



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Subsidiary Body on Implementation

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Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Resource mobilization and financial mechanism: financial mechanism

Financial mechanism

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. By its decision [15/15](#), the Conference of the Parties provided guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and requested GEF to establish a dedicated fund to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting to prepare proposals for a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols during the ninth replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting. The Conference of the Parties also adopted terms of reference for an assessment of the funding needs of eligible countries in the ninth replenishment period of GEF and a review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.

2. The present note has been prepared to assist the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in its consideration of these and related matters. Section II of the note contains an introduction to the preliminary report of the GEF Council and the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund. Section III contains information relevant to the Protocols to the Convention. The four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programming priorities for the ninth replenishment of GEF is addressed in section IV. The assessment of funding needs and the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism are addressed in sections V and VI, respectively. Sections VII and VIII contain, respectively, information relevant to additional guidance to GEF and information concerning programmatic synergies with biodiversity-related conventions. Section IX contains elements of a draft recommendation.

3. The preliminary report of the GEF Council to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting, submitted by the Council pursuant to decisions [III/8](#) (annex, para. 3), [XII/30](#) (para. 8 (e)) and [15/15](#) (para. 3), is contained in document CBD/SBI/4/6/Add.1.

* CBD/SBI/4/1.

II. Global Environment Facility

4. Since the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the GEF Council held its 64th, 65th and 66th meetings (June and October 2023 and February 2024), approved the two largest work programmes in its history and established the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund. The seventh GEF Assembly, held in August 2023, ratified the establishment of the Fund. The first meeting of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund Council was held in February 2024.

A. Preliminary report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

5. The GEF Council's preliminary report provides information on GEF activities from 1 January 2022 to 29 February 2024, being the last 6 months of the seventh replenishment and first 20 months of the eighth replenishment periods. The report summarizes programming under the biodiversity focal area, including biodiversity and multi focal area projects and integrated programmes, and how their expected outcomes contribute to the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It also provides information on how other focal areas and programmes contribute to the targets. The report indicates that 60 per cent of the biodiversity resources of the eighth replenishment have been programmed in its first 20 months, comprising 91 per cent of the resources allocated for integrated programming and 25 per cent of country allocations under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources. It summarizes how GEF has responded to guidance of the Conference of the Parties and provides information on portfolio management and on activities of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office. In addition, it reports on the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, including its initial programming of projects.

B. Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

6. In its decision 15/15 (para. 19), the Conference of the Parties recognized the urgency to increase international biodiversity finance and to establish a dedicated and accessible fund in 2023 for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that can quickly mobilize and disburse new and additional resources from all sources, commensurate with the ambition of the Framework and, in paragraphs 20 to 27 of its decision, requested GEF to establish and give effect to such a dedicated and accessible fund.¹

7. In response and as recorded in its preliminary report and set out below, GEF has designed, established and operationalized the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund in a rapid manner, addressing each of the requests of the Conference of the Parties in decision 15/15, namely:

(a) Establishment of the special trust fund to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in 2023 (addressing para. 20);

(b) Council approval and Assembly ratification of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, with its own equitable governing body (addressing paras. 21 and 24);

(c) Institutional and governance arrangements to receive financing from all sources, in addition to official development assistance (addressing para. 22);

(d) A simple and effective application and approval process, providing easy and efficient access to resources of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (addressing para. 23);

(e) Engagement with all multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions (addressing para. 26);

(f) A report on the progress in establishing, and on the operations and performance of, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (addressing para. 26).

¹ These elements of its decision 15/15 on the financial mechanism were also included in its decision 15/7 on resource mobilization.

8. Throughout the process, the Secretariat has worked closely with the GEF Secretariat and its Chief Executive Officer on the establishment of the Fund, participating in consultations with Council members and stakeholders and the meetings of the GEF Council and Assembly.

9. At its 64th meeting, held in Brasilia from 26 to 29 June 2023, the GEF Council approved the Establishment of a New Trust Fund: The Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (decision 09/2023), as well as the Programming Directions for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (decision 10/2023).² The seventh GEF Assembly, held in Vancouver from 22 to 25 August 2023, endorsed the establishment of the Fund.

