



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety Eleventh meeting

Cali, Colombia, 21 October–1 November 2024

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Matters related to the financial mechanism and resources

Financial mechanism and resources**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with Article 28 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol provides recommendations to the Conference of the Parties through its decisions on matters to the financial mechanism and resources. The decisions are further considered by the Conference of the Parties for inclusion in its guidance to the financial mechanism.
2. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol adopted decision CP-10/6 on matters related to the financial mechanism and resources. This decision included recommendations to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding further guidance to the financial mechanism with respect to biosafety. The Conference of the Parties conveyed the recommendations to the Global Environment Facility in paragraphs 9 and 10 of annex II B to decision 15/15, on additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility.
3. The present note provides an update on the status of implementation of decision CP-10/6. Section II discusses possible measures to foster the identification and mobilization of additional financial resources to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to implement the Cartagena Protocol. Section III reviews funding from the Global Environment Facility. Section IV presents relevant findings on the review of effectiveness in accordance with annex V to decision 15/5 of the Conference of the Parties and paragraph 6 (b) of decision CP-10/6 of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Section V provides elements of a possible decision on matters related to the financial mechanism and resources.
4. At its fourth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation considered the relevant documents prepared by the Executive Secretary and a preliminary report from the Global

* CBD/CP/MOP/11/1.

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

Environment Facility, and it adopted recommendation 4/3 on resource mobilization and 4/4 on the financial mechanism.

5. The final report of the Global Environment Facility is contained in document CBD/COP/16/8.

6. The outcomes of the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism are contained in report prepared by the Secretariat and are contained in document CBD/COP/16/INF/25.

7. Parties to the Cartagena Protocol are invited to consider the information provided in the present note and the above-mentioned reports and adopt a decision on matters relating to the financial mechanism and resources and in making recommendations to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention regarding further guidance to the financial mechanism with respect to biosafety in the context of the suggested multi-year guidance to the Global Environment Facility for the ninth replenishment.

II. Financial resources for biosafety

8. Article 28 of the Cartagena Protocol requires Parties to take the provisions of Article 20 of the Convention into account when considering financial resources for the implementation of the Protocol.

9. A lack of financial resources continues to be one of the major limiting factors to the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol in particular by developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. In their fourth national reports,¹ many developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition indicated that they had received support from the Global Environment Facility for developing their national biosafety frameworks but that they lack resources to implement those frameworks. Effective implementation of the Protocol will require adequate, predictable and timely access to financial resources.

10. Considering the vital importance of adequate financial resources for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, decision CP-10/6 considered the need to identify and mobilize new financial resources in addition to those provided through the Global Environment Facility to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to implement the Protocol effectively.

11. In response to paragraph 4 of decision CP-10/6, the Secretariat compiled a set of potential funding sources and approaches that may be applied for biosafety to address the funding constraints. This compilation, which is available through the Biosafety Clearing-House,² includes information on potential funding sources that may be specific for particular groups of Parties, as well as non-specific, general funding opportunities that national and regional agencies may consider. In addition, a few international funding agencies that provide access to grants for the research laboratories and groups that underly the fields of biotechnology and biosafety have been included. The list will be further developed through additional outreach to funding bodies and analyses of bilateral cooperation reports.

12. Multilateral development providers, such as multilateral development banks and multilateral funds, are important contributors for biodiversity-related development finance. They are therefore potentially important for providing specific resources for biosafety. A number of such institutions have been identified and included in compilation for the information of Parties.

13. In its decision 15/7, the Conference of the Parties decided, among other tasks, to review the strategy for resource mobilization contained in annex I to the decision, to explore the current finance landscape with a view to assessing gaps and overlaps and to identifying opportunities to strengthen, simplify and reform existing instruments to strengthen the current finance landscape for biodiversity and established the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization to operationalize these

¹ See CBD/CP/MOP/10/5.

