



STATEMENT BY

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

to the

45th MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF

THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

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**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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Mrs. Naoko Ishii, GEF CEO,
Distinguished Members of the Council, Alternates and Advisors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

You are convened at a critical point of time: the negotiation towards finalizing the sixth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund and the major policy recommendations for the next phase of GEF will be concluded before your next meeting. Given the stake of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Facility, it is very important for me to communicate important messages from the Conference of the Parties to you, particularly those participating in the replenishment negotiation, and remind you of the international consensus you and your partner governments have achieved under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

As you may recall, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties requested the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement the framework of programme priorities for the period 2014-2018 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 (Decision XI/5, paragraph 2). I should therefore highlight the expectations from the Conference of the Parties for your kind attention.

2020 GEF Strategy vs. the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

I would like to applaud Mrs. Ishii for her initiative and courage to advance a 2020 GEF Strategy, which is also on the agenda of this Council meeting. The elaboration of the 2020 GEF Strategy provides an opportunity to reflect on the longer-term relationship between the Convention and its financial mechanism, particularly in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In my last written statement to the 34th meeting of the GEF Council, I provided a detailed list of comments on the draft GEF-6 biodiversity strategy and also the 2020 GEF strategy. I want to reiterate the following:

- (i) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide the overall framework for the implementation of the Convention for the decade;
- (ii) A substantial increase in the available resources is required for implementing the framework;
- (iii) Funding is required for activities that contribute to all five goals and all twenty targets;
- (iv) Prioritization of activities needs to be done;
- (v) Different national circumstances and capabilities should be taken into account.

CBD/COP decision for GEF:

Emphasizes that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide the overall framework for the implementation of the Convention for the decade, including for the activities during the sixth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (2014-2018) (XI/5, paragraph 8).

Notes that implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 will require the funding of activities that contribute to all five goals and all twenty targets (XI/5, paragraph 9).

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are an ambitious framework adopted by Parties to the Convention that require a substantial increase in the resources available (XI/5, paragraph 14(a)).

Prioritization of activities needs to be done in consultation with the Convention through its Conference of the Parties, based on the four year framework of programming priorities (XI/5, paragraph 14(c)).

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 (XI/5, annex I, paragraph 3)

Full use of the financial mechanism

In decision XI/4, Parties to the Convention resolved to double total biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, by 2015 and at least maintaining this level until 2020, to contribute to the achievement of the Convention's three objectives.

Meanwhile, the Conference of the Parties stated that full use of the financial mechanism of the Convention, including the Global Environment Facility and its network of agencies, with improved efficiency of resource utilization and expanded financial support to recipient countries, is instrumental and critical in advancing the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The afore-mentioned two messages are strongly linked, and should be considered together in the further negotiations towards concluding the six replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund. In this connection, it is also relevant to consider establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020.

The Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund provides another window through which donors and the private sector can contribute to, or co-finance, ensuring continued support for the early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The Conference of the Parties requested the GEF 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 future.

Level of funding required

For the first time, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties undertook to determine the level of funding required in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding. The United Nations System Task Team Working Group on "Financing for sustainable development" recently summarized that the total financial needs of recipient countries were estimated to be in the range between US\$74 billion and US \$192 billion, of which US\$ 7-17 billion may be eligible for support by the Global Environment Facility, with the following details:

CBD/COP decision for GEF:

Full use of the financial mechanism of the Convention, including the Global Environment Facility and its network of agencies, with improved efficiency of resource utilization and expanded financial support to recipient countries, is instrumental and critical in advancing the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (XI/5, paragraph 14(b)).

Reiterates its invitation to the Global Environment Facility in paragraph 7 of decision X/23 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 welcomes ongoing discussions on this matter (XI/5, paragraph 26).

CBD/COP decision for GEF:

Takes note of the range of funding needs estimated for the sixth replenishment. This includes both what might be provided through the replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund for the biodiversity focal area, as well as what might be mobilized and provided through other funds (XI/5, paragraph 11).

Urges 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 (XI/5, paragraph 12).

Transmits 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 (XI/5, paragraph 15).

TARGETS	Funding needs of developing countries and
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	countries with economies in transition (2014-2018) (US\$ million)
GOAL A: Mainstreaming Biodiversity (T 1-4)	138 - 428
Target 1: Awareness raising	24 - 72
Target 2: Biodiversity values	7 - 35
Target 3: Incentives	100 - 300
Target 4: Sustainable production/consumption	7 - 21
GOAL B: Reduction of Pressure on BD (T 5-10)	22,487 - 66,211
Target 5: Reducing habitat loss (forests and wetlands)	2,092 - 5,186
Target 6: Fisheries	10,025 - 30,075
Target 7: Sustainable Agriculture, Aquaculture and Forestry	10,200 - 30,600
Target 8: Pollution	
Target 9: Invasive Alien Species	50 - 150
Target 10: Coral Reefs	120 - 200
GOAL C: Safeguarding Ecosystems (T 11-13)	39,115 - 88,345
Target 11: Protected Areas	39,000 - 88,000
Target 12: Species conservation	100 - 300
Target 13: Genetic Diversity	15 - 45
GOAL D: Enhancing the Benefits to All (T 14-16)	12,120 - 36,280
Target 14: Ecosystem Services	60 - 180
Target 15: Ecosystem Resilience	12,060 - 36,100
Target 16: Access and benefit sharing	
GOAL E: Enhancing Implementation (T 17-20)	46.50 - 141.50
Target 17: National biodiversity strategies and action plans	25 - 75
Target 18: Traditional Knowledge	12.50 - 37.50
Target 19: Science base	3 - 9
Target 20: Resource Mobilization	6 - 20
Biosafety	170
Total	74,076.50 - 191,575.50

The Conference of the Parties decided to transmit the needs assessment report on the levels of funding for biodiversity, urged the GEF, in the process of replenishment for GEF-6, to give due consideration to all aspects of the needs assessment report, and further decided 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. In this regard, I like to invite GEF/CEO to share the relevant replenishment documentation with the CBD community.