10. In its decision 09/2023, the GEF Council invited the World Bank to serve as the Trustee of the Fund. Initial capitalization was received from Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and further contributions have been received from Germany, Japan, Luxembourg and Spain. Contributions to date amount to 236 million United States dollars. The Acting Executive Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer of GEF have called for additional contributions, commensurate with decisions 15/4 and 15/7 of the Conference of the Parties.

11. The GEF Council meets as the Council of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, with 16 Members from developing countries, 14 from developed countries and two from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Observers from the private sector, philanthropic conservation organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth are invited to attend the Council meetings, in each case with two representatives to provide a balance between developing and developed countries, as well as regional and gender balance.

12. The first meeting of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund Council was held in Washington, D.C. from 8 to 9 February 2024. In its decision GBFF 1/2024, the Council approved the Policy on Allocation of Resources for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, including that 25 per cent of the Fund's resources is to be programmed through International Finance Institutions that are GEF agencies. In the same decision, the Council also set out two targets for the Fund's portfolio: (a) 36 per cent plus 3 per cent of the total Fund resources are allocated to least developed countries and small island developing States; the 3 per cent portion will be reviewed after 3 years of the date of the fund ratification at the Assembly (if unused, the 3 per cent will be reprogrammed to other countries), and (b) an aspirational programming share of 20 per cent at the portfolio level by 2030 from the total amount of resources allocated under the Fund is to support actions by indigenous peoples and local communities for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity.

13. In its decision GBFF 2/2024, the Council approved the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund Project Cycle Policy and delegated authority to the GEF Chief Executive Officer to approve projects up to \$ 5 million. The single project modality, namely "GBF Fund Project", includes: GEF Secretariat (through the Chief Executive Officer) approves a simplified Project Preparation Grant request; agencies prepare the project document within 9 months of Project Preparation Grant approval; fully prepared projects (above \$ 5 million) will be presented to Council for approval as part of formal work programmes; project implementation starts with first disbursement.

14. The Council of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund may establish an advisory group or advisory groups, which may include without limitation non-sovereign participants, for the purpose of providing advice and recommendations to the Council. The Council will establish an auxiliary body, which will include representatives of Global Biodiversity Framework Fund Participants which are developing countries with areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, for the purpose of providing advice and recommendations to the Council. The establishment of the auxiliary body and an advisory group will be addressed by the Council at its second meeting, in June 2024.

² [GEF Council Decisions 2023](#).

15. The Fund is now operational and a first set of four project preparation grants was approved by the Chief Executive Officer in March 2024.

16. The Subsidiary Body is expected to take note of the progress made by GEF in operationalizing the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and provide recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting and for any intersessional work by the Executive Secretary.

III. Financial mechanism under the Protocols

A. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

17. In its decision CP-10/6, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol requested the Executive Secretary to analyse the effectiveness of the financial mechanism for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol in the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, while considering the relevance and process of creating a stand-alone window for biosafety, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its eleventh meeting (para. 7(b)). This request has been referred to the independent evaluator for the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism and the actions requested form a part of that review (see sect. VI).

18. According to the preliminary report of the GEF Council, no project proposals were received from eligible countries to support implementation of the Cartagena Protocol during the reporting period. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to consider encouraging relevant Parties to the Cartagena Protocol to proactively access the notional allocation available for the Cartagena Protocol under the programming directions of the eighth replenishment of GEF.

B. Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing

19. In its decision NP-4/8 A, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol invited Parties to the Protocol to participate actively in the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism (para. 9), and requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, in the context of the sixth review, to collect views and information from eligible Parties on their experiences and lessons learned in accessing and utilizing funds from the financial mechanism for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, including information on challenges and their underlying reasons to access and utilize GEF funds and on possible barriers to regional collaboration (para. 10). This request has been referred to the independent evaluator for the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism and the actions requested will be carried out as part of the review (see sect. VI).

