



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 Twelfth meeting

Yerevan, 19–30 October 2026

Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

Matters related to the financial mechanism and resources

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Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety provides recommendations in the context of Article 28 of the Protocol to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity through its decisions on matters related to the financial mechanism and resources. The decisions are then considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in the preparation of its guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
2. The present note provides an update on the status of implementation of the guidance provided to the financial mechanism with respect to biosafety, as well as information on other financial resources for the implementation of the Protocol. Section II is a status report on GEF funding for biosafety and the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (“GEF-9”). Section III provides an overview of the major elements arising from the fifth assessment and review of the implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol for the period to 2030. Section IV contains information on additional financial resources for the implementation of the Protocol. A draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol is set out in section V.
3. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol is invited to consider the information provided in the present note and the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility for the seventeenth meeting of the Parties to the Convention¹ when making, as appropriate, its decision on matters related to the financial mechanism and resources and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention regarding further guidance to the financial mechanism with respect to biosafety.

* [CBD/CP/MOP/12/1](#).

¹ [CBD/CP/MOP/17/5/Add.1](#).

II. Support for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

A. Biosafety project support from the Global Environment Facility during the reporting period

4. During the reporting period (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2026), eight projects related to the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol were submitted by eligible Parties, including four to the GEF Trust Fund and four project preparation grant requests to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund. At the time of reporting, two of the four submissions to the Trust Fund had been approved, one was under review by the GEF Secretariat and one was being revised by its proponents. Three of the four project preparation grant requests had been selected in the Framework Fund competitive allocation model.

5. Across the GEF trust funds, seven countries are supported in implementing biosafety measures in line with Target 17 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,² with total GEF project financing of \$17.8 million leveraging \$49.8 million in co-finance. GEF supported the achievement of Target 17 in the Gambia, Honduras, Jamaica, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan and Uzbekistan through stand-alone projects in implementing biosafety measures. The projects in Honduras and Sri Lanka also contributed towards Target 13 of the Framework.

6. GEF provided \$4,059,825 to 105 eligible Parties in support of the preparation of their fifth national reports on the implementation of the Protocol and the fulfilment of their national reporting obligations under the Protocol. As at 15 June 2026, 88 of the Parties had submitted their national reports. The GEF Secretariat participated online in four regional workshops (for Latin America and the Caribbean, in June 2025; for Africa, in October 2025; for Central and Eastern Europe and Western and Central Asia, in January 2026; and for Asia and the Pacific, in January 2026) organized by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Convention and funded by GEF as an enabling activity to support national reporting under the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization. A representative of the GEF Secretariat presented to Protocol focal points funding opportunities for the implementation of the Protocols during the eighth replenishment cycle of the GEF Trust Fund and under the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and the outlook for GEF-9.

7. A representative of the GEF Secretariat also participated in the fifteenth meeting of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which was held in June 2026 in Montreal, Canada.

8. GEF project financing for projects related to the Protocols during the eighth replenishment cycle of the GEF Trust Fund and for such projects connected with the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund totalled \$17.8 million and \$57.0 million, respectively. Those amounts exceed the funding approved during the seventh replenishment cycle and represent 91 per cent of the notional allocation for the Protocols during the eighth replenishment cycle, which was \$82.1 million for the two Protocols together.

B. Ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and the programming of resources

9. Pledges made by 21 donors for GEF-9 resulted in an initial replenishment of \$3.9 billion for the period from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2030. Of the total GEF-9 resources, 35 per cent is allocated to the biodiversity focal area, which includes biosafety as a component.

10. To ensure an adequate level of funding is provided to support the Protocols during GEF-9, a biodiversity focal area set-aside has been allocated for regional or global projects dedicated to the

² Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries, biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.

implementation of the Protocols, with priority given to countries that have not received GEF funding for that purpose in recent Trust Fund replenishment cycles. The set-aside will complement the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources, which eligible countries are encouraged to make use of for the implementation of the Protocols.

11. GEF will support the ratification of the Cartagena Protocol by countries that have not yet ratified it and support the implementation of national biosafety frameworks, in line with the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Protocol adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its tenth meeting, in December 2022. The aim of the investment by GEF is to build capacity in order to ensure that countries have functional national biosafety frameworks, are in full compliance with the requirements of the Protocol and have mobilized adequate resources to support its implementation. In the context of country-driven projects, eligible Parties will be supported in implementing the provisions of the Protocol, including through: development or alignment of biosafety legislation; capacity-building and strengthening of infrastructure related to detection and identification of living modified organisms; capacity-building related to risk assessment and risk management; and enhancements of public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms. Eligible Parties will also be supported through the development or acquisition of certified reference materials, knowledge-sharing and technology transfer, including by establishing regional networks of laboratories, and the implementation of action plans to achieve compliance with the Protocol.

