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THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM: MATTERS RELATED TO GUIDANCE TO THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 21 of the Convention establishes a mechanism to provide financial resources to developing country Parties for purposes of this Convention on a grant or concessional basis, and the Global Environment Facility has been designated the institutional structure to operate this financial mechanism through a Memorandum of Understanding adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision III/8. The consideration of the implementation of Article 21 has thus been centred around four subject areas: a report from the Council of the Global Environment Facility; guidance for the financial mechanism; review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism; and determination of funding requirements. The report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is published in document CBD/COP/15/8 and addressed in section II of the present document.
2. Guidance on the financial mechanism has evolved to include a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the subsequent replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund, a consolidation of previous guidance, as well as additional guidance arising out of the ongoing in-session negotiations under the Convention and its Protocols, building also on inputs from biodiversity-related conventions. Sections III and IV of the present document contain updates pertinent to the elaboration of such guidance by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.
3. The present document complements recommendation 3/7, adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting, and responds to the request directed to the Executive Secretary in that recommendation. In its recommendation 3/7, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation recommended the terms of reference for the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism that will be conducted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting. Recommendation 3/7 also contains a proposal by the Subsidiary Body for a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the eighth replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund (2022-2026).
4. Due to the extraordinary length of the intersessional period between the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the fifteenth meeting being postponed by over two years from October 2020 to December 2022, the negotiation of the ninth replenishment of GEF will now commence soon after the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (early in 2025). It will, therefore, be necessary for the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting to adopt guidance to GEF that will inform the negotiation of the ninth replenishment, including a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period (2026-2030) and an assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries and countries with

economies in transition in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention and its Protocols in the ninth replenishment period (GEF-9). Section V of the present document, therefore, addresses the preparation, in the next intersessional period, of proposals for a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for GEF-9, and the terms of reference for the next funding needs assessment. Section VI addresses inputs from biodiversity-related conventions that may be sought to assist in the formulation of guidance from the Conference of the Parties related to the ninth replenishment. Section VII of the present document provides elements of a draft decision additional to those in the draft decision contained in SBI recommendation 3/7.

5. Meanwhile, although the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties has been postponed by over two years, the negotiation of the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-8) was successfully concluded in April 2022. The information document CBD/COP/15/INF/4 provides a summary of GEF-8, including its programming architecture and biodiversity strategy, and the support this will provide to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

6. Based, therefore, on SBI recommendation 3/7 and the updates provided in the present document, the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting is expected to adopt a comprehensive decision concerning the financial mechanism and guidance to GEF, including the elements outlined above.

II. REPORT OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

7. As part of its accountability requirements, the Council of the Global Environment Facility has prepared and submitted a report for each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, paragraph 3, such reports include specific information on how the guidance of the Conference of the Parties has been responded to, as well as on monitoring and evaluation activities. In subsequent decisions, the Conference of the Parties has provided further parameters concerning such reports, including timing of submission, a preliminary report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, balance between comprehensiveness and conciseness, results-based reporting, reporting on needs assessment results and on four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities, transparency of the process of approving Global Environment Facility projects, safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms, co-financing, and performance of the Global Environment Facility's network of agencies.

8. The preliminary report of the Global Environment Facility was made available to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting as document CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.1, with the list of projects and programmes approved during its reporting period presented in an information document (CBD/SBI/3/INF/7). The report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is provided in document CBD/COP/15/8. The report covers the period from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2021, corresponding to the first three years and six months of the four-year seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (1 July 2018 to 30 June 2022). It provides the requisite information on GEF response to guidance from the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, project activities to support implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, GEF-7 programming usage, portfolio implementation, progress report on GEF-7 corporate results and targets, results from the GEF Independent Evaluation Office, and list of all Project Identification Forms (PIFs) approved in the reporting period.

9. The report provides detailed accounts of GEF-7 programming usage in all major areas, such as GEF-7 programming contributions to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; GEF-7 biodiversity focal area contributions to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; project preparation grants; support for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; support to ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing; impact programme contributions to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including those relating to the impact programmes on food systems, land use and restoration, sustainable forest management, and sustainable cities; other GEF contributions to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including climate change adaptation and the international waters focal area; support to indigenous peoples and local communities to continue to contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; and the GEF Small Grants Programme. In addition, the report also provides

update on the GEF's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a summary of GEF-8 replenishment discussions.

10. The Conference of the Parties is expected to consider the report and utilize the information contained therein to support elaboration of relevant decisions and provide further guidance, if and as appropriate, on the future reporting by the Council of the Global Environment Facility.

