



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Fifth meeting

Montreal, 16-20 June 2014

Item 7.1 of the provisional agenda\*

#### **THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM**

#### *Review of implementation of decision XI/5*

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. In accordance with the provisional agenda, the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention will consider the implementation of decision XI/5 (on the financial mechanism). The present note has been prepared in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, providing pertinent updates on the implementation of the various elements of decision XI/5, for consideration by the Working Group.

2. The present note has three sections. Section I provides the brief updates provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in response to decision XI/5, bearing in mind that a full report from the Global Environment Facility will soon be available for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12). Section II describes additional sources of relevant information and updates by the Executive Secretary, in line with the elements of the Memorandum of Understanding: provision of guidance, reporting from the GEF Council, monitoring and evaluation, determination of funding needs, inter-secretariat collaboration, as well as the two protocols under the Convention. Section III provides possible elements for inclusion in a decision on the financial mechanism that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention may wish to consider at its fifth meeting.

3. The fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention is invited to take note of the updates and develop relevant recommendations for consideration by the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### **I. UPDATE ON GEF ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE GUIDANCE OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP 11)**

4. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility contained in decision III/8, the

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Council will prepare and submit a report for each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Based on past practice, the official report from the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will become available in July/August 2014. However, the Global Environment Facility has provided the following update for the benefit of the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention.

<b>COP 11 guidance (decision XI/5)</b>	<b>GEF action</b>
<i>General guidance</i>	
<i>Adopts</i> the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the period 2014-2018 as contained in the annex to the present decision and <i>requests</i> the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement it and report back to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting on the GEF-6 strategy and its thirteenth meeting on its implementation and how it responds to the individual elements and their components, and the additional strategic considerations of the framework, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility.	GEF will report on support to the implementation of the Strategic Plan during the final two years of GEF-5 and within the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy and include that in its report to COP 12.  This will continue during the implementation of the biodiversity strategy during GEF-6.
<i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to further expedite the provision of financial support, based on a flexible and national demand driven approach, taking into consideration the needs of developing countries in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention.	At the Council meeting in October 2014, the Secretariat will be proposing for consideration a set of project cycle streamlining measures.
<i>Calls upon</i> the Global Environment Facility to avoid additional and lengthy processes and to utilize existing NBSAPs as the basis for GEF 6 determination of needs based priorities.	At the Council meeting in October 2014, the Secretariat will be proposing for consideration a set of project cycle streamlining measures.  All GEF biodiversity projects have to demonstrate linkage with the NBSAP as this is standard project review criteria.
<i>Calls upon</i> the Global Environment Facility to further clarify the concept and application of co-financing for biodiversity projects, and <i>invites</i> the GEF to apply co-financing arrangements in ways that do not create unnecessary barriers and costs for recipient countries to access GEF funds.	The Secretariat, in collaboration with the GEF Agencies, will be proposing for review of the GEF Council at its May 2014 meeting, a revision of the co-financing policy.
<i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility, in the process of replenishment for GEF-6, to give due consideration to all aspects of the expert team's needs assessment report on the levels of funding for biodiversity.	Noted.
<i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary and <i>invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to identify the Aichi Biodiversity Targets benefiting the most from synergies with other GEF focal areas and make this information available for further use.	As part of GEF-6 strategy development, synergies have been explored and exploited through the Integrated Approach Programs and the sustainable forest management (SFM) program. In addition, contributions from other focal area strategies to the achievement of the Aichi Targets are identified and presented in the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy.