I should add that the co-financing issue continues to receive attention at the Conference of the Parties. It is observed that the co-financing ratios for biodiversity projects have increased considerably over the past decade. Several developing countries reported that their domestic funding for biodiversity increased by three-ten folds in the past ten years. One mega-biodiverse country noted that external financing for biodiversity only accounted for 2 percent of their total spending on biodiversity. In decision XI/4, the Conference of the Parties acknowledged that, in many developing countries, domestic resources already cover the largest share of biodiversity-related resource mobilization.

CBD/COP decision for GEF:

Calls upon the Global Environment Facility to further clarify the concept and application of co-financing for biodiversity projects, and invites the GEF to apply co-financing arrangements in ways that do not create unnecessary barriers and costs for recipient countries to access GEF funds (Decision XI/5, paragraph 5).

Synergies with other GEF focal areas

One salient issue in the recent decisions of the Conference of the Parties is the continued call for promoting synergies among GEF focal areas. In my last statement, I already identified the areas in which the 2020 Biodiversity

CBD/COP decision for GEF:

Requests the Executive Secretary and invites the Global Environment Facility to

Targets can be advanced. An analysis of the GEF-5 project portfolio has further supported the importance of synergies, and identified areas for attention. The GEF-5 strategy has demonstrated the following:

- a) Biodiversity focal area covers half the 20 biodiversity targets, including Targets 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 20 as well as biosafety. The remaining half of the 20 biodiversity targets is not covered explicitly by the biodiversity focal area funding;
- b) Other focal areas provide support relevant project activities under Targets 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 14, 15 and 19, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, international water, land degradation, chemicals, sustainable forest management/REDD, and cross-cutting capacity development framework.

The analysis of 352 GEF-5 projects noted that:

- Only one fifth of biodiversity target funding come from the biodiversity focal area projects, and over half of the funding from the multi focal area projects;
- Importance of other focal area funding to biodiversity targets increases from climate change (the least), land degradation to international waters and POPs (the highest);
- Targets 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 14, 15 and 19 are not supported from the biodiversity focal area projects, but from other focal area projects. Targets 13 and 18 do not find explicit support from the GEF-5 funding.
- The GEF biodiversity focal area can also benefit from considering the GEF experience in other focal areas, such as supporting awareness-raising, incentives, and resource mobilization.

Gaps associated with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties also indicated the need to focus on filling the highest priority gaps associated with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Though we are still in the early stage of implementation, some signs of early warning may already justify the necessary adjustments that may be needed in the process of developing the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy and the 2020 GEF strategy. For instance, Targets 13 and 18 are not covered explicitly within the whole GEF-5 strategy, and Target 4 is not well elaborated under the GEF-5. The analysis of the GEF-5 project portfolio noted:

- Targets 5, 11, 12 and 2 use the significant portion of marked funding from the biodiversity focal area projects, and Target 7 enjoys the largest amount of marked funding as it is supported by funding from several GEF focal areas.
- Some funding is observed for Targets 1, 3, 16, 9 and biosafety,

identify the Aichi Biodiversity Targets benefiting the most from synergies with other GEF focal areas and make this information available for further use (XI/5, paragraph 13).

Requests the Global Environment Facility and invites other financial mechanisms to continue to support projects and activities to improve synergies among relevant multilateral environment agreements (XI/5, paragraph 20).

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 (XI/5, annex I, paragraph 5)

CBD/COP decision for GEF:

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 (XI/5, annex I, paragraph 4)

Also requests 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. (XI/5,

but the number of related projects is limited.

appendix II, paragraph 7)

The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety had intensive debates on the funding status of biosafety, and requested, through the Conference of the Parties, 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. Similar discussions occurred under the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing.

Other multilateral biodiversity agreements alerted similar funding challenges, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the International Treaty on Plant-genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR) and the World Heritage Convention (WHC). Together with the Convention on Biological Diversity, this group of multilateral biodiversity agreements met twice in Geneva, September 2013 and in Montreal, October 2013 respectively. They all have fully endorsed the messages from the CBD Conference of the Parties that call for full use of the financial mechanism of the Convention with a strong and substantial replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund and improved efficiency of resource utilization with a particular attention to the funding needs of all multilateral biodiversity agreements.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You are entrusted with the great responsibility for operating the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity. As national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 has moved from planning phase to the critical phase of execution, financial support from the financial mechanism has become all the more important. The level of replenishment and the operational policy direction can exercise a central role in reshaping the landscape of implementation at national, regional and global levels. As elaborated above, you have all support from the CBD and its sister multilateral biodiversity agreements, and you can count on further support.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate the invitation of the Conference of the Parties to developed country Parties and others to increase their financial contributions through the financial mechanism during the sixth GEF replenishment period (GEF-6), taking into account the substantial financial needs in order to implement the obligations of the Convention, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Decision XI/5, paragraph 6).

Thank you very much for your kind attention, and I wish you a successful meeting and also look forward to receiving the results of the GEF-6 replenishment negotiation.