20. According to the preliminary report of the GEF Council, two project proposals have been processed by GEF to support national implementation and associated capacity-building, namely, “Operationalizing the Nagoya Protocol access and benefit-sharing and traditional knowledge regime in Burkina Faso” and “Empowering indigenous peoples and local communities to manage biodiversity data and information as a strategy to conserve their territories, safeguard traditional knowledge, and promote integrated biodiversity management” in Brazil. The Subsidiary Body may wish to consider encouraging relevant Parties to the Nagoya Protocol to expand the utilization of the notional allocation for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol available in the programming directions of the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility.

IV. Four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (July 2026 to June 2030)

21. At its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the eighth

replenishment period of GEF, aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.³ The framework of programme priorities was developed on the basis of a recommendation of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting, prepared in the light of its consideration of documents CBD/SBI/3/6 and CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.4, including information on previous frameworks.

22. The Secretariat has further examined the four previous frameworks of programme priorities and how GEF responded to them and will provide an analysis of this in the information document CBD/SBI/4/INF/18. In its preliminary report, GEF has outlined its responses to the framework of programme priorities adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

23. Informed by consideration of these, a draft proposal for a four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period of GEF is provided in the annex to the draft decision contained in section IX of the present note. The proposal is based on and builds upon the current four-year framework of biodiversity programme priorities for the eighth replenishment period, 2022 to 2026, taking account of the fact that this was prepared and adopted so recently and the continued relevance of the guidance it provides. The Subsidiary Body may wish to consider this proposal in developing its recommendation to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

V. Estimated funding and investment needs over the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund

24. In its decision 15/15, the Conference of the Parties adopted the terms of reference for a full assessment of the funds necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention and its Protocols for the ninth replenishment period of GEF, as contained in annex III to that decision (para. 13) and requested the Executive Secretary to ensure completion of the assessment in time for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting (para. 14).

25. The timely implementation of this decision is subject to the timely availability of budgetary resources, and the reliance on voluntary contributions does not provide necessary certainty of timeliness. Owing to the lack of voluntary contributions for this purpose, there has been limited progress in the implementation of these terms of reference.

26. Also in its decision 15/15, the Conference of the Parties invited developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to identify related national funding priorities, including nationally prioritized funding needs that could be considered as eligible for funding under the financial mechanism specifically for the period July 2026 to June 2030, and submit the results to the Executive Secretary for inclusion in the funding needs assessment (para. 15).

27. However, national funding priorities and nationally prioritized funding needs are mostly determined through national biodiversity strategies and action plans and associated national biodiversity finance plans. At present, the Secretariat has received eight submissions of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, revised and updated aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Only one of these is from a country eligible for support through the financial mechanism, and that submission does not contain information on funding priorities or prioritized funding needs. Most eligible countries will only be able to make meaningful submissions on national funding priorities, including nationally prioritized funding needs, after they have revised and updated their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Framework, which are expected to be submitted by the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

28. In the light of the above and considering the timing of the replenishment negotiations, which will commence early in 2025, it is proposed that an ongoing online collection of national funding

³ Decision 15/15, para. 5.

priorities, including nationally prioritized funding needs that could be considered as eligible for funding under the financial mechanism for the period July 2026 to June 2030, could be undertaken and the results periodically transmitted to GEF. A questionnaire survey has been prepared by the Secretariat for this purpose. This will be launched through a notification and the results will be compiled, analyzed and provided in a pre-session document for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting. It is envisaged that further updates will be transmitted to the GEF Secretariat periodically after that. Further information, including the questionnaire survey prepared by the Secretariat, is provided in the information document CBD/SBI/4/INF/16.

29. Taking account of the past exercises of conducting the funding needs assessments, the Subsidiary Body may wish to consider the challenges, practical opportunities and ways forward in conducting assessments of the funds necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention and its Protocols for the ninth and subsequent replenishment periods of GEF.

