December 02, 2022

63RD GEF COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 02, 2022
VIRTUAL MEETING

Agenda Item 19

JOINT SUMMARY OF THE GEF COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The meeting was opened by Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson of the Facility. Ambassador Aliioiga Feturi Elisaia, Council Member for Cook Islands, Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu acted as Elected Chairperson, as per Decision 37/2021 adopted on December 10, 2021.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. The Council adopted the provisional agenda set forth in document GEF/C.63/01.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL

3. Ms. Rosina Bierbaum, the Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, made a statement to the Council on the activities undertaken by the Panel.

RELATIONS WITH THE CONVENTIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

4. Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Mr. Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, addressed the Council.

DECISIONS APPROVED

5. The Council approves the following decisions with respect to its agenda items:

Decision 29/2022 *The GEF Monitoring Report 2022*

6. The Council, having considered *The GEF Monitoring Report 2022* (GEF/C.63/03), welcomes the report, its implementation of the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework, and enhanced assessment of the risk to achieving project outcomes. The Council requests Agencies, through engagement with the Secretariat, to lend their support in ensuring a strong uptake of Core Indicators across projects and conducting effective risk assessments.

Decision 30/2022 *Work Program for GEF Trust Fund*

7. The Council, having considered document GEF/C63/04, *Work Program for GEF Trust Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising 8 projects, subject to comments made during the

Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by January 6, 2023[1][2].

8. Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to $64.7 million which include GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs), and Non-expedited Enabling Activity:

9. **Yemen**: Managing Biodiversity and Environmental Risks Associated with the Safer Salvage Operation in the Red Sea, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: $4,016,210] [GEF ID: 11056]

10. **Zimbabwe**. Global Opportunities for Long-Term Development of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector in Zimbabwe- GEF planetGOLD Zimbabwe, UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: $5,000,000] [GEFID 11048]

11. **Regional** (Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe): Circular and POPs-free Plastics in Africa, UNEP, [GEF project financing: $11,000,000] [GEF ID: 11049]

12. **Armenia**: Armenia Integrated Resilient Landscape Improvement Project (AIR LIP), World Bank, [GEF Project Financing: $5,450,000] [GEF ID: 11046]

13. **Brazil**: Conservation of the Atlantic Forest through the sustainable management of cocoa agroforestry landscapes, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: $4,700,000] [GEF ID 11052]

14. **Global** (Algeria, Armenia, Bahrain, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Jordan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Morocco, Palau, Panama, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Suriname, Timor Leste, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe): Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: $ 18,690,000] [GEF ID 11054]

15. With respect to the following 2 projects, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council members to receive draft final project documents and to transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO's endorsing the project document for final approval by the GEF Agency:

16. **Regional** (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru): Accelerate Minamata Convention compliance through improved understanding and control of mercury trade in Latin America, UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: $3,000,000] [GEF ID 11047]

17. **Regional** (Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen): An Inclusive Approach for Harnessing Marine Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue

[1] The United States, in light of its policies related to development projects in Zimbabwe, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF projects 11048 in Zimbabwe and 11049 in Zimbabwe.

[2] The decision with respect to project review for UNDP projects (Decision GEF/C.61/04) will apply to all UNDP projects in this WP.

Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA), UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: $7,350,000] [GEF ID 11050]

18. With respect to the PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

19. With respect to any PIF and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

Decision 31/2022 *Country Engagement Strategy Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8*

20. The Council, having considered GEF/C.63/05, *Country Engagement Strategy Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8*, approves the proposal for the Secretariat to execute the Country Engagement Strategy according to the procedures contained therein.

21. The Country Engagement Strategy will include the following elements, funded by the GEF Trust Fund, with a total of US$27 million, to be allocated for each activity as specified below:

a. Upstream Technical Dialogues & National Dialogues: US$ 2.1million

b. GEF Workshops and GEF Introduction Seminars: US$ 12.0 million

c. GEF Constituency Meetings: US$ 4 million

d. Building execution capacity of stakeholders: US$ 1.1 million

e. Financial Support to GEF Operational Focal Points: US$ 5.8 million

f. Knowledge Exchange and Learning: US$ 2 million

22. The Council approves a set aside US$27 million in GEF Trust Fund resources for use by the Secretariat to fund these activities.