III. UPDATED PREVIOUS CONSOLIDATED GUIDANCE TO THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

11. At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties reviewed the decisions and elements of decisions related to the financial mechanism that were adopted from its first to ninth meetings and, in decision X/24, adopted the first consolidated list of guidance to GEF, including programme priorities. An updated consolidation of guidance was adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting, in decision XIII/21, including a four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to retire the previous decisions and elements of decisions, as related to the financial mechanism.

12. Following this practice, the present document provides a further update to the consolidated guidance. Using the consolidation adopted in decision XIII/21 as the basis, the updated consolidation includes all the additional decisions and elements of decisions related to the financial mechanism that were adopted by the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties. It follows the structure of the Memorandum of Understanding contained in decision III/8, as did the consolidation contained in decision XIII/21, and adds subheadings for ease of referencing.

13. The result of this consolidation of previous guidance is provided in annex I of the present note.

IV. ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE TO THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

14. At its third meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation adopted nineteen recommendations for consideration by the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In addition to recommendation 3/7 on the financial mechanism, requests for support from the Global Environment Facility are contained in ten recommendations, as follows.

(a) Assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (recommendation 3/2, paras 16 and 17);

(b) Gender plan of action for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (recommendation 3/3, para. 10);

(c) Implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (recommendation 3/4, A, para. 5, and B, para. 5);

(d) Communication for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: framework for a communications strategy to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (recommendation 3/5, annex, para. 89(f));

(e) Resource mobilization (recommendation 3/6, paras 17 and 23);

(f) Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer (recommendation 3/8, para. 35);

(g) Options to enhance planning, reporting, and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention (recommendation 3/11, para. 30);

(h) Engagement with subnational governments, cities and other local authorities to enhance implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (recommendation 3/14, para. 6);

(i) Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors and other strategic actions to enhance implementation: long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming (recommendation 3/15, para. 12);

(j) Global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism (Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol) (recommendation 3/17, paras 6 and 8).

15. At its twenty-fourth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice adopted 10 recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. Requests for support from the Global Environment Facility are contained in three recommendations, as follows:

(a) Proposed monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (recommendation 24/2, para. 9);

(b) Review of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity and updated plan of action (recommendation 24/6, para. 10);

(c) Biodiversity and health (recommendation 24/7, para. 3).

16. These recommendations for inclusion in the additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility will be further considered and approved by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. Additional elements of further guidance might emerge from the in-session negotiations during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and from the decisions of the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol. As a practice, the Secretariat will bring such additional requests to the attention of the in-session negotiations so that the additional guidance may be compiled in the decision for adoption on the financial mechanism (as referred to in para. 4 of the draft decision contained in SBI recommendation 3/7), and will subsequently be incorporated into the consolidated guidance.

V. INITIATING THE PREPARATION OF A FOUR-YEAR FRAMEWORK OF OUTCOME-ORIENTED PROGRAMME PRIORITIES AND THE FOURTH ASSESSMENT OF FUNDING NEEDS FOR THE NINTH REPLENISHMENT PERIOD

17. The negotiation of the ninth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund will be concluded before the end of its fiscal year ending June 2026. The ninth replenishment (July 2026 – June 2030) will be critical for the achievement of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Guidance to the Global Environment Facility will need to build upon the early experience of implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework during the initial years of the eighth replenishment period. Considering these factors, the Conference of the Parties will need to take a decision at its sixteenth meeting on a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities related to utilization of funding for biodiversity in anticipation of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.

18. Therefore, work to develop proposals for the four-year framework of outcome-oriented programme priorities for the ninth replenishment period will need to be initiated at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties so that it can be conducted in the intersessional period between the fifteenth and the sixteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties and considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting. A proposal has been made in this regard in the suggested elements of draft decision contained in section VIII of the present document.

19. Another important element to inform the guidance by the Conference of the Parties to GEF in relation to the ninth replenishment is an assessment of the funding needs to support the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, further to the Memorandum of Understanding and established practice concerning determination of funding requirements. The funding needs assessment for GEF-9 will need to be initiated by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, so that the assessment can inform the guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting. This matter has been reflected in the suggested elements of draft decision contained in section VIII of the present document.

20. Annex II of the present document provides draft terms of reference for the fourth full assessment of the amount of funds needed for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the ninth replenishment period of the Trust Fund of the Global Environment Facility (2026-2030), based upon those adopted in decision 14/23, paragraph 14.