VI. Sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

30. In paragraph 17 of its decision 15/15, the Conference of the Parties adopted the terms of reference for the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism contained in annex IV to that decision, and requested the Executive Secretary to ensure that the report on the review is made available three months prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

31. The timely implementation of this decision is subject to the timely availability of budgetary resources, and the reliance on voluntary contributions does not provide necessary certainty of timeliness. Owing to the lack of voluntary contributions for this purpose, the Acting Executive Secretary has now allocated resources from the core budget to enable a review. Given that the resources allocated are significantly less than the amount set out in the voluntary budget, the scope of the review will necessarily be limited.

32. The recruitment of an independent evaluator through a consultancy contract, in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations, was completed in March 2024. The methodology that will be followed by the evaluator, consistent with the terms of reference, will be provided in an information document, CBD/SBI/4/INF/17. As part of the methodology, the independent evaluator will conduct meetings and interviews at the intersessional meetings of the Convention to collect information, and a questionnaire survey will be conducted. The independent evaluator will also draw upon the evaluation results of relevant evaluation processes, including those of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office. Among other studies, the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network published its 2017–2018 assessment of GEF in 2019.⁴

33. The report on the review will be provided in a pre-session document for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting. The Subsidiary Body may wish to encourage Parties to respond proactively to requests of the evaluator.

VII. Additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility

34. The consolidated previous guidance to GEF adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting is contained in annex II to its decision 15/15.

35. Work conducted under the auspices of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice has considered scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including gaps in relevant tools and guidance developed under the Convention (CBD/SBSTTA/26/3).

⁴ The Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network is currently undertaking a similar study, led by Australia and Sweden, on the Global Environment Facility's organizational effectiveness (strategic, operational, relationship and performance) and results. However, the report of the ongoing study will not be published until December 2024.

36. In the analysis contained in information document CBD/SBI/4/INF/18, it is also evident that there are gaps in the provision of guidance to GEF with respect to the implementation of some aspects of the Framework, including several of its targets. Targets that have not been dealt with previously in any depth, include Target 1 (spatial planning and management of all areas), Target 2 (restoration of at least 30 per cent of degraded ecosystems), Target 7 (at least 50 per cent reduction in excess nutrients lost to the environment and in the risk of pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals, and elimination of plastic pollution), Target 9 (sustainable management and use of wild species to benefit people), Target 11 (regulating services restoration and enhancement), Target 16 (enabling of sustainable consumption choices, reduction of global footprint of consumption, and halving of global food waste) and Target 22 (ensuring participation in decision-making and access to justice and information related to biodiversity for all).

37. Such gaps could be addressed in additional guidance to GEF or could complement the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities, for example by defining strategic outcomes to fill gaps in support to some of the targets; ensure alignment of the quantitative targets of GEF with quantitative aspects of targets of the Framework; expand opportunities for GEF to support targets of the Framework through its integrated programming and other focal areas, and; support the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach and the mainstreaming objectives of the Framework.

VIII. Programmatic synergies among biodiversity-related conventions

38. In its decision 15/15 (para. 16), the Conference of the Parties invited the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of its decision XII/30, and paragraph 10 of its decision XIII/21, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

39. At its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals adopted its Resolution 10.25 (Rev.COP14) concerning enhancing engagement with GEF. In its resolution, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to provide the elements of advice as developed by the Standing Committee in time to be considered at meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity so that they may be referred on to GEF through the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (para. 6). The Conference of the Parties also invited the GEF Secretariat to participate in the follow-up to the resolution through discussions with the Convention secretariat and by other appropriate means, including exploration of all opportunities to enhance GEF support to countries for activities relevant to the implementation of the Convention (para. 7).

40. At its tenth session, in its resolution 13/2023 (para. 8), the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture requested the Funding Committee to assess the efficiency and practicality of providing further strategic guidance in this area and, if appropriate, to develop, with the support of the Secretariat, elements of advice concerning the funding of the objectives and priorities of the Treaty, consistent with the mandates of GEF, and requested the Secretary to transmit the elements of advice, if developed, to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixteenth meeting, consistent with decision 15/15.⁵

41. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework addresses the importance of synergies with, and the contributions to its objectives from, biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral agreements and organizations;⁶ as does its monitoring framework through relevant indicators. The four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities of the

⁵ In its resolution 13/2023, the Governing Body also welcomed the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and requested the Secretary to follow developments in the implementation of the Fund (para. 7).

