



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Resource mobilization and financial
mechanism: financial mechanism**

Executive summary of the preliminary draft of the report of the Global Environment Facility for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Note by the Secretariat

1. In subparagraph 8 (e) of decision [XII/30](#), the Conference of the Parties invited the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to make available to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation a preliminary draft of its report to the Conference of the Parties before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the report is to be considered, specifying that the report should have a particular focus on the GEF response to previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties.

2. The preliminary draft of the GEF report for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be made available as information document CBD/SBI/7/INF/13, and will include the following annexes:

- (a) Annex 1: report on activities related to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- (b) Annex 2: report on activities related to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization;
- (c) Annex 3: list of biodiversity and multifocal area projects for the eighth replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund approved in the reporting period from 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2026;
- (d) Annex 4: list of projects submitted for funding under the GEF Trust Fund biodiversity focal area that were not approved in the reporting period from 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2026;
- (e) Annex 5: status of resources approved by GEF in the seventh replenishment period of its Trust Fund for readiness and early actions to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- (f) Annex 6: status of resources approved by GEF in the eighth replenishment period of its Trust Fund for the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the seventh national reports;

* [CBD/SBI/7/1](#).

(g) Annex 7: status of resources approved by GEF for the preparation of national biodiversity finance plans;

(h) Annex 8: status of resources approved by GEF for the preparation of the fifth national reports on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol;

(i) Annex 9: status of resources approved by GEF for the preparation of the first national reports on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

3. The executive summary of the preliminary draft of the report is annexed to the present note in the form and languages¹ in which it was received.

4. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation is invited to take note of the preliminary draft of the report and of the pertinent elements that it contains when considering the proposed recommendation in document CBD/SBI/7/4.

¹ GEF has kindly provided the French and Spanish translations.

Annex

Executive Summary of the preliminary draft of the report of the Global Environment Facility for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

1. This preliminary report to the seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) provides information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in response to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and COP 16 guidance to the GEF received in February 2025. To better inform the review the Global review of collective progress in the implementation of the KMGBF to be carried out by COP 17, it covers the period from July 1, 2022, to March 31, 2026, which corresponds to all but the final three months of the GEF-8 replenishment period, which will end on June 30, 2026.

Programming contributing to the KMGBF across the GEF Family of funds in the reporting period

2. The cumulative direct programming contributions in the reporting period to the KMGBF from all the relevant GEF funds and programming lines in GEF-8 (Focal Areas, Integrated Programs, Non-grant Instrument, and the Small Grants Program, financed by the GEF Trust Fund, as well as the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund for climate change adaptation, and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund) was \$4.20 billion², which leveraged co-financing of \$26.85 billion, including \$2.13 billion from the private sector and \$11.96 billion from recipient country governments. This represents a co-financing ratio of 6.4 dollars being leveraged for each “GEF dollar” during the reporting period and a total investment of \$31.05 billion for the KMGBF.

3. These resources support 560 projects and programs, including 11 Integrated Programs (IPs) that have included 169 biodiversity-relevant child projects. In total, 142 countries have benefitted from GEF-8 approvals supporting the KMGBF. One third (33.4 percent) of the biodiversity-relevant funding programmed across funds and programming lines is benefiting Africa, while Latin America and the Caribbean represent a quarter (24.3 per cent), followed by Asia with 22.9 percent and Europe and Central Asia with 4.5 percent, while 14.9 percent was programmed in global or regional projects. Together, small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs) have benefitted from 39.5 percent of the total GEF support in the reporting period. A complete list of these projects is provided in Annex 3.

4. Section I provides a summary of the anticipated contributions of GEF-8 programming to KMGBF targets, which includes the following quantitative contributions:

- Target 1: A total of 1,411 million hectare (ha) of land and seas directly impacted to benefit biodiversity
- Target 2: 14.1 million ha of land and ecosystems under restoration
- Target 3: 398.6 million ha of conservation areas, including 358.7 million ha of protected areas and 39.9 million ha of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) created or under improved management

² Since July 2022, all proposals submitted to the GEF are requested to provide a rating according to the OECD DAC Biodiversity Rio marker methodology, which tracks the integration of objectives of the CBD into development finance objectives, as a principal objective, a significant objective, or not at all. The GEF Secretariat undertakes quality control and reviews the consistency of the proposed Rio marker rating of each submission before approval. The \$4.2 billion figure reported corresponds to total GEF funding to approved GEF projects that target biodiversity as a principal or significant objective. Funding from the Biodiversity Focal Area and the GBFF, which are sources of funding dedicated to biodiversity, is reported on in sections I.2 and II.