VI. MAINTAINING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE SYNERGIES AMONG BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

21. In order to enhance programmatic synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, the Conference of the Parties has established a practice of inviting elements of advice from such conventions for it to consider in formulating its guidance to the Global Environment Facility, further to decision XI/5 (para. 20) and as further elaborated in the subsequent decisions XII/30 (para. 2) and XIII/21 (paras 9 and 10). Such inputs have been provided to inform the guidance from the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting to the GEF considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting. In the current period, inputs were received from the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Convention on Wetlands), the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention) and the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

22. Given an expectation that such inputs would also be sought to inform the guidance from the Conference of the Parties pertinent to the ninth replenishment of GEF, the Conference of the Parties, at its fifteenth meeting, may wish to extend an invitation to the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions. A proposal has been made in this regard in the suggested elements of draft decision contained in section VIII of the present document.

23. In line with the objectives of the aforementioned decisions on enhancing programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and in view of the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat of the Convention also consulted actively with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions in formulating its inter-secretariat consultations with GEF and the iterative comments it provided during the elaboration of the GEF-8 programming directions and GEF-8 policy guidance for the eighth replenishment of resources for the GEF Trust Fund.

VII. SUGGESTED ELEMENTS OF A DRAFT DECISION

24. In accordance with the request by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at its third meeting, to the Executive Secretary and its recommendation to the Conference of the Parties, contained in recommendation 3/7 (paras 7 and 8, respectively) and in light of the aforementioned considerations related to the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Conference of the Parties may wish to include in its decision concerning the financial mechanism and guidance to the Global Environment Facility, elements additional to those contained in recommendation 3/7, along the following lines.

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Welcomes* the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and notes that its associated programming directions and strategy, including for the biodiversity focal area, have taken into account the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

2. *Urges* relevant Parties to make prompt and full use of the programming directions and resource allocation for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Global Environment Facility and related agencies, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of the relevant integrated programmes and the country engagement strategy for the eighth replenishment period, promoting the involvement of biodiversity-related conventions at national level, and to promote synergies and complementarities with other relevant financial instruments, such as the Green Climate Fund and the

Kunming Biodiversity Fund, towards the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

4. *Adopts* the consolidated previous guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in annex I to the present decision, and decides to retire the previous decisions and elements of decisions, as related to the financial mechanism and limited only to those provisions related to the financial mechanism;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to transmit the guidance to the Global Environment Facility, and invites the Global Environment Facility to take into account this guidance in its report to the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Decides* to adopt, at its sixteenth meeting, a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to inform the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030);

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare elements of a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in anticipation of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030), for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting;

8. *Requests* 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 aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in anticipation of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030), for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

9. *Adopts* the terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, as contained in annex II to the present decision;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure completion of the assessment according to the terms of reference, in time for consideration by the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

11. *Invites* 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 funding needs assessments;

12. *Invites* the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision XII/30 and paragraph 10 of decision XIII/21, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixteenth meeting;

Annex I

**CONSOLIDATED PREVIOUS GUIDANCE ON THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM (2022,
THIRD EDITION)**

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

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

A. Policy and strategy

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

B. Programme priorities

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

Article 1. Objectives

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

Ecosystem Restoration

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

¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 52

² Decisions XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 53, and 14/23, paragraph 2

³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 1

⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 2

⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 3

⁶ Decisions XIII/21, paragraph 24, and XIII/5, paragraph 4

Ecosystem resilience and climate change

7. Ecosystem resilience and climate change:⁷

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

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

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

Marine and coastal ecosystems

8. Marine and coastal ecosystems:⁸

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

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

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

(d) Support for capacity-building in order to further accelerate existing efforts towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas.

Forest biological diversity

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

Inland water ecosystems

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

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

⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 5.

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

programmes for monitoring the implementation of the programme of work and the trends in inland water biological diversity and for information gathering and dissemination among riparian communities.¹⁰

Arid and semi-arid areas

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

Mountainous areas

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

Agricultural biodiversity

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

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

Article 5. Cooperation

15. Consideration of establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 based on voluntary contributions.¹⁵

Article 6. General measures for conservation and sustainable use

National biodiversity strategies and action plans

16. Review, revision, updating, and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.¹⁶

17. Development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with the strategy and targets for resource mobilization agreed to in decision XII/3.¹⁷

Mainstreaming and integration

18. Further development of approaches on the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development processes.¹⁸

19. Country-driven projects that address cross-sectoral mainstreaming.¹⁹

Article 7. Identification and monitoring

20. Development and implementation of national biodiversity targets, indicator framework, and monitoring programmes.²⁰

¹⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 7

¹¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 8

¹² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 9

¹³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 10

¹⁴ Decision 14/6, paragraph 7

¹⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 11

¹⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 12

¹⁷ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 25, and XIII/1, paragraph 20

