



Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Biological Diversity
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Item 11 of the provisional agenda*
Resource mobilization and financial mechanism

Consolidated previous guidance to the Global Environment Facility**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. To enhance coherence and facilitate implementation, the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting reviewed the decisions and elements of decisions related to the financial mechanism that had been adopted at its first to ninth meetings and, in its decision X/24, adopted the first consolidated list of guidance to the Global Environment Facility, including programme priorities. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting adopted, by decision XIII/21, an updated consolidation for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and, at its fifteenth meeting, by decision 15/15, a further consolidation for the eighth replenishment.
2. The consolidated previous guidance to the Global Environment Facility for its ninth replenishment period is contained in the annex to the present note. This updates the previous consolidation contained in annex II A to decision 15/15, with the additional guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties in the same decision.

* CBD/COP/16/1.

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

Annex

Consolidated previous guidance to the Global Environment Facility (2024, fourth edition)

1. Guidance to the Global Environment Facility should be incorporated into a single decision, including the identification of priority issues which will provide support for cross-cutting issues and capacity-building, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in a manner that: (a) is transparent; (b) allows participation; and (c) allows full consideration of its other decisions.¹

2. Guidance to the Global Environment Facility, for a specific replenishment period, consists of a consolidated list of programme priorities that defines what to be financed, and an outcome-oriented framework, taking into account the strategies and plans under the Convention and its Protocols and associated indicators. With a view to further streamlining guidance to the Global Environment Facility, proposed new guidance will be reviewed to avoid or reduce repetitiveness, to consolidate previous guidance where appropriate, and to prioritize guidance in the context of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.²

A. Policy and strategy

3. Financial resources should be allocated to projects that fulfil the eligibility criteria and are endorsed and promoted by the Parties concerned. Projects should contribute to the extent possible to build cooperation at the subregional, regional and international levels in the implementation of the Convention. Projects should promote the utilization of local and regional expertise. The conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components is one of the key elements in achieving sustainable development and therefore contributing to combating poverty.³

B. Programme priorities

4. The Global Environment Facility should provide financial resources to developing country Parties, taking into account the special needs of the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition, for country-driven activities and programmes, consistent with national priorities and objectives and in accordance with the following programme priorities, recognizing that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries, and taking fully into consideration all relevant decisions from the Conference of the Parties.⁴

Article 1. Objectives

5. Projects that utilize the ecosystem approach, without prejudice to differing national needs and priorities which may require the application of approaches such as single species conservation programmes.⁵

(a) Ecosystem restoration

6. Ecosystem restoration activities, as well as monitoring processes as appropriate, and integrated where relevant into programmes and initiatives for sustainable development, food, water and energy security, job creation, climate change mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and poverty eradication,⁶

¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 52.

² Adapted from decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 53, and 14/23, para. 2.

³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 1.

⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 2.

⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 3.

⁶ Decisions XIII/21, para. 24 and XIII/5, para. 4.

*(b) Ecosystem resilience and climate change*7. Ecosystem resilience and climate change:⁷

(a) Capacity-building with the aim of increasing the effectiveness in addressing environmental issues through their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, inter alia, by applying the ecosystem approach;

(b) Developing synergy-oriented programmes to conserve and sustainably manage all ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands and marine environments, that also contribute to poverty eradication;

(c) Country-driven activities, including pilot projects, aimed at projects related to ecosystem conservation, restoration of degraded lands and marine environments and overall ecosystem integrity that take into account impacts of climate change.

*(c) Marine and coastal ecosystems*8. Marine and coastal ecosystems:⁸

(a) Projects that promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity under threat, and implement the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and the programme of work on island biodiversity;

(b) Country-driven activities aimed at enhancing capabilities to address the impacts of mortality related to coral bleaching and physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs, including developing rapid response capabilities to implement measures to address coral-reef degradation, mortality and subsequent recovery;

(c) Implementation of training and capacity-building and other activities related to ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs);

(d) Support for capacity-building in order to further accelerate existing efforts towards achieving the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in marine and coastal areas.

