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16 July 2020

NOTIFICATION

Outcomes of the 58th meeting of the GEF Council of relevance to the Convention and its Protocols

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to inform Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols that the 58th meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council was held virtually on 2-3 June 2020, and that the Summary of the Chair and the Highlights of the proceedings are available on the GEF Website at the following address: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meetings/gef-58th-council-meeting>.

The results of the 58th GEF Council meeting include, *inter alia*:

- (i) Appointment of Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez as new CEO and Chairperson from August 2020;
- (ii) Approval of a work program of \$700 million for projects and programs directly addressing or benefiting biodiversity objectives;
- (iii) Approval of the approach paper of the Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS7) from the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.E_C58_02 OPS7 Approach paper June 2020 0.pdf).
The Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF is also expected to provide an information base for the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism envisaged by the Conference of the Parties;
- (iv) Taking note of the significant progress made in the formulation of the GEF's private sector engagement strategy and requesting the GEF Secretariat to prepare an Implementation Plan for consideration at the 59th Council Meeting (https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF_C.58_05_GEFs%20Private%20Sector%20Engagement%20Strategy_0.pdf);
- (v) Most Council Members expressed concern over the impact of COVID-19 on the current and future work of the GEF and requested the GEF Secretariat to monitor the situation and keep the Council informed. The Council additionally requested that the OPS7 present concrete recommendations on how to address risks related to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and a framework for green recovery. Recognizing both the immediate and lasting needs, the GEF Secretariat has developed a set of immediate, medium-term and longer-term actions to respond to COVID-19: (http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF_C.58_Inf.07_GEF%27s%20Response%20to%20COVID-19.pdf).

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points, Cartagena Protocol Focal Points, ABS Focal Points, UN Organizations and Specialized Agencies, IGOs, NGOs, and indigenous people and local communities, and other stakeholders