23. The Council also approves the addition of the following activities under the expanded scope of CES and directs the GEF Secretariat to finance such activities from the previously approved funding cycles for CSP. As such, no new funding is requested for the below mentioned activities:

a. Gustavo Fonseca Youth Conservation Leadership Program: US$ 10 million

b. Site visits for Council Members: US$ 1.2 million

c. Support for Country Delegations and Relevant Stakeholders to Attend COPs to the Conventions and Related Meetings: US$ 2 million

Decision 32/2022 *GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0 Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8*

24. The Council, having considered GEF/C.63/06/Rev.01, *GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0 Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8*:

a. endorses the proposed arrangements,

b. approves the approach and timeline to start the selection process in 2023 of up to two new Agencies from the existing cohort of accredited GEF Agencies to serve, in addition to UNDP, as Core SGP Implementing Agencies, and that a portion of SGP Core resources is opened to these agencies to begin implementation during the GEF-8 period,

c. approves an amendment to paragraph 3.c of the Agency Fee Policy (FI/PL/03) to specify that fees for the Small Grants Program are set at 9.0%.

Decision 33/2022 *Report on Lead Agency Selection Process for the Integrated Programs*

25. The Council, recalling its decision 9/2022 and having considered document GEF/C.63/07, *Report on Lead Agency Selection Process for the Integrated Programs*, notes the technical and analytical steps taken by the GEF Secretariat and endorses the agencies selected to lead the Integrated Programs.

Decision 34/2022 *Relations with Conventions and Other International Institutions*

26. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.63/08, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomes the report and requests the GEF network to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

Decision 35/2022 *Third Party Review of Agency Compliance with GEF Minimum Standards*

27. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.63/09/Rev.01, *Third Party Review of Agency Compliance with GEF Minimum Standards*,

a. Notes with appreciation the collaboration of GEF Agencies in the self-assessment and review process.

b. Requests the GEF Agencies found not to be fully compliant in all components to prepare time-bound Action Plans to address any gaps identified by the Review, submit these to the Secretariat no later than January 31, 2023, for circulation to Council.

c. Notes the findings of the additional self-assessment and review of UNDP showing UNDP in full compliance.

d. Decides that the measures related to UNDP described in Decision 26/2021 should continue; to be reviewed after Council has considered the additional UNDP self-assessment and review planned for 2023.

e. Requests AfDB, BOAD and DBSA to provide the additional information required to complete the review of outstanding components as soon as possible, but no later than December 31, 2022.

Decision 36/2022 *Proposed framework for GEF's role in a financial mechanism for the internationally legally binding instrument under negotiation under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)*

28. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.63/10 *Proposed Framework for GEF's Role in a Financial Mechanism for the International Legally Binding Instrument under Negotiation under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)*, takes note of the

progress of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to prepare a legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine BBNJ; and, if requested by the IGC, would welcome the GEF becoming the Financial Mechanism or part of the Financial Mechanism of the instrument, within the framework of the GEF.

Decision 37/2022 *Amendments to the Instrument of the Establishment of the restructured GEF*

29. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.63/11, *Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility*, decides to recommend to the Assembly the updated text of the Instrument as contained in Annex II.

Decision 38/2022 *GEF Blended Finance Global Program and NGI Policy Update*

30. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.63/12, GEF-8 Blended Finance Global Program and NGI Policy Update, approves the proposed GEF-8 Blended Finance Global Program and Policy Update. The Council also requests the Secretariat to work with the GEF Trustee to provide an annual report on blended finance expected reflows to be submitted at the second Council meeting of each year.

Decision 39/2022 *Management Response to the Review of the GEF Management Action Record*

31. The Council, having considered documents GEF/E/C.63/01, *Review of the GEF Management Action Record (MAR)*, and GEF/C.63/13, the Management Response, takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.

Decision 40/2022

32. The Council, following its discussion of documents GEF/E/C.63/01 and GEF/C.63/13, requests the Independent Evaluation Office to provide the GEF Secretariat with complete evaluations at least 4 weeks prior to the Council document posting deadline, and therefore at least 8 weeks prior to the Council meeting, in order to facilitate the timely preparation of management responses.