(d) Forest biological diversity

9. Projects focusing on the identified national priorities, as well as regional and international actions that assist the implementation of the expanded work programme on forest biological diversity considering conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from genetic resources in a balanced way, underscoring the importance of ensuring long-term conservation, sustainable use, and benefit-sharing of native forests, and the use of the clearing-house mechanism to include activities that contribute to halting and addressing deforestation, basic assessments and monitoring of forest biological diversity, including taxonomic studies and inventories, focusing on forest species, other important components of forest biological diversity and ecosystems under threat.⁹

(e) Inland water ecosystems

10. Projects that assist with the implementation of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, and which help Parties to develop and implement national, sectoral and cross-sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, including comprehensive assessments of the biological diversity of inland waters, and capacity-building programmes for monitoring the implementation of the programme of work and the

⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 4.

⁸ Updated from decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 5.

⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 6.

trends in inland water biological diversity and for information gathering and dissemination among riparian communities.¹⁰

(f) Arid and semi-arid areas

11. Projects that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in arid and semi-arid areas, including the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.¹¹

(g) Mountainous areas

12. Projects which promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountainous areas.¹²

(h) Agricultural biodiversity

13. Projects which implement the Convention's programme of work on agricultural biodiversity.¹³

14. National and regional projects that address the implementation of the Plan of Action 2018–2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators;¹⁴

15. National, subnational and regional projects that address the implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity.¹⁵

(i) Biodiversity and health

16. Considering providing technical and financial support for mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages.¹⁶

(j) Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities

17. Considering further expanding and strengthening its sustainable cities initiatives in its future replenishments, and piloting land- and seascape level initiatives targeted at subnational and local governance, infrastructure, biodiversity-inclusive spatial and land-use planning, and urban-rural linkages, in accordance with the priorities identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans.¹⁷

Article 5. Cooperation

18. Consideration of establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework based on voluntary contributions.¹⁸

Article 6. General measures for conservation and sustainable use

(a) National biodiversity strategies and action plans

19. Review, revision, updating, and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.¹⁹

¹⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 7.

¹¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 8.

¹² Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 9.

¹³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 10.

¹⁴ Decision 14/6, para. 7.

¹⁵ Decision 15/15, annex II B, para. 2.

¹⁶ Decision 15/15, annex II B, para. 3.

¹⁷ Decision 15/15, annex II B, para. 5.

¹⁸ Updated from decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 11.

¹⁹ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 12, and 15/15, annex II B, para. 1.

20. Development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with the strategy and targets for resource mobilization agreed to in decision XII/3.²⁰

(b) *Mainstreaming and integration*

21. Further development of approaches on the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development processes.²¹

22. Country-driven projects that address cross-sectoral mainstreaming.²²

Article 7. Identification and monitoring

23. Development and implementation of national biodiversity targets, indicator framework, and monitoring programmes.²³

24. National, regional and global biodiversity monitoring systems, recognizing the need for enhanced international cooperation and capacity-building especially for developing countries.²⁴

Article 8. In situ conservation

(a) *Area-based conservation*

25. Community conserved areas, national and regional systems of protected areas, further development of the portfolio on protected areas towards comprehensive, representative and effectively managed protected area systems addressing system wide needs, country driven early action activities of the programme of work on protected areas to enable its full implementation, projects that demonstrate the role-protected areas play in addressing climate change, and address the long-term financial sustainability of protected areas, including through different mechanisms and instruments.²⁵

(b) *Diversity of species and genetic resources*

26. Projects that promote the conservation and/or sustainable use of endemic species²⁶

27. Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011–2020.²⁷

28. National and regional taxonomic capacity-building activities for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, and project components that address taxonomic needs in the achievement of the Convention's objectives.²⁸

(c) *Invasive alien species*

29. Projects that assist with the development and implementation, at national and regional levels, of invasive alien species strategies and action plans, in particular those strategies and actions related to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems, capacity-building to prevent or minimize the risks of the dispersal and establishment of invasive alien species, improved prevention, rapid response and management measures to address threats of alien invasive species.²⁹

²⁰ Decision XIII/21, para. 25 and XIII/1, para. 20.

²¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 13.

²² Decisions XIII/21, para. 28, and XIII/3, para. 112.

²³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 14.

²⁴ Decision 15/15, annex II B, para. 6

²⁵ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 15; XIII/21, para. 26, and XIII/2, para. 11.

²⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 16.

²⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 16.

²⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 16.

²⁹ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 16; 14/11, para. 14.

(d) *Article 8(j) and related provisions*

30. Inclusion of perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly women, in the financing of biodiversity and ecosystem services.³⁰

31. Implementation of programmes and projects that strengthen the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, advance community conservation, promote customary sustainable use of biological diversity.³¹

32. Raising awareness and building capacity relevant to the implementation of the Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, and developing, as appropriate, community protocols or processes for “prior and informed consent” or “free, prior and informed consent”, depending on national circumstances, or “approval and involvement”, and fair and equitable benefit-sharing.³²

33. Raising awareness and building capacity relevant to the implementation of the guidelines (Mo’otz Kuxtal voluntary guidelines for the development of mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate initiatives to ensure the “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances, of indigenous peoples and local communities for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices, for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge), and developing, as appropriate, community protocols or processes for “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances, for fair and equitable benefit-sharing.³³

Article 9. Ex situ conservation

Article 10. Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

34. Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines at the national level to ensure that the use of biological diversity is sustainable.³⁴

35. Sustainable tourism that contributes to the objectives of the Convention.³⁵

Article 11. Incentive measures

36. Development and implementation of innovative measures, including in the field of economic incentives and those which assist developing countries to address situations where opportunity costs are incurred by local communities and to identify ways and means by which these can be compensated.³⁶

Article 12. Research and training

37. Project components addressing targeted research which contributes to the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components including research for reversing current trends of biodiversity loss and species extinction.³⁷

³⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 17.

³¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 17.

³² Decision XIII/21, para. 29.

³³ Decision XIII/18, para. 10.

³⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 18.

³⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 19.

³⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 20.

³⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 21.

Article 13. Public education and awareness

38. Development and implementation of communication, education and public awareness priority activities at the national and regional levels.³⁸

Article 14. Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

Article 15. Access to genetic resources (Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing)

(a) National measures

39. Projects that support the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, including the establishment of legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and related institutional arrangements.³⁹

(b) Capacity-building

40. Building the capacity to develop, implement and enforce domestic legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components,⁴⁰ including through:

(a) Identification of relevant actors and existing legal and institutional expertise for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;

(b) Taking stock of domestic measures relevant to access and benefit-sharing in the light of the obligations of the Nagoya Protocol;

(c) Development and/or amendment of access and benefit-sharing legislative, administrative or policy measures with a view to implementing their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol;

(d) Establishment of ways to address transboundary issues;

(e) Establishment of institutional arrangements and administrative systems to provide access to genetic resources, ensure benefit-sharing, support compliance with prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms and monitor the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, including support for the establishment of check points;

41. Supporting the implementation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.⁴¹

(c) Capacity on mutually agreed terms

42. Building the capacity to negotiate mutually agreed terms to promote equity and fairness in negotiations in the development and implementation of access and benefit-sharing agreements, including through enhanced understanding of business models and intellectual property rights.⁴²

(d) Endogenous research capabilities

43. Building the capacity of Parties to develop their endogenous research capabilities to add value to their own genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources through, inter alia, technology transfer; bioprospecting and associated research and taxonomic studies; and development and use of valuation methods.⁴³

³⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 22.

³⁹ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 23, and 14/23, para. 11.

⁴⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 23.

⁴¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 23.

⁴² Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 23.

⁴³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 23.