<b>COP 11 guidance (decision XI/5)</b>	<b>GEF action</b>
<p><i>Transmits</i> to the Global Environment Facility the report on the assessment of needs for GEF 6, for consideration by the Global Environment Facility, so that the 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.</p>	<p>GEF will report at COP 12 on the results of the replenishment as well as at the WGRI meeting in an information document.</p>
<p><i>Specific additional guidance to the financial mechanism</i></p>	
<p><b>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation</b></p> <p><i>Recalling</i> decision X/17, <i>urges</i> Parties and invites other Governments, the financial mechanism, and funding organizations to provide adequate, timely and sustainable support for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, especially for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition and those countries that are centres of genetic diversity.</p>	<p>The GEF-5 strategy is comprehensive enough that plant conservation can be addressed under the objectives of the strategy, and the GEF-6 strategy follows suit in that regard. GEF will continue to fund activities within GEF projects that advance the implementation of the GSPC when these elements are supportive of the objectives of projects that generate global environmental benefits, consistent with the GEF mandate.</p>
<p><b>Marine and coastal biodiversity</b></p> <p><i>Urges</i> Parties and <i>invites</i> other Governments, the financial mechanism, and funding organizations, as appropriate, to provide adequate, timely, and sustainable support to the implementation of training and capacity-building and other activities related to ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), especially for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, including countries with upwelling systems, and, as appropriate, indigenous and local communities.</p>	<p>The GEF-5 and GEF-6 strategies are comprehensive enough with regards to marine protected area management that this guidance can be supported.</p>
<p><b>Protected areas</b></p> <p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies to facilitate the alignment of the development and implementation of protected area projects with the actions identified in national action plans for the programme of work, for example by clearly articulating the linkages with elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in project documents, with a view to facilitating the systematic monitoring and reporting of the results of those projects as they contribute to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and other related targets by Parties, and to maximize the contribution of such projects to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.</p>	<p>Projects submitted for funding to the GEF support activities in the programme of work and <i>all</i> biodiversity projects and multi-focal area projects that use biodiversity resources are required to clearly identify the contribution each project makes to the Aichi Targets.</p>

<b>COP 11 guidance (decision XI/5)</b>	<b>GEF action</b>
<p><b>Invasive alien species</b></p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its mandate, and <i>invites</i> other donors, to provide adequate and timely financial support to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, as well as countries with economies in transition, including countries that are centres of origin or diversity of genetic resources.</p>	<p>GEF continues to comply with this request.</p>
<p><b>Cooperation with international organizations, other conventions and initiatives</b></p> <p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility and <i>invites</i> other financial mechanisms to continue to support projects and activities to improve synergies among relevant multilateral environment agreements.</p>	<p>The inclusive nature of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy provides ample opportunity for country-driven projects to exploit synergies amongst the relevant multilateral environment agreements and advance shared objectives.</p>
<p><b>Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing</b></p> <p><i>Recommends</i> that the Global Environment Facility make available the necessary funds for activities to support access and benefit-sharing and the early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in order to implement the third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and <i>further recommends</i> that GEF operational focal points carefully consider the urgent need to finance activities related to access and benefit-sharing and the Nagoya Protocol when consulting national stakeholders on the distribution of the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) allocation;</p> <p><i>Further recommends</i> that the Global Environment Facility continue to finance, as a priority, technical support to Parties aimed at the speedy ratification and early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol, and its implementation at national level;</p> <p><i>Requests</i> GEF, in considering financing for Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund projects, to ensure that the Fund will specifically support activities related to early ratification and capacity-building, and be used for access to and utilization of genetic resources only when such activities have been approved by appropriate government authorities and endorsed through the GEF operational focal point;</p> <p><i>Requests</i> the GEF to continue to administer the NPIF until the time the resources committed up to the end of GEF-5 are disbursed, and to report on the status of the fund to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which shall decide on its</p>	<p>GEF will provide a full report for COP 12 on support to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. In brief, during GEF-5, the GEF Trust Fund supported the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol thorough 7 country-based projects and two global projects (50 countries for the early entry into force of the protocol and 25 countries for ratification). The GEF invested \$29 million and leveraged \$64 million in co-financing.</p> <p>The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy responds to the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to GEF on the programme priorities to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.</p> <p>The Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) has supported 11 projects totalling \$12.6 million and leveraging \$29.9 million in co-financing. These include 8 country-based projects, one global project and two regional projects (Pacific, Central Africa) in support of ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. Although all projects will support ratification in some measure, the global project and two regional projects were solely focused on accelerating early ratification. GEF will provide a full report to COP 12.</p>