Decision 41/2022 *Management Response: Evaluation of the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on GEF Activities*

33. The Council, having considered documents GEF/E/C.63/02, E*valuation of the Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on GEF Activities*, and GEF/C.63/14, the Management Response, takes

note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.

Decision 42/2022 *Report of the Selection and Review Committee*

34. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.63/15, *Report of the Selection and Review Committee (SRC)*:

a. Agrees with the SRC's assessment of the GEF CEO's performance for the Performance Year 22 (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022) and its recommended performance rating. The World Bank will provide its standard salary increase, in accordance with the World Bank's Merit Increase Matrix. The Council requests the SRC to communicate this decision to the World Bank Human Resource Department.

b. Agrees with the SRC's assessment of the GEF IEO Director's performance for the Performance Year 22 (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022) and its recommended performance rating. The World Bank will provide its standard salary increase, in accordance with the World Bank's Merit Increase Matrix. The Council requests the SRC to communicate this decision to the World Bank Human Resource Department.

c. Takes note of the 2023 performance objectives for the GEF CEO and IEO Director and requests the SRC present the performance evaluations of the GEF CEO and IEO Director for the Council's review at its 65th meeting.

Decision 43/2022 *Other business*

35. The Council, recalling its decision 20/2021, decides that it will hold its 64th Session, in person, the week of June 26 to 28, 2023.

Decision 44/2022

36. The Council, recalling its decision 35/2021 and as provided in the GEF Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest, approves Ms. Judith Torres, Alternate Council Member for the constituency of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, as a member of the GEF Ethics committee for a term of two years (December 2024) or until the expiration of her term on the Council, whichever comes first.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed on December 02, 2022.

Annex I - Table 1

Global Environment Facility

Table 1: Record of GEF Trust Fund Resources Requested for Projects/Programs and Resulting Council Decisions

Council Meeting, December 2, 2022

						Project Amounts Requested for Funding in US$			Project Amounts Approved by Council in US$			
	GEF ID	Agency	Title	Country	Focal Area	Project Financing Requested	Agency Fee Requested	Total Amount Requested	Project Financing Approved	Agency Fee Approved	Total Amount Approved	20% of Agency fee to be committed by Trustee
Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects												
Biodiversity												
1	11056	UNDP	Managing Biodiversity and Environmental Risks Associated with the Safer Salvage Operation in the Red Sea	Yemen	Biodiversity	4,016,210	381,540	4,397,750	4,016,210	381,540	4,397,750	76,308
Sub-total Biodiversity Projects						**4,016,210**	**381,540**	**4,397,750**	**4,016,210**	**381,540**	**4,397,750**	**76,308**
Chemicals and Waste Projects												
2	11049	UNEP	Circular and POPs-free Plastics in Africa	Regional (Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe)	Chemicals and Waste	11,000,000	990,000	11,990,000	11,000,000	990,000	11,990,000	198,000
3	11048	UNEP	Global Opportunities for Long-Term Development of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector in Zimbabwe- GEF planetGOLD Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Chemicals and Waste	5,000,000	475,000	5,475,000	5,000,000	475,000	5,475,000	95,000

						Project Amounts Requested for Funding in US$			Project Amounts Approved by Council in US$			
	GEF ID	Agency	Title	Country	Focal Area	Project Financing Requested	Agency Fee Requested	Total Amount Requested	Project Financing Approved	Agency Fee Approved	Total Amount Approved	20% of Agency fee to be committed by Trustee
4	11047	UNEP	Accelerate Minamata Convention compliance through improved understanding and control of mercury trade in Latin America	Regional (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru)	Chemicals and Waste	3,000,000	285,000	3,285,000	3,000,000	285,000	3,285,000	57,000
Sub-total Chemicals and Waste Projects						**19,000,000**	**1,750,000**	**20,750,000**	**19,000,000**	**1,750,000**	**20,750,000**	**350,000**
International Waters Projects												
5	11050	UNEP	An Inclusive Approach for Harnessing Marine Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA)	Regional (Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen)	International Waters	7,350,000	698,250	8,048,250	7,350,000	698,250	8,048,250	139,650
Sub-total International Waters Projects						**7,350,000**	**698,250**	**8,048,250**	**7,350,000**	**698,250**	**8,048,250**	**139,650**
Multi Focal Area Projects												