(e) *Indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders*

44. Addressing the capacity needs and priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, in particular projects that would:⁴⁴

(a) Encourage their participation in legal, policy and decision-making processes;

(b) Assist in building their capacity related to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, such as through the development of community protocols, model contractual clauses and minimum requirements for mutually agreed terms to secure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits;

(f) *Clearing-house*

45. Enabling Parties to actively participate in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and use the best available communication tools and Internet-based systems for access and benefit-sharing.⁴⁵

(g) *Awareness-raising*

46. Raising awareness of the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and related access and benefit-sharing issues, notably through the development and implementation of national and regional awareness-raising strategies.⁴⁶

(h) *National reporting*

47. Making financial resources available to assist Parties in preparing their national report.⁴⁷

(i) *Regional cooperation*

48. Issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, including regional cooperation projects, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned and harnessing associated synergies.⁴⁸

49. Joint projects, at global, regional or national levels, in order to maximize synergies and opportunities for cost-effective sharing of resources, information, experiences and expertise.⁴⁹

Article 16. Access to and transfer of technology

50. Preparation of national assessments of technology needs for implementation of the Convention, and promotion of access to, transfer of and cooperation for joint development of technology.⁵⁰

Article 17. Exchange of information

Article 18. Technical and scientific cooperation

51. Strengthening biodiversity information systems such as, inter alia, training, technology and processes related to the collection, organization, maintenance and updating of data and information, and building capacity for the clearing-house mechanism, such as training in information and communication technologies and web content management that enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to fully benefit from modern communication, including the Internet.⁵¹

⁴⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 23.

⁴⁵ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 23, and 14/23, para. 7(b).

⁴⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 23.

⁴⁷ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 23, and XIII/21, para. 38, 14/23, para. 10; and 15/15, annex II B, para. 12.

⁴⁸ Decision 14/23, para. 7 (a).

⁴⁹ Decision 15/15, annex II B, para. 11.

⁵⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 24.

⁵¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 25.

52. Eligible activities of the regional and/or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and the global coordination entity contributing to technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, and capacity-building and development at global, regional, subregional and national levels, as appropriate.⁵²

Article 19. Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits (Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety)

53. Examination of the possibility to create a finance window specifically for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.⁵³

54. Strengthening of its funding programme dedicated to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to support eligible Parties in implementing the Protocol, the Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Capacity-building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.⁵⁴

55. Improving and simplifying the modalities for access to its funding for the Cartagena Protocol, to support eligible Parties in the implementation of the Protocol, its Implementation Plan and Capacity-building Action Plan.⁵⁵

(a) National measures

56. Ratification and implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.⁵⁶

57. Development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks, in particular biosafety legislation,⁵⁷ including those Parties that have not yet done so in fully putting in place measures to implement the Protocol.⁵⁸

(b) Detection and identification

58. Identification of living modified organisms or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health.⁵⁹

59. Regional projects to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, including projects aimed at building scientific capacity that could support countries' actions towards detection and identification of living modified organisms, and in particular that could promote North-South and South-South sharing of experiences and lessons.⁶⁰

(c) Risk assessment and risk management

60. Building, consolidating and enhancing sustainable human resource capacity in risk assessment and risk management⁶¹ in the context of country-driven projects.⁶²

(d) Socioeconomic considerations

61. Capacity-building on socioeconomic considerations.⁶³

⁵² Decision 15/15, annex II B, para. 7.

⁵³ Decision 15/15, annex II B, para. 10.

⁵⁴ Decision 15/15, annex II B, para. 9 (a).

⁵⁵ Decision 15/15, annex II B, para. 9 (b).

⁵⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 26.

⁵⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 26.

⁵⁸ Decision 14/23, para. 8(a); XIII/21, paras. 33 and 36.

⁵⁹ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 26; 15/15, annex II B, para. 9 (d).

⁶⁰ Decision 14/23, para. 9.

⁶¹ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 26, and XIII/21, para. 35.

⁶² Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 26; 15/15, annex II B, para. 9 (d).

⁶³ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 26; 15/15, annex II B, para. 9 (d).