COP 11 guidance (decision XI/5)	GEF action
future.	
<p><b>Monitoring progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b></p> <p><i>Calls upon</i> Parties, the Global Environment Facility, donors, international organizations, academia, non-governmental organizations and organizations of indigenous and local communities to consider the provision of technical support and financial resources for collaborative programmes related to the work on indicators on traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use contained in decision XI/3.</p>	Noted.
<p><i>Recalls</i> paragraphs 5 and 6 of decision X/10, which, <i>inter alia</i>, request the Global Environment Facility and invite other donors, Governments and multilateral and bilateral agencies to provide adequate and timely financial support for the preparation of the fifth national reports.</p>	In the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy, allowances have been made to provide support to the fifth national report to countries through the focal area set-aside.
<p><b>Engagement of other stakeholders</b></p> <p><i>Reiterates</i> its invitation in paragraph 7 of decision X/23 to the Global Environment Facility to consider establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, based on voluntary contributions, and <i>welcomes</i> ongoing discussions on this matter.</p>	Noted.
<p><b>Biosafety</b></p> <p>In paragraph 28 of decision XI/5, the Conference of the Parties further transmitted the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which was contained in appendix II to the decision.</p>	This guidance was incorporated into the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy.
<p><b>Elements of the GEF-6 strategy</b></p> <p>In guiding the development of the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy, the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities 2014–2018 consists of the following elements:</p> <p>(a) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including its Aichi Biodiversity Targets (decision X/2, annex);</p> <p>(b) The Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011–2020</p>	The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy incorporates these elements.

<b>COP 11 guidance (decision XI/5)</b>	<b>GEF action</b>
<p>(decision BS-V/16);</p> <p>(c) The guidance to the financial mechanism on programme priorities to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing put forward by the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol, contained in appendix I to decision XI/V;</p> <p>(d) Any relevant indicators for national and global use for assessing the progress of implementation of the Strategic Plan;</p> <p>(e) The current set of output, outcome and impact indicators, and associated monitoring processes and tracking tools, currently in use by the Global Environment Facility.</p> <p><b>Additional strategic considerations</b></p> <p>The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy should take into account that the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide a flexible basis for Parties which can be adapted, taking into account different national circumstances and capabilities, including in revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans.</p> <p>The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy should take into account coherence with, and synergies among, country-driven programmes and priorities set out in revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, while focusing on filling the highest priority gaps associated with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets.</p> <p>The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy should promote coherence and synergies among the GEF focal areas of biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, climate change – mitigation and adaptation, and within the context of country-driven programmes and priorities.</p> <p>The GEF should continue to engage key stakeholders, including the Secretariat of the Convention, in the process of formulating the GEF-6 strategy for the biodiversity focal area.</p>	<p>These additional strategic considerations were applied in the development of the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy.</p> <p>The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy explicitly promotes synergies amongst the GEF focal areas and in the Integrated Approach pilot programs in GEF-6.</p> <p>CBD Secretariat, along with technical experts and civil society organization (CSO) representatives, were part of the Technical Advisory Group that advised GEFSEC on GEF-6 strategy.</p>

5. The Global Environment Facility also provided further updates on the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF). The creation of the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) was

approved by the GEF Council on 18 February 2011.<sup>1</sup> Following this decision, the GEF Council approved the operational arrangements of this new multi-donor trust fund at its May 2011 meeting.<sup>2</sup> The NPIF was established to promote the early entry into force and effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. To date, the NPIF has received contributions totaling \$16 million generously made available by the governments of Japan, France, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The NPIF started its operation in the summer of 2011, with the first grant being awarded on 13 December 2011. Over the last three years, the GEF Secretariat has approved 11 proposals totalling \$12.6 million,<sup>3</sup> leveraging \$29.9 million in co-financing. These projects have benefited a total of 51 countries. These projects include eight country-based projects (Bhutan, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Fiji, Gabon, Kenya and Panama), one global project in support of ratification of the Nagoya Protocol (21 supported so far) and two regional projects in support of the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol: one in central Africa for the ten member states of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), and one in the Pacific for the twelve member countries of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The country-based projects are achieving a dual role: the development of access and benefit-sharing (ABS) agreements between users and providers of genetic resources, and the advance of the ABS agenda at the national level. ABS agreements are being developed using marine resources (Fiji and Panama), vascular plants (Colombia and Costa Rica) and extremophiles (Kenya). The global and regional projects are assisting countries in the ratification and/or implementation of basic provisions of the Nagoya Protocol, and some of them have already ratified the Nagoya Protocol (Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Fiji, Guinea-Bissau, Micronesia, and Panama) effectively contributing to the entry into force of this legally binding protocol.