12. Many national biosafety frameworks were originally designed to address living modified organisms and may not fully encompass emerging biotechnologies (e.g. clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR)) and synthetic biology. The novel traits and applications arising from those technologies necessitate updated methodologies for risk assessment and management. GEF will thus support countries in revising and strengthening their national biosafety frameworks and national biotechnology strategies and in building their technical capacity to assess, monitor and manage the risks and benefits associated with such emerging biotechnologies.

13. GEF will also provide support for the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In addition, it will have a specific focus on capacity-building and regional cooperation to support the effective implementation of the Supplementary Protocol.

14. Support will be provided to eligible countries for the preparation of their sixth national reports under the Cartagena Protocol.

15. The report submitted by the Council of the Global Environment Facility for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, on the status of implementation of the guidance to the financial mechanism, including the guidance with respect to biosafety, is contained in document [CBD/COP/17/5/Add.1](#).

C. Seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

16. Pursuant to Article 21, paragraph 3, of the Convention and building upon the experience gained from the previous six reviews of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention will undertake its seventh quadrennial review at its eighteenth meeting and take appropriate action, as necessary, to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism. The effectiveness of the financial mechanism in supporting the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols will be assessed during the seventh review. In that context, Parties to the Cartagena Protocol are encouraged to participate actively in the review and to share their experiences in accessing and utilizing GEF resources.

17. The review provides an important opportunity to enhance understanding of the underlying factors contributing to the low use of GEF resources allocated to support the implementation of the Protocol and to identify possible measures to address related challenges. Draft terms of reference for

the seventh quadrennial review are included in recommendation [6/2](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

D. Process for the tenth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (July 2030–June 2034)

18. A new four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities will guide the allocation of resources during the tenth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (July 2030–June 2034). A full assessment of the amount of funds necessary to assist developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States among them, as well as Parties with economies in transition, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention and its Protocols will be initiated, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. Given the limited number of biosafety projects funded during previous replenishment cycles, inputs from eligible Parties are important for identifying priorities and ensuring that available resources are effectively allocated to address biosafety needs. Parties to the Cartagena Protocol are therefore encouraged to submit biosafety needs and priorities for consideration by GEF.

III. Major elements arising from the fifth assessment and review of the implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol

19. At its present meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will consider the fifth assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol and the midterm evaluation of the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Protocol. To facilitate the process, the Secretariat prepared a comparative analysis,³ which provides information on progress towards the goals of the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan, including Goal B.2 on resource mobilization.

20. The Parties to the Protocol agreed to the following three objectives for that Goal: adequate resources are allocated to biosafety through national budgets (B.2.1); Parties allocate a share of national biodiversity System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) allocations to biosafety activities (B.2.2); and Parties mobilize resources from other sources (B.2.3). Information on progress towards those objectives and Goal B.2 is provided in the comparative analysis.

21. The information shows that, although many Parties reported having access to resources for biosafety from national budgets, most of the Parties reported that the resources are inadequate. As a result, almost three quarters of Parties have only inadequate or no national resources for biosafety, with Parties in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific most affected.

22. The information also shows that, while more than half of Parties had made use of additional resources, less than a quarter of eligible Parties had used their allocation for biosafety activities from the GEF System for Transparent Allocation of Resources. In the absence of adequate national funding for biosafety in the vast majority of countries, donor funding, including that from GEF, continues to play a critical role in financing the implementation of the Protocol. Strategies to improve the allocation of GEF funding to countries for the implementation of the Protocol therefore remain important.

23. Furthermore, Parties highlighted the importance of funding for enabling activities, as well as of biosafety-specific support. Funding for enabling activities, including national reporting projects and the United Nations Environment Programme and GEF project on sustainable capacity-building for effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House, was identified as essential for advancing implementation among eligible Parties.

24. At its seventh meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation adopted recommendation [7/5](#) on the fifth assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol and midterm

³ [CBD/SBI/7/6/Add.1](#).

evaluation of the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Protocol. The recommendation contains a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at the present meeting. If it adopts the decision, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will welcome the progress made in the implementation of the Protocol and towards the achievement of the goals of the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Protocol and note with concern that important gaps persist in areas critical for the implementation of the Protocol and that biosafety capacity-building and development remain a priority, in particular in risk assessment and risk management and for the detection and identification of living modified organisms. In addition, specific needs are identified in the draft decision related to the effective use of the Biosafety Clearing-House and legal, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the Protocol, and to the implementation of compliance action plans.