¹⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 13

¹⁹ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 28, and XIII/3, paragraph 112

²⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 14

Article 8. In situ conservation

Area-based conservation

21. Community conserved areas, national and regional systems of protected areas, further development of the portfolio on protected areas towards comprehensive, representative and effectively managed protected area systems addressing system wide needs, country driven early action activities of the programme of work on protected areas to enable its full implementation, projects that demonstrate the role-protected areas play in addressing climate change, and address the long-term financial sustainability of protected areas, including through different mechanisms and instruments.²¹

Diversity of species and genetic resources

22. Projects that promote the conservation and/or sustainable use of endemic species;²²

23. Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020;²³

24. National and regional taxonomic capacity-building activities for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, and project components that address taxonomic needs in the achievement of the Convention's objectives;²⁴

Invasive alien species

25. Projects that assist with the development and implementation, at national and regional levels, of the invasive alien species strategies and action plans, in particular those strategies and actions related to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems, capacity-building to prevent or minimize the risks of the dispersal and establishment of invasive alien species, improved prevention, rapid response and management measures to address threats of alien invasive species.²⁵

Article 8(j) and related provisions

26. Inclusion of perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly women, in the financing of biodiversity and ecosystem services;²⁶

27. Implementation of programmes and projects that strengthen the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, advance community conservation, promote customary sustainable use of biological diversity;²⁷

28. Raising awareness and building capacity relevant to the implementation of the Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, and developing, as appropriate, community protocols or processes for "prior and informed consent" or "free, prior and informed consent", depending on national circumstances, or "approval and involvement", and fair and equitable benefit-sharing.²⁸

29. Raising awareness and to building capacity relevant to the implementation of the guidelines (Mo'otz Kuxtal voluntary guidelines for the development of mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate initiatives to ensure the "prior and informed consent", "free, prior and informed consent" or "approval and

²¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 15; XIII/21, paragraph 26, and XIII/2, paragraph 11

²² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16

²³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16

²⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16

²⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 16; 14/11, para. 14

²⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 17

²⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 17

²⁸ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 29

involvement”, depending on national circumstances, of indigenous peoples and local communities for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices, for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge), and developing, as appropriate, community protocols or processes for “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances, for fair and equitable benefit-sharing.²⁹

Article 9. Ex situ conservation

Article 10. Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

30. Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines at the national level to ensure that the use of biological diversity is sustainable.³⁰

31. Sustainable tourism that contributes to the objectives of the Convention.³¹

Article 11. Incentive measures

32. Development and implementation of innovative measures, including in the field of economic incentives and those which assist developing countries to address situations where opportunity costs are incurred by local communities and to identify ways and means by which these can be compensated.³²

Article 12. Research and training

33. Project components addressing targeted research which contributes to conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components including research for reversing current trends of biodiversity loss and species extinction.³³

Article 13. Public education and awareness

34. Development and implementation of communication, education and public awareness priority activities at the national and regional levels.³⁴

Article 14. Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

Article 15. Access to genetic resources (Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing)

National measures

35. Projects that support the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, including the establishment of legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and related institutional arrangements;³⁵

²⁹ Decision XIII/18, paragraph 10

³⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 18

³¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 19

³² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 20

³³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 21

³⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 22

³⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23, and 14/23, paragraph 11

Capacity-building

36. Building the capacity to develop, implement and enforce domestic legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components³⁶, including through:

(a) Identification of relevant actors and existing legal and institutional expertise for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable of Benefits Arising from their Utilization;

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

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

(d) Establishment of ways to address transboundary issues;

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

37. Supporting the implementation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development in support of the implementation of the Protocol.³⁷

Capacity on mutually agreed terms

38. Building the capacity to negotiate mutually agreed terms to promote equity and fairness in negotiations in the development and implementation of access and benefit-sharing agreements, including through enhanced understanding of business models and intellectual property rights;³⁸

Endogenous research capabilities

39. Building the capacity of Parties to develop their endogenous research capabilities to add value to their own genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources through, inter alia, technology transfer; bioprospecting and associated research and taxonomic studies; and the development and use of valuation methods;³⁹

Indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders

40. Addressing the capacity needs and priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders; in particular projects that would:⁴⁰

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

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

³⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

³⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

³⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

³⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

⁴⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

Clearing-House

41. Enabling Parties to actively participate in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and use the best available communication tools and Internet-based systems for access and benefit-sharing;⁴¹

Awareness raising

42. Raising-awareness of the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and related access and benefit sharing issues, notably through the development and implementation of national and regional awareness-raising strategies;⁴²