² https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art28_info.shtml#resources.

provisions. The outcomes of this process are provided in recommendation 4/3 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and document CBD/COP/16/5. The revised strategy for resource mobilization, once adopted, could be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to address and mobilize additional resources for biosafety.

III. Status of the Global Environment Facility funding for biodiversity

14. The current biennium coincides with the implementation of two Global Environment Facility replenishment cycles; part of seventh replenishment (“GEF-7”), which spanned the period from July 2018 to June 2022, and the start of the eighth replenishment (“GEF-8”) from July 2022 onward.

15. In GEF-7, seven projects, including two multi-country projects, covering 11 countries³ were submitted to the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund requesting support for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol. They were approved for a total \$13.1 million of Global Environment Facility financing. This compares with three projects⁴ totalling \$4.2 million for the sixth replenishment period. The GEF-6 uptake was much less than the notional allocation for the period of \$30 million, while the GEF-7 update was much greater than its notional allocation of \$7 million.

16. Objective II of the Global Environment Facility Biodiversity Focal Area strategy supports capacity-building for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol. For the GEF-8 period, a total of \$1.92 billion was allocated to the Global Environment Facility funding portfolio for biodiversity, including the biosafety focal area, of which \$1.45 billion is provided to countries through the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources for biodiversity, with a combined notional allocation for projects supporting implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization of \$82 million. After two years of GEF-8, no projects have yet been submitted by eligible Parties to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol.

17. The level of funding for biosafety depends on the extent to which countries prioritize biosafety among the biodiversity issues. In this regard, there is a need for countries to consider giving priority to biosafety projects within the biodiversity allocation within their internal priority-setting processes to support the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol. There is also a need for the Global Environment Facility to consider ways of facilitating such submissions as further discussed in the next section.

18. The Global Environment Facility Council in June 2023 approved the establishment⁵ of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and its Programming Directions. Action Area Eight of the framework fund addresses capacity-building and implementation support for biosafety, handling of biotechnology and access and benefit-sharing, including under the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols (Targets 13 and 17).

IV. Review of effectiveness of the financial mechanism for biosafety

19. In decision 15/15, the Conference of the Parties mandated the Sixth Review of the Effectiveness of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention and its Protocols. In decision CP-10/6, Parties to the Cartagena Protocol also requested the Secretariat to analyse the effectiveness of the financial mechanism for the implementation of the Protocol in the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism. In this regard, the Secretariat appointed an independent consultant and issued notification No. 2024-072 regarding a questionnaire that was developed by the independent

³ Bangladesh, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mongolia, Namibia, Philippines and Republic of Moldova.

⁴ In Cuba, Guatemala and Malaysia.

⁵ GEF, 2023, [Establishment of a New Trust Fund: the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund](#), Council document GEF/C.64/05/Rev.01.

evaluator in line with the terms of reference and that provided an important basis for participating in the review, and for assessing the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.

20. Given that the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism of the Cartagena Protocol is integrated with the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, the questionnaire for review included the following three questions of specific reference to the Cartagena Protocol:

- (a) What has been the experience, as well as lessons learned, in having access to and utilizing funds for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol?;
- (b) What are the challenges to getting access to and using the Global Environment Facility funds?;
- (c) The relevance and process of creating a stand-alone window for biosafety.