Table 1. Projects funded by the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF)

PMIS	AGENCY	COUNTRY OR REGION	MSP OR FSP	TITLE	DATE	GEF \$	CO-FINAN \$	TOTAL \$
4780	UNDP	Panama	MSP	Promoting the application of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing in Panama	12-13-11	1,000,000	3,422,000	4,422,000
5160	UNDP	Colombia	MSP	The Development and Production of Natural Dyes in the Choco Region of Colombia for the Food, Cosmetics and Personal Care Industries Under the Provisions of the Nagoya Protocol	9-28-12	980,000	1,516,500	2,496,500
5170	UNDP	Fiji	MSP	Discovering Nature-Based Products and Building Capacities for the Application of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing	10-2-12	970,000	2,370,000	3,340,000
5172	UNEP	Global (Angola, Armenia, Burkina Faso, Belarus,	MSP	Global Support for the Entry into Force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing	10-1-12	1,000,000	627,500	1,627,500

<sup>1</sup> *Establishment of a New Trust Fund for Promoting Early Entry into Force and Effective Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit sharing (ABS)*, decision by mail, GEF Council, 14 February 2011.

<sup>2</sup> *Outstanding Issues Related to the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund*, GEF/C.40/11/Rev.1, 26 May 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Plus \$1.9 million in Agency fees for a total of \$14.5 million.

PMIS	AGENCY	COUNTRY OR REGION	MSP OR FSP	TITLE	DATE	GEF \$	CO-FINAN \$	TOTAL \$
		Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe)						
5264	WB	Gabon	FSP	The implementation of activities related to Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in Gabon (Component 4 under the project "Sustainable Management of Critical Wetlands Ecosystems	4-12-13	1,000,000	3,594,014	4,594,014
5420	UNDP	Costa Rica	MSP	Promoting the Application of the Nagoya Protocol through the Development of Nature-based Products, Benefit-sharing and Biodiversity Conservation	5-7-13	979,566	4,619,309	5,598,875
5448	UNDP	Bhutan	MSP	Implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing in Bhutan	8-28-13	1,000,000	2,000,000	3,000,000
5454	UNEP	Regional - Africa (Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad, RD Congo)	MSP	Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol for the Member countries of the Central African Forests Commission COMIFAC	8-20-13	1,762,557	8,300,000	10,062,557
5613	UNDP	Cook Islands	MSP	Strengthening the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing in the Cook Islands	12-23-13	970,000	1,499,535	2,469,535
5634	UNEP	Regional – Pacific (Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall	MSP	Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the countries of the Pacific Region	12-11-13	1,980,000	290,000	2,270,000



PMIS	AGENCY	COUNTRY OR REGION	MSP OR FSP	TITLE	DATE	GEF \$	CO-FINAN \$	TOTAL \$
		Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa)						
5626	UNEP	Kenya	MSP	Developing the Microbial Biotechnology Industry from Kenya's Soda Lakes in line with the Nagoya Protocol	12-5-13	1,000,000	1,751,845	2,751,845
					<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>12,642,123</b>	<b>29,990,703</b>	<b>42,632,826</b>

## II. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DECISION XI/5

### *Guidance to the financial mechanism*

6. The Executive Secretary transmitted decision XI/5 to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility on 29 October 2012, and reiterated the messages from the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties through his statements to the forty-third and forty-fourth meetings of the Council of the Global Environment Facility. A joint CBD-GEF Webinar on the Financial Mechanism and 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets was also held on 5 June 2013 during World Environment Day.

7. The responses of the Global Environment Facility have been largely captured through the following documents: GEF-6 Programming Directions (GEF/R.6/20/Rev.01) and Strategic Positioning for the GEF (GEF/R.6/19), GEF-6 Policy Recommendations (GEF/R.6/21) and Management Response to the Fifth Overall Performance Study of the GEF (GEF/R.6/18). In accordance with paragraph 7 of the Memorandum of Understanding, these official documents of GEF have been made available by the GEF Secretariat to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and are hereby issued as information documents for the present meeting.