National reporting

43. Making financial resources available to assist Parties in preparing their national report;⁴³

Regional cooperation

44. Issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, including regional cooperation projects, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned and harnessing associated synergies;⁴⁴

Article 16. Access to and transfer of technology

45. Preparation of national assessments of technology needs for implementation of the Convention, and promotion of access to, transfer of and cooperation for joint development of technology;⁴⁵

Article 17. Exchange of information

Article 18. Technical and scientific cooperation

46. Strengthening biodiversity information systems such as, inter alia, training, technology and processes related to the collection, organization, maintenance and updating of data and information, and building capacity for the clearing-house mechanism, such as training in information and communication technologies and web content management that enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to fully benefit from modern communication, including the Internet.⁴⁶

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

National measures

47. Ratification and implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress;⁴⁷

48. Development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks, in particular biosafety legislation⁴⁸, including those Parties that have not yet done so in fully putting in place measures to implement the Protocol;⁴⁹

⁴¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23, and 14/23, paragraph 7(b)

⁴² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23

⁴³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 23, and XIII/21, paragraph 38, 14/23, paragraph 10

⁴⁴ Decision 14/23, paragraph 7(a)

⁴⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 24

⁴⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 25

⁴⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

⁴⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

⁴⁹ Decision 14/23, paragraph 8(a); XIII/21, paragraphs 33 and 36

Detection and identification

49. Identification of living modified organisms or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health;⁵⁰

50. Regional projects to support the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, including projects aimed at building scientific capacity that could support countries' actions towards detection and identification of living modified organisms, and in particular that could promote North-South and South-South sharing of experiences and lessons;⁵¹

Risk assessment and risk management

51. Building, consolidating and enhancing sustainable human resource capacity in risk assessment and risk management⁵² in the context of country-driven projects;⁵³

Socioeconomic considerations

52. Capacity-building on socioeconomic considerations;⁵⁴

Unintentional release

53. Capacity-building to take appropriate measures in cases of unintentional release of living modified organisms;⁵⁵

Public awareness

54. Enhancing capacity for public awareness, education and participation regarding the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, including for indigenous peoples and local communities;⁵⁶

55. Effective implementation of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, in the context of relevant project activities and within its mandate;⁵⁷

Clearing-house

56. Public participation and information sharing, and use of the Biosafety Clearing-House;⁵⁸

Capacity-building

57. Further implementation of the Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building;⁵⁹

Reporting

58. National reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.⁶⁰

⁵⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

⁵¹ Decision 14/23, para. 9

⁵² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26, and XIII/21, paragraph 35

⁵³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

⁵⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

⁵⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

⁵⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26

⁵⁷ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 34

⁵⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26; XIII/21, paragraphs 30 and 31; 14/23, paragraph 7(b)

⁵⁹ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 32

⁶⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 26; 14/23, para. 8(b)

Compliance

59. Implementing compliance action plans regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol.⁶¹

Regional cooperation

60. Projects and capacity-building activities on issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including regional cooperation projects, such as those using regional and subregional networks to build capacity for the detection of living modified organisms, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, and harnessing associated synergies.⁶²

Article 20. Financial resources

61. Development and implementation of country-specific resource mobilization strategies.⁶³

Article 21. Financial mechanism

Access modalities

62. To consider improving its access modalities, including enabling the participation of a number of additional national agencies from developing countries, based on its own experiences, including the conclusions of this assessment, and taking into account the experience of other international financial instruments with relevant access modalities;⁶⁴

Gender

63. To include gender in the financing of biodiversity and ecosystem services;⁶⁵

Project procedures

64. To further streamline its project cycle with a view to making project preparation simpler, more transparent and more country-driven;⁶⁶

65. To further simplify and expedite procedures for approval and implementation, including disbursement, for GEF-funded projects, based on a flexible and national demand driven approach, and avoid additional and lengthy processes;⁶⁷

66. To develop policies and procedures that fully comply with the guidance from the Conference of the Parties in a straightforward and timely manner;⁶⁸

67. To increase its flexibility to respond to the thematic longer-term programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in accordance with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;⁶⁹

⁶¹ Decision 14/23, paragraph 8(c)

⁶² Decision XIII/21, paragraph 36(b); 14/23, para. 7(a)

⁶³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 27

⁶⁴ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 4

⁶⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁶⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁶⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁶⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁶⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

68. To improve project information system, including through data sets and web-based data tools, to increase the accessibility of project information and allow for better tracking against the guidance from the Conference of the Parties;⁷⁰

69. To consider the benefits to Parties, particularly small island developing States, of an appropriate balance between national and regional projects in the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties;⁷¹