(e) *Unintentional release*

62. Capacity-building to take appropriate measures in cases of unintentional release of living modified organisms.⁶⁴

(f) *Public awareness*

63. Enhancing capacity for public awareness, education and participation regarding the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, including for indigenous peoples and local communities.⁶⁵

64. Effective implementation of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, in the context of relevant project activities and within its mandate.⁶⁶

(g) *Clearing-house*

65. Public participation and information sharing, and use of the Biosafety Clearing-House.⁶⁷

(h) *Capacity-building*

66. Further implementation of the Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building.⁶⁸

(i) *Reporting*

67. National reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.⁶⁹

(j) *Compliance*

68. Implementing compliance action plans regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol.⁷⁰

(k) *Regional cooperation*

69. Projects and capacity-building activities on issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including regional cooperation projects, such as those using regional and subregional networks to build capacity for the detection of living modified organisms, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, and harnessing associated synergies.⁷¹

Article 20. Financial resources

70. Development and implementation of country-specific resource mobilization strategies.⁷²

71. Development and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar planning instruments to support efforts by recipient countries to mobilize domestic and international resources to reach their national goals, as defined in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to contribute to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.⁷³

⁶⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 26.

⁶⁵ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 26; 15/15, annex II B, para. 9 (c).

⁶⁶ Decision XIII/21, para. 34.

⁶⁷ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 26; XIII/21, paras. 30 and 31; 14/23, para. 7 (b); 15/15, annex II B, para. 9 (d).

⁶⁸ Decision XIII/21, para. 32.

⁶⁹ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 26; 14/23, para. 8(b); 15/15, annex II B, para. 9 (c)-(d).

⁷⁰ Decisions 14/23, para. 8 (c); 15/15, annex II B, para. 9 (d).

⁷¹ Decisions XIII/21, para. 36 (b); 14/23, para. 7(a)

⁷² Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 27.

⁷³ Decision 15/15, annex II B, para. 8.

Article 21. Financial mechanism

(a) *Access modalities*

72. To consider improving its access modalities, including enabling the participation of a number of additional national agencies from developing countries, based on its own experiences, including the conclusions of this assessment, and taking into account the experience of other international financial instruments with relevant access modalities.⁷⁴

(b) *Gender*

73. To include gender in the financing of biodiversity and ecosystem services.⁷⁵

74. To provide technical and financial support, as well as capacity-building and development, for implementation of the Gender Plan of Action;⁷⁶

(c) *Project procedures*

75. To further streamline its project cycle with a view to making project preparation simpler, more transparent and more country-driven.⁷⁷

76. To further simplify and expedite procedures for approval and implementation, including disbursement, for GEF-funded projects, based on a flexible and national demand driven approach, and avoid additional and lengthy processes.⁷⁸

77. To develop policies and procedures that fully comply with the guidance from the Conference of the Parties in a straightforward and timely manner.⁷⁹

78. To increase its flexibility to respond to the thematic longer-term programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in accordance with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties.⁸⁰

79. To improve project information system, including through data sets and web-based data tools, to increase the accessibility of project information and allow for better tracking against the guidance from the Conference of the Parties.⁸¹

80. To consider the benefits to Parties, particularly small island developing States, of an appropriate balance between national and regional projects in the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties.⁸²

(d) *Catalytic role and co-financing*

81. To mobilize co-financing and other modes of financing for its projects related to implementation of the Convention, and apply co-financing arrangements in ways that do not create unnecessary barriers and costs for recipient Parties to access GEF funds.⁸³

82. To support diffusion, and facilitate replication and scaling-up, of new and innovative financing mechanism initiatives that have proved to be successful.⁸⁴

⁷⁴ Decision XIII/21, para. 4.

⁷⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁷⁶ Decision 15/15, annex II B, para. 4.

⁷⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁷⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁷⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁸⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁸¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁸² Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁸³ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 28; XIII/21, para. 21.