⁶ Decision 15/4, annex, paras. 6 and 7 (q).

Convention for the eighth replenishment period of GEF, aligned with the Framework, addresses the importance attached to the biodiversity-related conventions in the Framework and reflects the strategic advice received from these conventions. The proposal for the four-year framework of programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period contained in the annex to the draft decision in the present note retains those aspects of its predecessor. Any further elements of advice from biodiversity-related conventions to contribute to the development of strategic guidance for the ninth replenishment could also be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

42. In addition, the Secretariat intends to maintain the practice it established during the negotiation of the eighth replenishment by inviting views from the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, when providing its review and inputs to the relevant documents prepared by GEF Secretariat for the replenishment negotiations.

43. Relevant to this matter, the Secretariat has conducted an analysis of the synergies between the strategies of biodiversity-related conventions and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and of ways to enhance programmatic synergies among the conventions (CBD/SBI/4/INF/19). The Bern III Conference (CBD/SBI/4/10 and CBD/SBI/4/INF/15) has also served to identify opportunities for synergies with these and other multilateral environmental agreements towards the targets of the Framework. For instance, Target 7 can be supported by the chemicals and waste conventions, including the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, both supported by GEF.

IX. Recommendations

44. The Subsidiary Body may wish to adopt a recommendation along the lines set out below, bearing in mind that additional elements of a draft decision will be provided in a working document for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting and the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols in the light of the assessment of funding needs and the evaluation of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation,

Recalling paragraph 15 of decision 15/15 of 19 December 2022, by which the Conference of the Parties invited developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to identify related national funding priorities, including nationally prioritized funding needs that could be considered as eligible for funding under the financial mechanism specifically for the period July 2026 to June 2030, and submit the results to the Executive Secretary for inclusion in the funding needs assessment,

Recognizing that most recipient countries are still in the process of updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as developing national biodiversity finance plans and robust funding needs assessments should build upon the funding priorities identified out of national planning processes,

Noting the lack of voluntary contributions to finance the implementation of the terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds needed for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund set out in annex III to decision 15/15,

Taking note of the report by the Secretariat provided in document CBD/SBI/4/6 and the information contained therein,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the preliminary report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,¹ which includes a

¹ CBD/SBI/4/6/Add.1.

table of its responses to the guidance from the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting by its decision 15/15;

2. *Also notes with appreciation* the rapid support from the Global Environment Facility to the revision and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as biodiversity finance plans aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and urges the recipient Parties to expedite the implementation of the Global Environment Facility financed enabling activity projects;

3. *Further notes with appreciation* the speed of delivery of the integrated programming that has reached over 90 per cent of resource usage;

4. *Encourages* eligible Parties to the Convention and its Protocols to accelerate their use of their country allocations made available under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources;

5. *Encourages* eligible Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to take note of the relevant information of the preliminary report of the Global Environment Facility when submitting project proposals for consideration and approval by the Facility;

6. *Invites* eligible Parties to contribute to the survey of national funding priorities and needs being prepared by the Secretariat;

7. *Invites* Parties to participate in the evaluation process being conducted by the independent evaluator recruited by the Executive Secretary to implement the terms of reference for the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Present the outcomes of the funding needs survey for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its eleventh meeting and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its fifth meeting;

(b) Present the report of the independent evaluator on the effectiveness of the financial mechanism for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its eleventh meeting and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its fifth meeting;

(c) Incorporate the information provided by the Global Environment Facility through its final report in the relevant documentation to be prepared for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting and to collaborate with the Global Environment Facility to identify potential issues and areas requiring the attention of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to develop, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting, elements of guidance to support the implementation of those targets of the Framework that have not been covered specifically or comprehensively in any previous guidance to the Global Environment Facility, including Targets 1, 2, 7, 9, 11, 16, and 22;

10. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:²

The Conference of the Parties,

² Bearing in mind that additional elements for a draft decision will be elaborated prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Recalling paragraph 3 of Article 21 of the Convention on Biological Diversity,³ providing that the Conference of the Parties shall review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,

Reaffirming the commitment of the Conference of the Parties to periodically review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism as contained in the memorandum of understanding with the Council of the Global Environment Facility adopted by its decision III/8 of 15 November 1996,

Reaffirming the importance of the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, strategies and programmes,

Taking note of the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting,⁴

Welcoming the actions by the Global Environment Facility to support developing country Parties and countries with economies in transition in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁵ including through its programming associated with the seventh and eighth replenishments of its Trust Fund and the establishment and operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund,

Noting with concern the lack of project proposals from eligible countries to support implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the limited number of project proposals from eligible countries to support implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization,

Noting the contributions of the integrated programmes of the Global Environment Facility to the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and that all of the integrated programmes contribute to Targets 8, 10, 11, 20, 21, 22 and 23,

Also noting the significant portion of the Global Environment Facility's International Waters focal area resources that contributes to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Noting with appreciation the enhanced support provided by the Global Environment Facility to indigenous peoples and local communities for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

Welcoming the efforts by the Global Environment Facility to support policy coherence and streamlining measures,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

Global Environment Facility Trust Fund

2. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary, to issue an open call for project proposals in support of the implementation of Target 17 of the Framework;

3. *Invites* relevant Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to proactively access the notional allocations available for the Protocol from the eighth replenishment programming directions;

³ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁴ CBD/COP/16/--.

⁵ Decision 15/4, annex.

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and the Global Environment Facility, to promote the sharing of experience and knowledge in project development and implementation in support of the implementation of Target 13 of the Framework;

5. *Invites* relevant Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization to proactively access the notional allocations available for the Protocol from the eighth replenishment programming directions;

6. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to continue to explore potential opportunities of maximizing the contribution of its integrated programmes to the implementation of the Framework;

7. *Also encourages* the Global Environment Facility and recipient countries to maintain the contribution of the international waters focal area to the implementation of the Framework and to extend this practice into other focal areas, including those of climate change, land degradation, and chemicals and waste;

Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

8. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Global Environment Facility for its timely design, establishment and operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions made to the capitalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund by several donor countries, including Canada, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

10. *Urges* all Parties and other Governments that are in a position to do so, to make contributions or further contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund in order to ensure its rapid capitalization commensurate with Target 19 such that it contributes to increasing the total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries to at least 20 billion United States dollars per year by 2025, and to at least 30 billion dollars per year by 2030 and provides effective support to developing country Parties and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of the Framework;

11. *Emphasises* that guidance from the Conference of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 21 of the Convention is applicable to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;

Four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities

12. *Adopts* the four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programming priorities for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (July 2026 to June 2030), aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, contained in the annex to the present decision;

13. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties how it responds to the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programming priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, and how its responses contribute to each target of the Framework and to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols;

14. *Invites* the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions to include a standing item on the agenda of their meetings for the provision of strategic advice, as appropriate, concerning synergistic national implementation with the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, that may be referred to the Global Environment Facility through the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to request their respective secretariats to

communicate such advice to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

15. *Invites* the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions to participate in and provide input to the inter-secretariat consultation to be convened by the Executive Secretary when developing the Secretariat's inputs to draft programming directions and policy recommendations for the negotiations of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, in which it will participate in line with paragraph 7 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;

Funding needs assessment

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile and transmit, on an ongoing basis, the information on funding needs received from recipient country Parties to the Global Environment Facility Secretariat and the participants in the negotiations of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;

17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to draw upon the experience and lessons learned in implementing the terms of reference for the assessment of funding needs from the Global Environment Facility for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, and prepare draft terms of reference for conducting the fifth determination of funding needs for the period of the tenth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, July 2030 to June 2034, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its sixth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

Further guidance to the Global Environment Facility

[18. Placeholder]⁶

Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

19. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare draft terms of reference on the seventh review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its sixth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

Annex

Four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030)

A. Objective

1. This four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities serves as guidance on the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols to the Global Environment Facility for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, 2026–2030.
2. It is provided by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the expectation that it be used by the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and the Participants in the replenishment negotiations in determining the programming directions and policy recommendations for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.