Catalytic role and co-financing

70. To mobilize co-financing and other modes of financing for its projects related to implementation of the Convention, and apply co-financing arrangements in ways that do not create unnecessary barriers and costs for recipient Parties to access GEF funds;⁷²

71. To support diffusion, and facilitate replication and scaling-up, of new and innovative financing mechanism initiatives that have proved to be successful;⁷³

72. To consider joint financing, in partnership with other international financial instruments, of projects designed to achieve the objectives of more than one Rio convention⁷⁴;

73. To enhance its catalytic role in mobilizing new and additional financial resources while not compromising project goals;⁷⁵

Incremental costs

74. To apply in a more flexible, pragmatic and transparent manner the incremental cost principle;⁷⁶

Sustainability

75. To promote exchange of experience and lessons learned in addressing sustainability of funded projects on biological diversity;⁷⁷

76. To further improve the sustainability of funded projects and programmes, including sustainable financing of protected areas;⁷⁸

Country ownership

77. To promote genuine country ownership through greater involvement of participant countries in GEF-funded activities;⁷⁹

78. To promote utilization of regional and local expertise and be flexible to accommodate national priorities and regional needs within the objectives of the Convention;⁸⁰

⁷⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁷¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁷² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28; XIII/21, paragraph 21

⁷³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁷⁴ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 17

⁷⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁷⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁷⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁷⁸ Decision 14/23, para. 12(c)

⁷⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28; XIII/21, paragraph 6

⁸⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

79. To encourage collaboration at national level between national focal points for the Convention, for related environmental agreements and for the Global Environment Facility, including through the projects supported by the Facility, and including through regional and national workshops for the focal points;⁸¹

Compliance and collaboration of agencies

80. To promote efforts to ensure that the implementing agencies fully comply with the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria of the Conference of the Parties in their support for country-driven activities funded by the Global Environment Facility;⁸²

81. To undertake efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the process of cooperation and coordination between the implementing agencies with a view to improving the processing and delivery systems of the Global Environment Facility, and to avoid duplication and parallel processes;⁸³

Partnership

82. To continue to improve the efficiency and accountability of the Global Environment Facility partnership;⁸⁴

Monitoring and evaluation

83. To Consult with the Executive Secretary in relevant review processes undertaken by the Global Environment Facility that affect the financial mechanism of the Convention;⁸⁵

84. To include in its monitoring and evaluation activities the assessment of the compliance with the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria established by the Conference of the Parties;⁸⁶

85. To elaborate and transmit to the Conference of the Parties, well-summarized evaluation products and full evaluation reports relevant to biological diversity and to the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;⁸⁷

86. To include in its regular report findings, conclusions and recommendations of all relevant evaluations of the GEF Evaluation Office;⁸⁸

Efficiency

87. To continue support for national implementation activities under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in an efficient manner, with a view to enabling Parties to enhance progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020;⁸⁹

Small grants programme

88. To continue expansion of the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility to other developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States;⁹⁰

⁸¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁸² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁸³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁸⁴ Decision 14/23, paragraph 12(d)

⁸⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁸⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁸⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁸⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

⁸⁹ Decision 14/23, paragraph 6

⁹⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 28

Currency risks

89. To consider exploring measures to mitigate possible risks, including currency risks, in order to avoid potential negative impacts on future replenishment periods for the provision of financial resources for all Global Environment Facility recipient countries, taking fully into account the provisions of paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 20 of the Convention;⁹¹

Integrated approach

90. To continue to improve the design, management, and performance of the sixth-replenishment Integrated Approach Pilots, the seventh-replenishment impact programmes, other programmatic approaches, and multi-focal area projects in addressing drivers of environmental degradation;⁹²

91. To continue and further strengthen integrated programming as a means to harness opportunities for synergy in implementing related multilateral environmental agreements as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15;⁹³

Conflict resolution

92. To promote awareness to the existing processes under the Conflict Resolution Commissioner to address complaints related to the operations of the financial mechanism;⁹⁴

Article 22. Relationship with other international conventions

93. Projects and activities to improve synergies among relevant multilateral environment agreements;⁹⁵

Article 26. Reports

94. Preparation of the future national reports,⁹⁶ in a timely and expeditious manner;⁹⁷

C. Eligibility criteria

Convention on Biological Diversity⁹⁸

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

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

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety⁹⁹

97. All developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including countries among these that are centres of origin and

⁹¹ Decision XIII/21, paragraphs 18, 19 and 20

⁹² Decision 14/23, para. 12(a)

⁹³ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 3; 14/30, paragraph 14; XIII/24, paragraph 7

⁹⁴ Decision 14/23, para. 12(b)

⁹⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 29

⁹⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 30

⁹⁷ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 27; XIII/27, paragraph 4; 14/27, paragraph 3(a)

⁹⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 31-32

⁹⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraphs 33-34

centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, are eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility.