### *Reporting*

8. The Secretariat has been in close liaison with the Global Environment Facility with regard to the regular reporting obligations under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility, as well as the request contained in paragraph 2 of decision XI/5 to report back to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting on the GEF-6 strategy and its thirteenth meeting on its implementation and how it responds to the individual elements and their components, and the additional strategic considerations of the framework.

*Monitoring and evaluation*

9. In paragraph 7 of decision XI/5, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to make available to Parties the report of the fourth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism for consideration by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its fifth meeting. The report of the fourth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism is available in information document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/INF/10, and the comments and draft decision are provided in document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/5/Add.1.

*Determination of funding needs*

10. In paragraphs 6 and 8 to 14 of decision XI/5, the Conference of the Parties invited developed country Parties and others to increase their financial contributions through the financial mechanism during the sixth GEF replenishment period (GEF-6), and noted the report of the assessment of needs for GEF-6. In paragraph 15 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties transmitted to the Global Environment Facility the report on the assessment of needs for GEF-6, for consideration by the Global Environment Facility, so that the 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.

11. The Executive Secretary transmitted decision XI/5 to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility on 29 October 2012, and reiterated the messages from the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties through his statements to the forty-third and forty-fourth meetings of the Council of the Global Environment Facility.

12. The fourth meeting of the GEF-6 replenishment is scheduled to take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 16-17 April 2014, and the results of the GEF-6 replenishment will be contained in the document entitled "Summary of Negotiations - Sixth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund". In accordance with paragraph 7 of the Memorandum of Understanding, the official document of GEF will be made available by the GEF Secretariat to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and will be issued as an information document for the present meeting.

*Inter-secretariat collaboration*

13. Since the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the CBD and GEF secretariats have continued their efforts to enhance inter-secretariat collaboration in response to various decisions. The CBD Secretariat has revamped its website on the financial mechanism under the new headings of GEF strategies, programmes and projects, GEF accountability, GEF effectiveness and GEF replenishment, and also hosted the joint CBD-GEF retreat on the financial mechanism and 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets from 4-5 June 2013. The CBD Secretariat has continued to review relevant project proposals from the GEF agencies, and has provided comments as appropriate, including through participation in the teleconference of the Executive GEF Operations Committee (GEFOP) meetings. The CBD Secretariat has continued to provide information input to the GEF Council document entitled "Relations with conventions and institutions", and to monitor the responses of the GEF Council to the requests from the Conference of the Parties, including the internal analysis of the ongoing GEF project portfolio and participation in meetings of the GEF Council and other meetings. The CBD Secretariat was involved through technical interactions in the elaboration of the GEF-6 Biodiversity Strategy, and the comments of the Executive Secretary are available on the CBD website (<https://www.cbd.int/financial/gef/guidance/>).

14. At a meeting on 2 and 3 September 2013, the liaison group of biodiversity-related conventions (BLG) considered the relationship between its members and the Global Environment Facility (GEF),

including on how to help countries access GEF funding to implement projects that harness synergies amongst the biodiversity-related conventions while being consistent with the GEF mandate.<sup>4</sup> At an earlier meeting, the BLG had noted that additional funding for activities of biodiversity-related conventions other than the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) may be obtained from the GEF if the activities contribute to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi targets, and had therefore agreed that a joint approach by the conventions may facilitate country access to funding and that such an approach should be further discussed.

15. The BLG meeting, organized in close collaboration with the GEF secretariat,<sup>5</sup> underscored that a significant amount of GEF-funding, and associated projects, already contribute to implementation of biodiversity-related conventions other than the CBD, and emphasized the importance of using better programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions as a means for obtaining better access to GEF funds for those conventions for which the GEF is not the financial mechanism. In this context, the meeting reiterated the importance of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi targets as the global framework and entry point for harnessing synergy with the respective conventions. It was recalled that the Strategic Plan was adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD as an inclusive framework which is relevant for all biodiversity-related conventions. The Strategic Plan has been recognized as such in various decisions of the Conference of the Parties or resolutions of the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions.