⁸⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

83. To consider joint financing, in partnership with other international financial instruments, of projects designed to achieve the objectives of more than one Rio convention.⁸⁵

84. To enhance its catalytic role in mobilizing new and additional financial resources while not compromising project goals.⁸⁶

(e) *Incremental costs*

85. To apply in a more flexible, pragmatic and transparent manner the incremental cost principle.⁸⁷

(f) *Sustainability*

86. To promote exchange of experience and lessons learned in addressing sustainability of funded projects on biological diversity.⁸⁸

87. To further improve the sustainability of funded projects and programmes, including sustainable financing of protected areas.⁸⁹

(g) *Country ownership*

88. To promote genuine country ownership through greater involvement of participant countries in GEF-funded activities.⁹⁰

89. To promote utilization of regional and local expertise and be flexible to accommodate national priorities and regional needs within the objectives of the Convention.⁹¹

90. To encourage collaboration at national level between CBD national focal points for related environmental agreements and for the Global Environment Facility, including through the projects supported by the Facility, and including through regional and national workshops for the focal points.⁹²

(h) *Compliance and collaboration of agencies*

91. To promote efforts to ensure that the implementing agencies fully comply with the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria of the Conference of the Parties in their support for country-driven activities funded by the Global Environment Facility.⁹³

92. To undertake efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the process of cooperation and coordination between the implementing agencies with a view to improving the processing and delivery systems of the Global Environment Facility, and to avoid duplication and parallel processes.⁹⁴

(i) *Partnership*

93. To continue to improve the efficiency and accountability of the Global Environment Facility partnership.⁹⁵

⁸⁵ Decision XIII/21, para. 17.

⁸⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁸⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁸⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁸⁹ Decision 14/23, para. 12 (c).

⁹⁰ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, para. 28; XIII/21, para. 6.

⁹¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁹² Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁹³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁹⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁹⁵ Decision 14/23, para. 12 (d).

(j) Monitoring and evaluation

94. To Consult with the Executive Secretary in relevant review processes undertaken by the Global Environment Facility that affect the financial mechanism of the Convention.⁹⁶

95. To include in its monitoring and evaluation activities the assessment of the compliance with the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria established by the Conference of the Parties.⁹⁷

96. To elaborate and transmit to the Conference of the Parties, well-summarized evaluation products and full evaluation reports relevant to biological diversity and to the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties.⁹⁸

97. To include in its regular report findings, conclusions and recommendations of all relevant evaluations of the GEF Evaluation Office.⁹⁹

(k) Efficiency

98. To support national implementation activities under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in an efficient manner, with a view to enabling Parties to enhance progress towards the goals and targets of the Framework.¹⁰⁰

(l) Small grants programme

99. To continue expansion of the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility to other developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States.¹⁰¹

(m) Currency risks

100. To consider exploring measures to mitigate possible risks, including currency risks, in order to avoid potential negative impacts on future replenishment periods for the provision of financial resources for all Global Environment Facility recipient countries, taking fully into account the provisions of paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 20 of the Convention.¹⁰²

(n) Integrated approach

101. To continue and further strengthen integrated programming as a means to harness opportunities for synergy in implementing related multilateral environmental agreements as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15.¹⁰³

(o) Conflict resolution

102. To promote awareness to the existing processes under the Conflict Resolution Commissioner to address complaints related to the operations of the financial mechanism.¹⁰⁴

Article 22. Relationship with other international conventions

103. Projects and activities to improve synergies among relevant multilateral environment agreements.¹⁰⁵

⁹⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁹⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁹⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

⁹⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

¹⁰⁰ Updated from decision 14/23, para. 6.

¹⁰¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 28.

¹⁰² Decision XIII/21, paras. 18, 19 and 20.

¹⁰³ Decisions XIII/21, para. 3; 14/30, para. 14; XIII/24, para. 7.

¹⁰⁴ Decision 14/23, para. 12 (b).

¹⁰⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 29

Article 26. Reports

104. Preparation of future national reports,¹⁰⁶ in a timely and expeditious manner.¹⁰⁷

C. Eligibility criteria**1. Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁰⁸**

105. Only developing countries that are Parties to the Convention are eligible to receive funding upon the entry into force of the Convention for them. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, projects that seek to meet the objectives of conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components are eligible for financial support from the institutional structure;

106. The Global Environment Facility continues to provide financial resources to Parties with economies in transition for biodiversity-related projects.

2. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety¹⁰⁹

107. All developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including countries among these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, are eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility.

108. All developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including countries among these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Convention and provide a clear political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol, shall also be eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility for the development of national biosafety frameworks and the development of national biosafety clearing-houses and other necessary institutional capabilities to enable a non-Party to become a Party. Evidence of such political commitment shall take the form of a written assurance to the Executive Secretary that the country intends to become a Party to the Protocol on completion of the activities to be funded.

3. Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing¹¹⁰

109. All developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, which are Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, are eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility in accordance with its mandate.

110. Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition that are Parties to the Convention and provide a clear political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol, shall also be eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility for the development of national measures and institutional capabilities in order to enable them to become a Party. Evidence of such political commitment, accompanied by indicative activities and expected milestones, shall take the form of a written assurance to the Executive Secretary that the country intends to become a Party to the Nagoya Protocol on completion of the activities to be funded.

D. Reporting from the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties**1. Timing**

111. The report from the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties should be made available three months prior to an ordinary meeting of the Conference of the

¹⁰⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 30.

¹⁰⁷ Decisions XIII/21, para. 27; XIII/27, para. 4; 14/27, para. 3 (a).

¹⁰⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paras. 31-32.

¹⁰⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paras. 33-34.

¹¹⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paras. 35-36.

Parties as well as with updates as appropriate, and in accordance with rules 28 and 54 of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary should make it available in all six official languages of the United Nations.¹¹¹

2. Preliminary draft

112. The Global Environment Facility should make available a preliminary draft of its report to the Conference of the Parties, particularly focusing on the response of the Global Environment Facility to previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties, to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation prior to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the report will be formally considered, with a view to promoting effective and timely consideration of the information provided in the report.¹¹²

3. Comprehensiveness and conciseness

113. The Global Environment Facility should explore ways to balance the comprehensiveness and conciseness of the report of the Global Environment Facility, acknowledging the need to demonstrate progress in programming resources towards achievement of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.¹¹³

4. Results-based reporting

114. The Global Environment Facility should improve results-based reporting on the total contribution of the Global Environment Facility to achieving the objectives of the Convention, including the Facility's contribution to incremental-cost financing and leveraging co-financing.¹¹⁴

5. Report on four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities

115. The Global Environment Facility should report on its implementation of the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities and how it responds to the individual elements.¹¹⁵

116. The Global Environment Facility should include information regarding the individual elements of the consolidated guidance, in particular the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities, in its future reports to the Conference of the Parties.¹¹⁶

6. Reporting on needs assessment results

117. The Global Environment Facility should indicate in its report to the Conference of the Parties, how it plans to respond to the report on the determination of funding requirements, pursuant to paragraph 5.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding.¹¹⁷

118. The Global Environment Facility will in its regular report to the Conference of Parties indicate how it has responded during the replenishment cycle to the previous assessment by the Conference of the Parties.¹¹⁸

7. Transparency

119. The Global Environment Facility, in response to the concerns of the Parties on transparency of the process of approving Global Environment Facility projects, should include in its report to the

¹¹¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 37.

¹¹² Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 40.

¹¹³ Updated from decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 41.

¹¹⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 38.

¹¹⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 39.

¹¹⁶ Decision XIII/21, para. 5.

¹¹⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 42.

¹¹⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 47; XIII/21, para. 15.