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

Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing¹⁰⁰

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

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

D. Reporting from the GEF Council to the Conference of the Parties

Timing

101. The report from the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties should be made available three months prior to an ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties as well as with updates as appropriate, and in accordance with rules 28 and 54 of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary should make it available in all six official languages of the United Nations.¹⁰¹

Preliminary draft

102. The Global Environment Facility should make available a preliminary draft of its report to the Conference of the Parties, particularly focusing on the response of the Global Environment Facility to previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties, to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation prior to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the report will be formally considered, with a view to promoting effective and timely consideration of the information provided in the report.¹⁰²

Comprehensiveness and conciseness

103. The Global Environment Facility should explore ways to balance the comprehensiveness and conciseness of the report of the Global Environment Facility, acknowledging the need to demonstrate progress in programming resources towards achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.¹⁰³

¹⁰⁰ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraphs 35-36

¹⁰¹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 37

¹⁰² Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 40

¹⁰³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 41

Results-based reporting

104. The Global Environment Facility should improve results-based reporting on the total contribution of the Global Environment Facility to achieving the objectives of the Convention, including the Facility's contribution to incremental-cost financing and leveraging co-financing.¹⁰⁴

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

105. The Global Environment Facility should report on its implementation of the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities and how it responds to the individual elements.¹⁰⁵

106. The Global Environment Facility should include information regarding the individual elements of the consolidated guidance, in particular the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities, in its future reports to the Conference of the Parties¹⁰⁶;

Reporting on needs assessment results

107. The Global Environment Facility should indicate in its report to the Conference of the Parties, how it plans to respond to the report on the determination of funding requirements, pursuant to paragraph 5.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding.¹⁰⁷

108. The Global Environment Facility will in its regular report to the Conference of Parties indicate how it has responded during the replenishment cycle to the previous assessment by the Conference of the Parties.¹⁰⁸

Transparency

109. The Global Environment Facility, in response to the concerns of the Parties on transparency of the process of approving Global Environment Facility projects, should include in its report to the Conference of the Parties, information regarding paragraph 3.3(d) of the Memorandum of Understanding¹⁰⁹;

Safeguards

110. The Global Environment Facility should inform the Conference of the Parties about how it is taking into account the Convention's voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms;¹¹⁰

Co-financing

111. The Global Environment Facility should include the information regarding progress in implementing the new co-financing policy in its report to the Conference of the Parties;¹¹¹

Agencies

112. The Global Environment Facility should include the information regarding performance of the Global Environment Facility's network of agencies in its report to the Conference of the Parties¹¹²

¹⁰⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 38

¹⁰⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 39

¹⁰⁶ Decision XIII/21, paragraph 5

¹⁰⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 42

¹⁰⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 47; XIII/21, paragraph 15

¹⁰⁹ Decision XIII/21, paragraphs 22 and 23

¹¹⁰ Decision 14/23, paragraph 3; 14/15, paragraph 6

¹¹¹ Decision 14/23, para. 12(e)(i)

¹¹² Decision 14/23, paragraph 12(e)(ii)

E. Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

113. The review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism will be conducted every four years and this review should coincide with the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.¹¹³

F. Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund

114. The updated list of developed country Parties and other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties in accordance with Article 20, paragraph 2 of the Convention, is contained in the annex to decision VIII/18.¹¹⁴

115. The developed country Parties and others are invited to increase their financial contributions through the financial mechanism during the replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.¹¹⁵

116. The Global Environment Facility is urged, in the process of replenishment, to give due consideration to all aspects of the needs assessment report on the levels of funding for biodiversity.¹¹⁶

G. Inter-Secretariat cooperation

117. Participation of a representative of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention and of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility is requested in respective meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel on a reciprocal basis.¹¹⁷

118. The Executive Secretary should promote, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, exchange of experience and good practice in financing for biological diversity.¹¹⁸

119. The Executive Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility should continue to strengthen inter-secretariat cooperation and collaborate with the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility and the Global Environment Facility agencies.¹¹⁹

120. The Executive Secretary is encouraged to work closely with the Global Environment Facility in the transition to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;¹²⁰

121. The Executive Secretary is encouraged to work closely with agencies associated with the Global Environment Facility in the transition to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking into account the need to promote greater synergies between the Global Environment Facility and other financing mechanisms.¹²¹

¹¹³ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 43

¹¹⁴ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 44

¹¹⁵ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 45

¹¹⁶ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 46, 48; XIII/21, paragraph 16; 14/23, paragraph 1

¹¹⁷ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 49

¹¹⁸ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 50

¹¹⁹ Decision XIII/21, annex II, paragraph 51

¹²⁰ Decision 14/23, paragraph 18

¹²¹ Decision 14/23, paragraph 19

Annex II

**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**

Objective

1. The objective of the work to be carried out under the present terms of reference is to enable the Conference of the Parties to make an assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention and its Protocols over the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and determine the amount of resources needed, in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 1 and decision III/8.