- Target 7: 170,767 metric tons of chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced and 2.0 million metric tons of residual plastic waste avoided
- Target 8 and Target 11: 6,823 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (CO₂e)
- Target 10: 136.5 million ha of landscapes under improved practices, 71 shared water ecosystems under improved management, and 3.5 million metric tons of overexploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels
- Target 19: \$26.85 billion of co-financing, including \$2.13 billion from the private sector, for a total investment of \$31.05 billion in biodiversity-relevant projects following the Rio marker methodology.
- Target 22 and Target 23: 39.9 million people benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity, including 19.8 million women

Biodiversity Focal Area

5. For the GEF-8 period, a total of \$1.92 billion was allocated to the Biodiversity Focal Area of the GEF Trust Fund, out of which \$1.45 billion is provided to countries through the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) for biodiversity, including \$641 million notionally allocated to support Integrated Programs. Of this amount, \$1.59 billion (or 83 percent) of resource usage has been achieved in the Biodiversity Focal Area during the reporting period.

6. Four global programs to support planning and reporting under the Convention and its Protocols were approved during the reporting period through the GEF Enabling Activity modality for a total GEF project financing of \$118 million.

7. The “Umbrella Programme to support the revision and updating of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the production of the seventh National Reports” (GEF Project Financing: \$72,035,000), approved in June 2023, supports 139 countries, out of which 55 have submitted their NBSAP and 92 have submitted their seventh national report as of March 31, 2026. Implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), this programme builds on the GEF-7 Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support project (GEF Project Financing: \$39,308,274) that kick-started work to align national frameworks with the KMGBF in 138 countries. In addition, the “Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans” (GEF Project Financing: \$38,190,000) approved in December 2022 supports 91 countries to develop their first national biodiversity finance plans. Detailed information on the progress of this support is provided in Annexes 5, 6 and 7.

8. Implemented by UNEP, “Support to Preparation of the Fifth National Reports on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety” (GEF project financing: \$4,059,825), approved in April 2025, and “Support to Preparation of the First National Report on Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization” (GEF project financing: \$3,701,250), approved in April 2025, support 105 and 96 eligible Parties to fulfil their national reporting obligations under the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, respectively. As of March 31, 2026, 84 and 71 of the Parties participating in these enabling activities have submitted their national reports under the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, respectively. Detailed information on the progress of this support is provided in Annexes 8 and 9.

9. The second tranche of the GEF’s dedicated funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the GEF-8 Heart of Conservation Initiative (HCI; GEF Project Financing: \$22,535,780), was approved by the Council in December 2024. HCI issued an open call for subproject partner organizations, and ten of the eight hundred applications received were selected by Indigenous leaders. The first tranche, the GEF-7 Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI; GEF Project

Financing: \$22,535,780), continued implementation during the reporting period, providing direct support to ten subprojects led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities across twelve countries. In addition, many projects supporting Indigenous Peoples and local communities have been approved across all focal areas of the GEF portfolio, as illustrated in section I.4.

10. Activities related to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity are detailed in Section I.2 and Annexes 1 and 2, respectively. Across funds, five countries are supported in implementing biosafety measures in line with Target 17 with a total GEF project financing of \$13.1 million leveraging \$46.8 million in co-finance. 14 countries are supported in implementing access and benefit sharing in line with Target 13, including support to ratification of the Nagoya Protocol, with a total GEF project financing of \$45.4 million leveraging \$231.1 million in co-finance.

Contributions of other Focal Areas and programming lines of the GEF Trust Fund

11. The contributions of other focal areas and programming lines of the GEF Trust Fund to the KMGBF is described in section I.3.

12. In line with the integration agenda of the GEF and CBD COP guidance on synergies across conventions, \$1.59 billion, or 61 percent, of the GEF resources programmed through the Land Degradation, Climate Change, International Waters and Chemicals and Waste Focal Areas of the GEF Trust Fund contributed to the implementation of KMGBF.

13. The GEF-8 Programming Directions increased the commitment to innovative blended finance solutions. Eight blended finance projects that make direct contributions to the KMGBF were approved during the reporting period, including three innovative biodiversity outcome bonds in Indonesia, Rwanda and Madagascar, a debt-for-nature conversion facility in Latin America and the Caribbean and three projects targeting the food and agriculture sectors. They were supported with \$122.8 million of GEF financing, which is leveraging \$2.03 billion in co-financing. Each GEF dollar invested in a biodiversity-related blended finance project leverages 16.6 additional dollars.

14. An ambitious reform of the Small Grants Program, known as SGP 2.0, was rolled out during the reporting period to better support the whole-of-society approach of the KMGBF. Four SGP global core projects covering 135 countries were approved for a total GEF funding of \$241.5 million and \$115.7 million of cofinancing between June 2023 and December 2024. The reform led to additional country choice of implementing agency, expanded country coverage, increased resources and improved equitable access, with a higher share of financing delivered to civil society, and the piloting of new approaches, including a CSO Challenge Program and a Microfinance initiative. From July 31, 2022, to June 30, 2025, 5,952 SGP projects were under implementation with a grant value of \$226 million and a total co-financing value of \$223.8 million with biodiversity as the primary focal area, accounting for an average of 43 percent of the portfolio. The 992 SGP biodiversity projects completed during this period improved the management of up to 154 protected areas and up to 260 Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs), covering a total of up to 10.5 million ha. SGP also helped to maintain or improve the conservation status of at least 873 species.

Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

15. In response to CBD COP 15 requests to establish a dedicated and accessible Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) that can quickly mobilize and disburse new and additional resources from all sources, the GEF established and operationalized the GBFF in record time with a streamlined project cycle and expanded governance arrangements, including ten additional Council observer seats, an auxiliary body composed of experts from developing countries with areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, and an advisory group of non-sovereign participants. Section II details the operationalization of the GBFF, as well as its expanded governance, resource mobilization and programming.

16. From its launch in August 2023 to March 31, 2026, the GBFF received \$387.2 million in signed commitments from eleven sovereign and one sub-national government. These resources have been used to support 82 projects in a competitive manner through five selection rounds, which programmed a total of \$362.1 million across 87 countries, including 47 SIDS and LDCs. Demonstrating speed of delivery, as of March 31, 2026, 26 fully prepared GBFF projects representing a total GBFF financing of \$136.7 million had been endorsed by the CEO, i.e. were given green light for implementation.

17. All three GBFF portfolio-level targets set by the GBFF Council have been met with 38.8 percent of GBFF funding programmed to benefit SIDS and LDCs compared to a 36 percent + 3 percent target, 30.4 percent of GBFF resources programmed through International Financial Institutions compared to a 25 percent target, and 31.8 percent of programmed GBFF financing allocated to support actions by IPLCs for biodiversity compared to a 20 percent target.

Response to COP guidance, including the GEF-9 package

18. Section IV of the report provides a detailed summary of GEF's response to COP 16 guidance.

19. The GEF responded to the CBD COP GEF-9 funding needs assessment through the ninth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund. On April 9, 2026, replenishment participants have pledged an initial \$3.85 billion to the GEF Trust Fund for the period from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2030. The participants also decided to allocate 35 percent of the total GEF-9 resources to the Biodiversity Focal Area, which will remain the largest Focal Area. Replenishment participants further decided that 70 percent of GEF-9 programming should contribute to CBD objectives according to the Rio marker methodology.

20. Among other key responses to guidance, the GEF-9 programming directions have been designed to deliver on all elements of the Four-year outcome-oriented framework for biodiversity programme priorities of the CBD and its Protocols adopted by COP 16. The GEF-9 Policy Recommendations set forth a package of 21 reforms articulated along five policy objectives spanning "Accelerated and streamlined delivery", "Augmented access and empowered countries", "Appropriate architecture and representation", "Affordable and scaled finance", and "Agile and effective implementation". These measures expand on the policy reforms, already adopted during GEF-8 and the innovations pilot-tested by the GBFF, to comprehensively respond to CBD COP guidance.

Portfolio under implementation and results of past and ongoing reforms

21. As of March 31, 2026, the portfolio of biodiversity-financed projects across GEF funds and programming lines under implementation was valued at \$4.8 billion. It includes 664 projects, of which 229 are financed exclusively by the Biodiversity Focal Area of the GEF Trust Fund for an amount of \$1.1 billion.

22. The cumulative effect of reforms adopted in GEF-8 to streamline and accelerate access to funding is visible in portfolio processing data across all submissions to the GEF Trust Fund. The average processing time from first submission of a project concept (Project Information Form, PIF) to first disbursement fell from approximately 44.2 months in GEF-6 and 41.8 months in GEF-7 to 29.0 months in GEF-8 for Full-Sized Projects, representing a reduction of 15.2 months or a third compared to two cycles ago.

23. 86 percent of the projects in biodiversity portfolio under implementation as of June 2025 were rated in the satisfactory range in achieving implementation progress and 88 percent were rated in the satisfactory range for the likelihood to achieve their Development Objective. This is higher than the GEF average.

24. The portfolio of projects under implementation that reported achieved results on GEF core indicators between July 2022 and June 2025 had strong contributions to the KMGBF targets:

- Target 1: A total of 578.9 million ha of land and seas directly impacted to benefit biodiversity
- Target 2: 25.5 million ha of land and ecosystems under restoration
- Target 3: 340.9 million ha of protected areas created and/or under improved management, including half established as new protected areas directly through GEF support.
- Target 7: 32,134 metric tons of chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced
- Target 8 and Target 11: 881.7 million metric tons of GHG emissions mitigated (CO₂e)
- Target 10: 80.7 million ha of landscapes under improved practices, 21 shared water ecosystems under improved management
- Target 19: \$7.2 billion of co-financing, including \$232.9 million from the private sector, for a total investment of \$10.8 billion in biodiversity-relevant projects following the Rio marker methodology
- Target 22 and Target 23: 6.4 million people benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity, including 3.2 million women

25. The Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF (IEO) conducted eleven evaluations that are of relevance to the Biodiversity Focal Area, including the First and Second Formative Evaluations of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and the Eighth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF. The key messages from these evaluations and the GEF Secretariat management responses endorsed by the GEF Council are summarized in section VI.