IV. Additional financial resources for the implementation of the Protocol

25. In accordance with Article 28, paragraph 6, of the Cartagena Protocol, developed country Parties may provide, and developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition may avail themselves of, financial and technological resources for the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels. To date, most of the financial resources for the implementation of the Protocol have been provided by GEF. There is an urgent need to mobilize and channel additional financial resources to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to enable them to implement the Protocol effectively. Those resources should be additional to those that are currently available through the GEF biodiversity focal area.

26. Inclusion of biosafety elements in national biodiversity finance plans would provide a means of integrating and ensuring sustained support for biosafety at the national level.

27. In response to the requests in subparagraph 7 (a) of decision [CP-10/6](#) and paragraph 5 of decision [CP-11/2](#), the Secretariat compiled information on potential funding sources and approaches that could be used to address funding constraints related to biosafety. The compilation, which was made available through the Biosafety Clearing-House, includes funding opportunities targeted at specific groups of Parties, as well as broader funding mechanisms that may be relevant to national and regional institutions. In addition, it contains information on selected international funding organizations that provide grant support to research institutions and research groups working in the fields of biotechnology and biosafety. The compilation will be updated and expanded through continued outreach to funding organizations and further analysis of bilateral cooperation reports.

28. International development partners, including multilateral development banks and multilateral funds, are among the principal sources of biodiversity-related development finance and may therefore be important sources of support for biosafety-related activities. A number of those institutions have been identified and included in the compilation.

29. In addition, the Kunming Biodiversity Fund provides a new opportunity to strengthen the implementation of Target 17 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Fund has approved a global biosafety project aimed at enhancing the capacity of countries to implement Target 17 by strengthening national biosafety frameworks, promoting regional and global cooperation and supporting the effective implementation of the Protocol. The project is expected to complement existing financial mechanisms and contribute to closing persistent capacity and resource gaps for biosafety implementation.

V. Draft decision

30. In the light of the information presented above and taking into account the recommendations made by the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol pertaining to the financial mechanism and resources and by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its sixth and seventh

meetings,⁴ the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol may wish to adopt a decision on the implementation of Article 28 of the Protocol along the following lines:

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

Recalling Article 28 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,⁵

Having considered the information on biosafety in the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,^{6,7}

1. *Welcomes* the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and its programming directions and the support thereby made available to Parties for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and expresses its appreciation to the countries that contributed to the replenishment;

2. *Welcomes with appreciation* the measures taken by the Global Environment Facility to enhance the financial mechanism with respect to biosafety;

3. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity give full consideration to the Cartagena Protocol in the terms of reference to be adopted for the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism under the Convention;

4. *Invites* Parties to the Cartagena Protocol to contribute to and participate in the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism;

5. *Urges* eligible Parties to use the resources allocated to biosafety activities by the Global Environment Facility through its System for Transparent Allocation of Resources and to integrate biosafety into their biodiversity projects, in accordance with nationally identified needs and priorities;

6. *Encourages* eligible Parties:

(a) To include needs and provisions for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol in their national biodiversity finance plans;

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

(c) To contribute biosafety elements to the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities related to the use of Global Environment Facility resources for biodiversity for the period from July 2030 to June 2034;

7. *Recommends* that, in adopting its guidance to the Global Environment Facility with respect to support for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention request the Facility:

(a) To make specific, adequate and timely funding available to eligible Parties for putting in place legal, administrative and other measures for implementing the Cartagena Protocol;

(b) To continue to provide support for the effective use of the Biosafety Clearing-House;

⁴ At its seventh meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation decided that paragraphs 17, 23, 24, 30, 52 and 53 of recommendation [7/5](#) would be included in the present draft decision, given their relevance to the financial mechanism.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁷ [CBD/COP/17/5/Add.1](#).

(c) To assist eligible Parties by providing them, sufficiently in advance of the reporting deadline, with financial support to hold adequate national consultations, thus giving them enough time to prepare their sixth national reports and submit them in a timely manner;

(d) To make specific, adequate and timely funding available to eligible Parties to implement compliance action plans developed at the request of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol;

(e) To continue to support capacity-building and development on biosafety, [as part of country-driven projects,] including during the ninth replenishment period of its Trust Fund (July 2026–June 2030) and through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, according to the mandates of the respective Funds[, and to establish [direct,] adequate, predictable and dedicated funding channels for biosafety to ensure that implementation needs are fully met];

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to explore other means for mobilizing additional financial resources for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and report on that work at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.