Conference of the Parties, information regarding paragraph 3.3(d) of the Memorandum of Understanding.¹¹⁹

8. Safeguards

120. The Global Environment Facility should inform the Conference of the Parties about how it is taking into account the Convention's voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms.¹²⁰

9. Co-financing

121. The Global Environment Facility should include the information regarding progress in implementing the new co-financing policy in its report to the Conference of the Parties.¹²¹

10. Agencies

122. The Global Environment Facility should include the information regarding performance of the Global Environment Facility's network of agencies in its report to the Conference of the Parties.¹²²

E. Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

123. The review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism will be conducted every four years and this review should coincide with the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.¹²³

F. Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund

124. The updated list of developed country Parties and other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties in accordance with Article 20, paragraph 2 of the Convention, is contained in the annex to decision VIII/18.¹²⁴

125. The developed country Parties and others are invited to increase their financial contributions through the financial mechanism during the replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.¹²⁵

126. The Global Environment Facility is urged, in the process of replenishment, to give due consideration to all aspects of the needs assessment report on the levels of funding for biodiversity.¹²⁶

G. Inter-secretariat cooperation

127. Participation of a representative of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention and of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility is requested in respective meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel on a reciprocal basis.¹²⁷

128. The Executive Secretary should promote, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, exchange of experience and good practice in financing for biological diversity.¹²⁸

129. The Executive Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility should continue to strengthen inter-secretariat cooperation and collaborate with the Independent

¹¹⁹ Decision XIII/21, paras. 22 and 23.

¹²⁰ Decision 14/23, para. 3; 14/15, para. 6.

¹²¹ Decision 14/23, para. 12 (e) (i).

¹²² Decision 14/23, para. 12 (e) (ii).

¹²³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 43.

¹²⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 44.

¹²⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 45.

¹²⁶ Decisions XIII/21, annex II, paras. 46, 48; XIII/21, para. 16; 14/23, para. 1.

¹²⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 49.

¹²⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 50.

Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility and the Global Environment Facility agencies.¹²⁹

130. The Executive Secretary is encouraged to work closely with the Global Environment Facility in the transition to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.¹³⁰

131. The Executive Secretary is encouraged to work closely with agencies associated with the Global Environment Facility in the transition to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, taking into account the need to promote greater synergies between the Global Environment Facility and other financing mechanisms.¹³¹

H. Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

132. The Global Environment Facility was requested to:¹³²

(a) Establish, in 2023, and until 2030 unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, a special trust fund to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to complement existing support and scale up financing to ensure its timely implementation, taking into account the need for adequacy, predictability, and timely flow of funds;¹³³

(b) Prepare a decision to be considered by the Council, on the approval of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, with its own equitable governing body, to be dedicated exclusively to supporting the implementation of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;¹³⁴

(c) Advance the necessary institutional and governance arrangements to allow for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to receive financing from all sources, in addition to official development assistance;¹³⁵

(d) Design and implement a project cycle with a simple and effective application and approval process, providing easy and efficient access to resources of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;¹³⁶

(e) Approve these decisions at the next possible session of the Council and its ratification at the next possible session of the Assembly in 2023;¹³⁷

(f) Engage all multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions in the design and operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, with the view of leveraging additional resources from and for the Fund and channel them through new and existing biodiversity portfolios, which need to be aligned with the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;¹³⁸

(g) Report on the progress in establishing, and on the operations and performance of, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, to future meetings of the Conference of the Parties;¹³⁹

133. The Conference of the Parties is to:

(a) Assess the progress made in establishing, and on the operations and performance of, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and to consider and adopt further guidance to the Global Environment Facility and to the governing body referred to paragraph 21 above, on the modalities and operation of the Fund, at its future meetings;¹⁴⁰

¹²⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, para. 51.

¹³⁰ Decision 14/23, para. 18.

¹³¹ Decision 14/23, para. 19.

¹³² Decision 15/15, paras. 20 to 27.

¹³³ Decision 15/15, para. 20.

¹³⁴ Decision 15/15, paras. 21 and 24.

¹³⁵ Decision 15/15, para. 22.

¹³⁶ Decision 15/15, para. 23.

¹³⁷ Decision 15/15, para. 24.

¹³⁸ Decision 15/15, para. 26.

¹³⁹ Decision 15/15, para. 27.

¹⁴⁰ Decision 15/15, para. 28.

(b) Undertake and act upon, at its eighteenth meeting, a stocktake review on the operations and performance of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund regarding its scale, speed, accessibility, and future arrangements.¹⁴¹

¹⁴¹ Decision 15/15, paragraph 29