16. As an important element<sup>6</sup> in establishing a closer relationship with the GEF, the BLG noted that it could be useful to put arrangements in place which would enable the communication of pertinent recommendations of other biodiversity-related conventions to the GEF in a well-coordinated and effective manner. The meeting agreed to propose an arrangement consisting of the following elements, for consideration by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its fifth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting:

(a) The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity invites the governing bodies of the other biodiversity-related conventions (i) to provide, as appropriate, any GEF-related advice that is pertinent to their respective mandate and the mandate of the GEF; and (ii) to request their respective secretariats to transmit such advice to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(b) The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requests the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, upon receipt of such advice, to include it in the pre-session documentation for the appropriate agenda item, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

#### *Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing*

17. The Global Environment Facility provided an update on its activities related to the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (see section I above). The GEF Secretariat has provided regular updates

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<sup>4</sup> The full report of the BLG meeting is available at <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/doc/blg-2013-09-09-en.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Thereby also responding to the agreement of the GEF Council at its 41st meeting, held 8-11 November 2011, “that the GEF Secretariat would organize a meeting of Biodiversity-related conventions with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the coordination of their priorities for possible inclusion in the GEF-6 programming strategy.”

<sup>6</sup> The meeting also considered the draft GEF-6 programming directions, with emphasis on the draft biodiversity focal area strategy, and identified opportunities for promoting country-level coordination among biodiversity-related conventions, in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the NBSAP revision process, for achieving synergistic implementation and eligibility for GEF funding of activities that would support integrated implementation of all relevant biodiversity-related conventions in a particular country.

on the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund through its information document to the Council of the GEF. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the Memorandum of Understanding, the official documents of GEF will be made available by the GEF Secretariat to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the latest information document on the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund will be issued as an information document for the present meeting.

#### *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*

18. In paragraph 28 of decision XI/5, the Conference of the Parties transmitted the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the financial mechanism; the decision also requested the Executive Secretary to further communicate with the GEF Secretariat before the meeting of the GEF Council in November 2012 in order to discuss the possibility of opening a special financial support window for implementation of the Protocol, and to report on the outcome to the Parties to the Protocol. The Executive Secretary transmitted this decision to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility on 29 October 2012. Due to the narrow proximity between the October meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the November meeting of the GEF Council, there was no discussion on this matter within the November meeting of the GEF Council. The CBD and GEF Secretariats further discussed the issue at the joint CBD-GEF retreat on the financial mechanism and 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets held 4-5 June 2013.

### **III. RECOMMENDATIONS**

19. The fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention is thus invited to review the updates provided in the present note and the associated information documents provided by the Global Environment Facility, but no comprehensive recommendations were prepared due to a number of factors. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, the financial mechanism has been a standing item on the agenda of the ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and the official report of the Global Environment Facility will be made available to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It should also be noted that most of the information documents from the Global Environment Facility had not been finalized at the time when the present note was prepared; their final versions will be available to the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention.

20. Based on the outcomes of the aforementioned meeting of the liaison group of biodiversity-related conventions (BLG) from 2-3 September 2013, however, the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention may wish to consider the following elements for inclusion in a decision on the financial mechanism:

#### *The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 represents a useful flexible framework that is relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions, and *welcoming* the recognition given to the Strategic Plan in the decisions or resolutions of the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions,

*Recognizing* that funding provided by the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity already contributes to the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions other than the Convention on Biological Diversity,

*Mindful of* the importance of enhancing programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, in the context of revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the GEF-6 programming directions including the biodiversity focal area strategy, for the effective use of financial resources and the effective implementation of the Aichi biodiversity Targets,

1. *Invites* the governing bodies of the other biodiversity-related conventions to:

(a) Provide elements of advice, as appropriate, concerning the funding of activities within their respective mandate and the respective mandate of the GEF, that may be referred to the GEF through the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

(b) Request their respective secretariats to transmit, in a timely manner, such advice to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to include any advice received in accordance with the previous paragraph into the documentation of the appropriate agenda item, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its next meeting.

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