21. Among the findings of the review the following are of particular relevance to the Cartagena Protocol:

- (a) The Global Environment Facility has historically contributed to speeding up ratification and has promoted implementation processes of the Cartagena Protocol;
- (b) While support from the Global Environment Facility has been consistent with the Cartagena Protocol when programmed, the Global Environment Facility has not provided for consistent levels of support for implementation of the Protocol;
- (c) The uptake of notional allocations for support for implementation of the Cartagena Protocol by eligible Parties has been variable and generally very low;
- (d) The Global Environment Facility should be encouraged to further develop its funding modalities in order to provide support for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol in a systematic and flexible manner designed to fully take the complexities of institutional arrangements for biosafety mandates;
- (e) There is a need for more capacity-building activities in order for greater country ownership and to enable developing countries to be able to have access to funds from the Global Environment Facility without being hampered by procedural difficulties or implementing agency priorities;
- (f) The timely disbursements of funds under the Cartagena Protocol needs to be monitored to ensure effectiveness;
- (g) There is need to consider setting up a stand-alone window or alternative dedicated access mechanism for biosafety to enhance implementation of the Cartagena Protocol; the developing countries which provided a response to the question of creating a stand-alone window for biosafety were unanimous in their support for such a stand-alone window;
- (h) Programming for the Cartagena Protocol is further constrained by the lack of capacity from recipient countries to design biosafety proposals and the limited assistance from the Global Environment Facility Secretariat and implementing agencies in this regard.

V. Draft decision

22. In the light of the information provided in the present note, and taking into consideration relevant elements of recommendation 4/4 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the Conference

of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Taking note of the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity^{6,7} and the report on the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism,⁸

Noting with concern that, two years into the implementation of the eighth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, no projects have been submitted to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,⁹

Welcoming the establishment and operationalization of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and its programming directions, which include action areas to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol,

Recalling decision [15/15](#) of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in which the Conference of the Parties invited the Council of the Global Environment Facility to examine the possibility of creating a finance window specifically for the Cartagena Protocol,

1. *Recommends* that, in adopting its guidance to the Global Environment Facility with regard to support for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity include the following requests to the Global Environment Facility:

(a) To make funds available in a timely manner to support eligible Parties in preparing and submitting their fifth national reports under the Cartagena Protocol;

(b) To strengthen its funding programme dedicated to the Cartagena Protocol to support eligible Parties in implementing the Protocol, including its implementation plan¹⁰ and its capacity-building action plan;¹¹

(c) To continue to provide support to eligible Parties for undertaking activities in the following areas:

(i) Development and implementation of legal, administrative and other measures to implement the Cartagena Protocol;

(ii) Risk assessment and risk management;

(iii) Detection and identification of living modified organisms;

(iv) Public awareness, education and participation;

(v) Socioeconomic considerations;

(vi) Liability and redress;

(vii) National reporting, information-sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House;

(viii) Knowledge-sharing and technology transfer;

(ix) The implementation of action plans to achieve compliance with the Cartagena Protocol;

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁷ CBD/COP/16/8.

⁸ CBD/COP/16/7.

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

¹⁰ Decision CP-10/3, annex.

¹¹ Decision CP-10/4, annex.

(d) To reform its operations, including through the consideration of a stand-alone window or a set-aside for supporting the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, separate biosafety resources and global and regional projects, in such a manner as to enable it to fulfil effectively its responsibilities in operating the financial mechanism for the Protocol, and report on those matters to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its seventeenth meeting;

2. *Also recommends* that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention include the elements listed in subparagraphs 1 (b) and (c) above in the four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026–2030);¹²

3. *Encourages* eligible Parties:

(a) To submit project proposals to the Global Environment Facility in support of the implementation of Target 17 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework¹³ and the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol, proactively making use of the notional allocations to support the implementation of the Protocol in the eighth replenishment programming directions of the Global Environment Facility and the programming directions of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and to take note of the relevant information in the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention when submitting such proposals;

(b) To cooperate at the regional and subregional levels, as appropriate, to prepare requests for support from the Global Environment Facility for joint projects, in order to maximize synergies and opportunities for the cost-effective sharing of resources, information, experiences and expertise;

4. *Encourages* Parties to include needs and provisions for implementing Target 17 of the Framework and the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol in their national biodiversity finance plans and their national implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization for the Framework;¹⁴

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further develop and communicate information on sources of funding for biosafety to support Parties.

¹² The elements could be included in enclosure II to the annex to the draft decision contained in recommendation 4/4 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

¹³ Decision 15/4, annex.

¹⁴ Decision 15/7, annex I.