 8/CP.5, 6/CP.8(1a), 4/CP.9(1a), 1/CP.10(7), 8/CP.10(5), 8/CP.11, 3/CP.12(2), 7/CP.13, 4/CP.14, 3/CP.16, 11/CP.17(1a), 10/CP.23, 13/CP.25(13), 7/CP.26(18), 18/CMA.5

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

15/CP.22, 4/CMA.1, 8/CP.25, 7/CP.26(18), 20/CP.27(25), 23/CMA.4(26), 7/CP.28

National experts/consultants

2/CP.4(4), 6/CP.7(2), 7/CP.13(1b)

National programs

2/CP.4(1e)

New Delhi work programme

11/CP.8, 7/CP.10, 3/CP.12(3), 7/CP.13(4), 9/CP.13, 7/CP.16

Non-grant instrument

8/CP.21(10), 11/CP.22(19), 7/CP.26(11)

Overall Performance Study (OPS)

3/CP.4

Paris Agreement

1/CP.21, 3/CMA.1(7), 5/CP.26(11,18), 7/CP.26(18), 12/CMA.3(2,3)

Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB)

11/CP.22, 15/CP.24(2), 12/CP.26(2), 19/CP.27(2), 18/CMA.4(2), 21/CMA.4

Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer

2/CP.14, 11/CP.22(9), 6/CP.24(13), 13/CP.25(8), 1/CMA.5

Pre-2020 ambition and implementation

1/CP.23

Private sector

2/CP.12(3d), 2/CP.16(4h), 10/CP.23(11), 6/CP.24(15,16), 1/CP.26(14), 7/CP.26(2,9,14), 11/CP.26(20), 13/CP.26(5), 1/CMA.3(19), 9/CMA.3(17), 17/CP.27(5), 5/CMA.4(11), 7/CP.28

Project cycle management

2/CP.12(3c), 6/CP.19(15), 8/CP.20(6)

Project proposals identified in national communications

5/CP.11(2), 7/CP.13(1k), 4/CP.14, 3/CP.16(4e)

Public awareness and education

2/CP.4(1f), 6/CP.8(1d), 4/CP.9(2), 7/CP.10, 8/CP.10(2), 3/CP.12, 7/CP.13(4), 3/CP.16(3), 7/CP.16, 15/CP.18, 8/CP.21, 23/CP.27(4), 22/CMA.4(4), 1/CMA.5

REDD+

2/CP.17(68), 16/CP.21

Report of the GEF

12/CP.1, 7/CP.13(1f), 2/CP.16(1f), 9/CP.18, 6/CP.19, 8/CP.20, 8/CP.21, 11/CP.22, 10/CP.23, 6/CP.24, 13/CP.25(2), 13/CP.25(12), 7/CMA.2(2), 7/CP.26(1,21), 12/CMA.3(9), 17/CP.27, 17/CMA.4, 7/CP.28

Resource Allocation Framework (RAF)

5/CP.11(1), 3/CP.12(1c), 4/CP.14(1), 2/CP.16(1e)

Results-based finance

9/CP.19

Second Overall Performance Study (OPS2)

5/CP.8, 5/CP.8(4)

Sixth Overall Performance Study (OPS6)

10/CP.23

Seventh Overall Performance Study (OPS7)

13/CP.25(6)

Sixth Replenishment (GEF-6)

6/CP.19(8, 9, 10)

Seventh Replenishment (GEF-7)

11/CP.22(2,13), 10/CP.23(4,5,6,7), 6/CP.24(2,3,4,5,8), 18/CMA.

Eighth Replenishment (GEF-8)

7/CP.26 (3,4,5,11,14,15,18), 1/CMA.3(81), 13/CP.27(5), 17/CP.27(3), 17/CMA.4(2), 7/CP.28, 18/CMA.5

Standing Committee on Finance (SCF)

6/CP.19(17), 8/CP.23, 4/CP.24(14), 11/CP.25, 5/CMA.2, 5/CP.26(8,11), 5/CP.26, 7/CP.26(20), 10/CMA.3(2), 12/CMA.3(2,6,7), 13/CMA.3(4t) 19/CMA.3(12), 18/CMA.4(2), 5/CP.28, 7/CP.28

Strategic Priority on Adaptation (SPA)

4/CP.9(2b), 8/CP.10(3), 7/CP.13(1d)

Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)

5/CP.7, 7/CP.7, 7/CP.8, 5/CP.9, 8/CP.10(3), 1/CP.12, 4/CP.16, 11/CP.17(1c), 4/CP.20, 1/CP.21(58), Stage I, II and III 11/CP.1(1d), 2/CP.4(1a), 6/CP.7(1a), 10/CP.23, 8/CP.24(9), 3/CMA.1(7), 7/CP.25, 7/CP.26(2,8,9), 1/CP.27(23), 13/CP.27(5,8), 7/CP.28

Streamlining and simplifying project cycle

2/CP.4(3), 6/CP.7(2), 5/CP.8(4), 4/CP.14(3d), 2/CP.16(1h), 2/CP.16(4d), 8/CP.20(12), 11/CP.22(17), 10/CP.23(10), 18/CMA.1(9,10), 1/CP.27 (42), 13/CP.27(9), 17/CP.27(12), 1/CMA.4(66), 17/CMA.4(4,5), 13/CP.27, 7/CP.28, 1/CMA.5, 11/CMA.5

Systematic observational networks

2/CP.4(1c), 11/CP.17(1d)

Technology needs assessment (TNA)

2/CP.4(1), 4/CP.9(1c), 3/CP.12, 11/CP.17(2), 13/CP.18, 10/CP.23(12), 14/CP.24, 8/CP.25, 13/CP.25(7), 13/CP.25(8), 4/CP.26(22), 5/CP.26(11), 17/CP.27(15), 7/CP.28, 9/CP.28, 14/CMA.5

Technology transfer

4/CP.7, 6/CP.8(1c), 3/CP.9(1b), 5/CP.9(3), 3/CP.12(1d), 3/CP.13, 4/CP.13, 2/CP.14, 4/CP.14(1c), 13/CP.21, 14/CP.22, 15/CP.22, 11/CP.22(10), 14/CP.24, 1/CP.26 (14), 7/CP.26(8), 15/CP.26(11), 17/CP.27(16), 17/CMA.4(2)

Third Overall Performance Study (OPS3)

2/CP.12, 7/CP.13(1e)

Transparency

1/CP.21, 8/CP.21, 18/CMA.1, 5/CMA.3(43), 12/CMA.3(6), 7/CP.28, 11/CMA.5, 18/CMA.5 also refer to CBIT
Transparency of review process 11/CP.17(1b), 6/CP.19(16), 1/CP.21, 6/CP.24(7)

Two-track programming approach

12/CP.1





The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral family of funds dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution, and supporting land and ocean health. Its financing enables developing countries to address complex challenges and work towards international environmental goals. The partnership includes 186 member governments as well as civil society, Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth, with a focus on integration and inclusivity. Over the past three decades, the GEF has provided more than \$25 billion in financing and mobilized \$145 billion for country-driven priority projects. The family of funds includes the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF), and Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency Trust Fund (CBIT).

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