Scope

2. The assessment of funding needs for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols should be comprehensive and primarily directed towards assessing total funding needs required to meet the agreed full incremental costs of measures that developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition that are eligible for GEF support may implement, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in order to fulfil their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols for the period July 2026 to June 2030.

Methodology

3. The funding needs assessment should take into account:

- (a) Article 20, paragraph 2, and Article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention, as well as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- (b) Guidance to the financial mechanism from the Conference of the Parties which calls for future financial resources;
- (c) All obligations under the Convention and its Protocols and relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties;
- (d) The information communicated to the Conference of the Parties in the national reports and, information provided by the Parties through the financial reporting framework;
- (e) Rules and guidelines agreed by the Council of the Global Environment Facility for determining eligibility for funding of projects;
- (f) National strategies, plans or programmes developed in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention;
- (g) Experience to date, including limitations and successes of projects funded by the Global Environment Facility, as well as the performance of the Facility and its implementing and executing agencies;
- (h) Synergies with other GEF-funded Conventions;
- (i) Synergies with other biodiversity-related conventions;
- (j) The strategy for resource mobilization and its targets;
- (k) The report of the Panel of Experts on Resource Mobilization concerning estimation of resources needed for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- (l) National biodiversity strategies and action plans, where available;

(m) Progress made on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation).

Procedures for implementation

4. Under the authority and with the support of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary shall contract a team of three or five—experts, subject to the availability of resources, with equal representation from developing country Parties and developed country Parties, and one from international non-governmental organizations, to prepare a report on the full assessment of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention for the period July 2026 to June 2030, in accordance with the above objective and methodology.

5. In preparing the assessment report, the expert team should undertake such interviews, surveys, quantitative and qualitative analyses, and consultation, as may be required, including:

(a) Compilation and analysis of the needs identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including country-specific resource mobilization strategies, prepared by GEF-eligible Parties pursuant to Article 6 of the Convention;

(b) Review of reports submitted by Parties pursuant to Article 26 of the Convention to identify funding needs in fulfilment of their obligations under the Convention;

(c) Estimated financial implications of guidance to the financial mechanism from the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Experience to date in the provision of funds by the financial mechanism for each replenishment period;

(e) Compilation and analysis of any supplementary information provided by GEF-eligible Parties on their funding needs for the implementation of their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols.

6. The Global Environment Facility and the Executive Secretary shall conduct a review of the draft assessment reports of the expert team to ensure accuracy and consistency of data and approach as specified in these terms of reference.

7. The Executive Secretary shall ensure that the assessment report of the expert team will be distributed to all Parties one month before the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

8. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting should consider the expert team's assessment report and make recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

9. The Conference of the Parties, at its sixteenth meeting, will take a decision on the assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the ninth replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund, and communicate the results to GEF accordingly.

Consultation process

10. In preparing the assessment report, the expert team should consult widely with all relevant persons and institutions and other relevant sources of information deemed useful.

11. The expert team should design a questionnaire on funding needs for the period July 2026 to June 2030, in consultation with the Secretariat and GEF, and circulate it to all developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, and include the results in the assessment report.

12. Interviews and consultation meetings should be organized with participation of relevant key stakeholders, including major groups of Parties, the Convention Secretariat, as well as the secretariat, the Independent Evaluation Office and the agencies of GEF.

13. As far as possible, the expert team should endeavour to undertake regional and subregional consultations, taking advantage of regional and subregional workshops organized by the secretariats of the Convention and the Global Environment Facility during the study period.

14. The approaches to assessing the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols should be transparent, reliable and replicable, and demonstrate clear incremental cost reasoning in accordance with Article 20, paragraph 2, taking into consideration information gathered from other international funds serving conventions and information submitted by Parties in the application of the concept of incremental costs as well as current rules and guidelines of the Global Environment Facility as approved by the Council of the Global Environment Facility.

15. On the basis of experience with the preparation of the current needs assessment report, the expert team will make recommendations to the Executive Secretary for the elements and modalities of an online system to facilitate submissions by relevant Parties for future needs assessments.

16. The expert team should address additional issues that may be raised by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation during its consideration of the assessment report at its fourth meeting.