						Project Amounts Requested for Funding in US$			Project Amounts Approved by Council in US$			
	GEF ID	Agency	Title	Country	Focal Area	Project Financing Requested	Agency Fee Requested	Total Amount Requested	Project Financing Approved	Agency Fee Approved	Total Amount Approved	20% of Agency fee to be committed by Trustee
6	11052	FAO	Conservation of the Atlantic Forest through the sustainable management of cocoa agroforestry landscapes	Brazil	Multi Focal Area	4,700,000	446,500	5,146,500	4,700,000	446,500	5,146,500	89,300
7	11046	World Bank	Armenia Integrated Resilient Landscape Improvement Project (AIR LIP)	Armenia	Multi Focal Area	5,450,000	517,750	5,967,750	5,450,000	517,750	5,967,750	103,550
Sub-total Multi Focal Area Projects						**10,150,000**	**964,250**	**11,114,250**	**10,150,000**	**964,250**	**11,114,250**	**192,850**
Non-expedited Enabling Activity												
8	11054	UNDP	Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans	Global (Algeria, Armenia, Bahrain, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Jordan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Morocco, Palau, Panama, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Suriname, Timor Leste, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zimbabwe)	Biodiversity	18,690,000	1,682,100	20,372,100	18,690,000	1,682,100	20,372,100	-

						Project Amounts Requested for Funding in US$			Project Amounts Approved by Council in US$			
	GEF ID	Agency	Title	Country	Focal Area	Project Financing Requested	Agency Fee Requested	Total Amount Requested	Project Financing Approved	Agency Fee Approved	Total Amount Approved	20% of Agency fee to be committed by Trustee
Sub-total Non-expedited Enabling Activity						**18,690,000**	**1,682,100**	**20,372,100**	**18,690,000**	**1,682,100**	**20,372,100**	**-**
GRAND TOTAL						**59,206,210**	**5,476,140**	**64,682,350**	**59,206,210**	**5,476,140**	**64,682,350**	**758,808**

Annex I - Table 2

Global Environment Facility
Table 2: Record of GEF Trust Fund Resources Requested and Resulting Council Decisions
Council Meeting, December 2, 2022
Summary of Council Decisions

	GEFTF
Funding status as of 11/07/2022	**$ 193,420,809**
Approvals by Council	**$ 64,682,350**
Funding status after Council Meeting	**$ 128,738,459**

	GEFTF Amounts Requested for Funding in US$			GEFTF Amounts Approved by Council in US$			
Agency	**Project Financing**	**Agency Fee**	**Total**	**Project Financing**	**Agency Fee**	**Total**	**20% of Agency fee to be committed by Trustee**
Project/Programs funding							
ADB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AfDB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BOAD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CAF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DBSA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EBRD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FAO	4,700,000	446,500	5,146,500	4,700,000	446,500	5,146,500	89,300
FECO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FUNBIO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IADB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IFAD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IUCN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNDP	22,706,210	2,063,640	24,769,850	22,706,210	2,063,640	24,769,850	76,308
UNEP	26,350,000	2,448,250	28,798,250	26,350,000	2,448,250	28,798,250	489,650

	GEFTF Amounts Requested for Funding in US$			GEFTF Amounts Approved by Council in US$			
Agency	**Project Financing**	**Agency Fee**	**Total**	**Project Financing**	**Agency Fee**	**Total**	**20% of Agency fee to be committed by Trustee**
UNIDO	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-
World Bank	5,450,000	517,750	5,967,750	5,450,000	517,750	5,967,750	103,550
WWF-US	-	-	**-**	-	-	**-**	-
Sub-total	**59,206,210**	**5,476,140**	**64,682,350**	**59,206,210**	**5,476,140**	**64,682,350**	**758,808**
GRAND TOTAL	**59,206,210**	**5,476,140**	**64,682,350**	**59,206,210**	**5,476,140**	**64,682,350**	**758,808**