⁶ This may include guidance to the Global Environment Facility developed in the light of consideration of agenda item 4 (a) of the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, including those related to the ninth replenishment process, as well as additional guidance developed in the light of the consideration of other agenda items of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. It is provided in the context of the mandate of the Global Environment Facility to provide resources to achieve global environmental benefits and the mandate provided to the Global Environment Facility by the Conference of the Parties in the Memorandum of Understanding adopted by the Conference of the Parties by its decision [III/8](#) of 15 November 1996.
4. It utilizes the Convention, its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to set the strategic priorities for the financial mechanism of the Convention, which are expected to be operationalized by the Global Environment Facility through its programming directions for the ninth replenishment period.
5. The four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities recognizes that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework should be used as a strategic plan for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols over the period 2022–2030.
6. In particular, the goals and targets of the Framework provide the direction for the outcomes of this four-year framework, bearing in mind that the ninth replenishment period coincides with the four year period leading up to the 2030 deadlines of the targets, while recognizing that each of the three objectives of the Convention should be addressed by the Global Environment Facility when designing and implementing its programming directions and policy recommendations for the ninth replenishment.
7. The four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities recognizes the integrated and indivisible nature of the components of the Framework, which include considerations for its implementation (section C), implementation and support mechanisms and enabling conditions (section I), and responsibility and transparency (section J).
8. Recognizing that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral agreements, this four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities seeks to promote the implementation of complementary measures that may enhance programmatic synergies and efficiencies among the Convention, its Protocols and other biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral agreements, relevant to the Framework and the mandate of the Global Environment Facility.

B. Elements

9. The four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the period 2026–2030 includes the following elements under the Convention and its Protocols to which effective implementation support is to be provided:
 - (a) The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including each of its goals and all of its targets which define the outcomes being sought;
 - (b) National biodiversity strategies and action plans;
 - (c) National biodiversity finance plans;
 - (d) The implementation of the three objectives of the Convention;
 - (e) The mechanisms adopted under the Convention to strengthen the means of implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: mobilizing sufficient resources from all sources towards implementing the Framework and achieving its goals and targets; capacity-building and development; generation, management and sharing of knowledge for effective biodiversity planning, policy development and coherence, decision-making and implementation; and technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation. In particular, the following:

- (i) The strategy for resource mobilization, including the establishment and operation of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;¹
- (ii) The long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development;²
- (iii) The technical and scientific cooperation mechanism;³
- (iv) The knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Framework;⁴
- (f) The plans of action adopted under the Convention to support the effective and inclusive implementation of the Framework, including:
 - (i) The Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2023–2030);⁵
 - (ii) The Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030).⁶
 - (g) The monitoring framework⁷ and the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review;⁸
 - (h) The Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety⁹ and the Capacity-building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;¹⁰
 - (i) The Capacity-building and Development Action Plan for the Nagoya Protocol;¹¹
 - (j) The guidance on programme priorities to support the implementation of the Protocols adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its fifth meeting and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its eleventh meeting, contained respectively in enclosure I and enclosure II.¹²

C. Strategic considerations

10. The programming directions and the policy recommendations for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, as they relate to the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and their financial mechanism established by Article 21 of the Convention, should:

(a) Be developed in a fully transparent and inclusive manner, with a view to ensuring that the projects funded by the Global Environment Facility during its ninth replenishment period to support biodiversity objectives are developed on a context-specific and country-driven basis, addressing the priority needs of the recipient countries;

(b) Support the rapid and effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including by contributing to a significantly enhanced mobilization of resources, from all sources, including by providing an increase in Global Environment Facility funding that is adequate, predictable, sustainable, timely and accessible to all Parties that are eligible to receive support through the financial mechanism of the Convention and its

¹ Decisions 15/7 and 16/--.

² Decision 15/8, annex I.

³ Decisions 15/8 and 16/--.

⁴ Decision 16/--.

⁵ Decision 15/12, annex.

⁶ Decision 15/11, annex.

⁷ Decisions 15/5 and 16/--.

⁸ Decision 15/6.

⁹ Decision CP-10/3, annex.

¹⁰ Decision CP-10/4, annex.

¹¹ Decision NP-5/--.

¹² Subject to any additional guidance on programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility being adopted by the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols.

Protocols, as determined by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. This may be provided to eligible Parties by the Global Environment Facility through allocations under programming directions dedicated to the biodiversity focal area, through co-benefits for biodiversity arising from other focal areas and global programmes, and through the integrated programmes, recognizing the need for streamlined programming and approval process that enables timely disbursement of resources;

(c) Build upon support being provided under the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;

(d) Take into account coherence with, and synergies among, country-driven programmes and priorities set out in national biodiversity strategies and action plans to support implementation of the Framework;

(e) Promote engagement with eligible recipient countries to support national resource mobilization and the development and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans;

(f) Promote the achievement of global environmental benefits and sustainable development pathways that ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and that are also carbon-neutral and pollution-free, including through ensuring coherence and synergies among the Global Environment Facility's focal areas of biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and chemicals and waste, and its integrated programmes, within the context of country-driven priorities and programmes;

(g) Recognize that the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral agreements, in the context of national biodiversity priorities and strategies, will contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, objectives of its Protocols and the goals and targets of the Framework;

(h) Promote, synergies, cooperation and complementarity in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the related objectives of the other conventions served by the Global Environment Facility, as well as those of other biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral agreements, recognizing the important contributions of these instruments to the objectives of the Convention, its Protocols and the Framework, and the reciprocated contributions to their own objectives;

(i) Reinforce the efforts of the Global Environment Facility to mobilize and engage with all stakeholders, including the private sector;

(j) Recognize the important contribution that can be made by transboundary, multi-country, regional and global projects to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, its Protocols and the Framework, including towards the implementation of global initiatives adopted under the Convention and its Protocols, and transboundary, multi-country, regional and global initiatives that leverage contributions from biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral agreements;

(k) Promote and implement, as appropriate, the ecosystem approach¹³ and/or “nature-based solutions” as defined by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session.¹⁴

11. The outcome and impact indicators for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, and associated monitoring processes, should be effective in their ability to assess the contribution of programming to the implementation of each of the three objectives of the Convention, the implementation of its Protocols, and the implementation of the

¹³ Defined in [decision V/6](#).

¹⁴ Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.5. Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development), adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 2 March 2022.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including through measuring the co-benefits for biodiversity across all relevant Global Environment Facility activities.

12. The Global Environment Facility, in its ninth replenishment period, should:

(a) Explore ways to significantly improve the access to funding for all eligible recipient countries;

(b) Explore ways to further improve the access to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles and holding traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components;

(c) Further interact and cooperate with multilateral development banks and other public and private financial institutions with the aim that they integrate the objectives of the Convention, its Protocols and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the contributions of other biodiversity-related conventions and multilateral agreements, into their activities and report on funding contributing to the implementation of these objectives;

(d) Continue to enhance its policies regarding governance and the standards that its implementing partners are held to, in order to improve its efficiency and effectiveness in delivering sustainable results.

D. Reporting

13. Following the conclusion of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Global Environment Facility will include in its reports to the Conference of the Parties an explanation on how the ninth replenishment has responded to the present four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities and, through the elements of its programming directions, is contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and to each goal and target of the Framework and its monitoring framework.

Enclosure I¹⁵

Additional elements for the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030) to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization

Elements for the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030) to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fifth meeting, comprise:

(x) [Placeholder for elements of guidance];

¹⁵ Subject to the adoption of additional guidance on programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

Enclosure II¹⁶**Additional elements for the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030) to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

Elements for the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030) to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its eleventh meeting, include:

- (x) [Placeholder for elements of guidance];

¹⁶ Subject to the adoption of additional guidance on programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol.