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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
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Agenda item 11

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

XIII/21. The financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the decisions and elements of decisions related to guidance to the financial mechanism that were adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth to twelfth meetings,

Having considered recommendation 1/7 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation,¹

Recognizing the opportunities for synergistic implementation of the Convention through, inter alia, updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans and of related multilateral environmental agreements, as well as of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15,

Having also considered the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility,³

Recalling the mandate of the Global Environment Facility as the institutional structure entrusted by the Convention to operate the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 1 and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;

A. Four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities (2018-2022)

1. *Adopts* the consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism, including the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, as contained in annexes I and II to the present decision, and *decides* to retire the previous decisions and elements of decisions, as related to the financial mechanism and limited only to those provisions related to the financial mechanism;

¹ See UNEP/CBD/COP/13/6, sect. I.

² General Assembly resolution 70/1, annex.

³ UNEP/CBD/COP/13/12/Add.1.

2. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, the recipient and non-recipient Global Environment Facility participants, relevant global and regional partner organizations, and the Executive Secretary to promote a successful implementation of the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;

3. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to continue and further strengthen integrated programming as a means to harness opportunities for synergy in implementing related multilateral environmental agreements as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15;

4. *Notes* the initial assessment of the accreditation pilot, and *requests* the Global Environment Facility to consider improving its access modalities, including enabling the participation of a number of additional national agencies from developing countries, based on its own experiences, including the conclusions of this assessment, and taking into account the experience of other international financial instruments with relevant access modalities;

5. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to include information regarding the individual elements of the consolidated guidance, in particular the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities, in its future reports to the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Emphasizes* the primary role of recipient Parties in ensuring the achievement of the outcomes set out in the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;

B. Programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions

Recalling decision XII/30, paragraph 2,

7. *Takes note* with appreciation of the elements of advice received from the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as well as the input received from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora for consideration in the development of the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;⁴

8. *Notes* that the elements and input that fall within the mandate of the Global Environment Facility are reflected at a strategic level, in the four-year framework of programme priorities annexed to the present decision and that this will further enhance programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions;

9. *Invites* the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision XII/30, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting;

10. *Emphasizes* that the elements of advice need to be (a) in accordance with the mandate of the Global Environment Facility, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility as per decision III/8, (b) formulated at a strategic level, and (c) formally adopted by the governing bodies of the respective biodiversity-related conventions;

C. Fifth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

11. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the fifth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, including for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic

⁴ See UNEP/CBD/COP/13/12/Add.4.

Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization as contained in annex III to the present decision;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to ensure the implementation of the fifth review according to the terms of reference;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to make sure that the report on the fifth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism is available for consideration by the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

D. Second determination of funding requirement

14. *Takes note* of the report on a full assessment of the amount of funds needed for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the seventh replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility⁵ and *expresses* its appreciation to the members of the expert group for the preparation of the assessment;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to transmit to the Global Environment Facility the report on the assessment of needs for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, for consideration by the Global Environment Facility, and *invites* the Global Environment Facility to indicate, in its regular report to the Conference of Parties, how it has responded during the replenishment cycle to this assessment;

16. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to take the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the expert team's needs assessment report into consideration in the process of the seventh period of replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund but also noting the limitations identified by the expert team;

E. Further guidance

17. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to consider joint financing, in partnership with other international financial instruments, of projects designed to achieve the objectives of more than one Rio convention;

18. *Takes note* of the projected shortfall of resources from sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility due to exchange rate movements, and the decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility on item 6 of the agenda of the 51st meeting of the Council;

19. *Notes* the crucial role of the Global Environment Facility in the mobilization of resources at the domestic level and in support of the achievement of Aichi Targets, and *requests* the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to minimize the potential consequences of the projected shortfall referred to in paragraph 18 above for its support to developing countries, aiming to fulfil the relevant programming directions of the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and with a view to maintaining the level of support to Global Environment Facility recipient countries;

20. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to consider exploring measures to mitigate possible risks, including currency risks, in order to avoid potential negative impacts on future replenishment periods for the provision of financial resources for all Global Environment Facility recipient countries, taking fully into account the provisions of paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 20 of the Convention;

21. *Urges* the Global Environment Facility and its partners to support recipient countries in their efforts to identify and mobilize co-financing for its projects related to implementation of the Convention, including through public-private partnerships, as well as applying co-financing arrangements in ways that improve access, do not create barriers or increase costs for recipient countries to access Global Environment Facility funds;

⁵ UNEP/CBD/COP/13/12/Add.2.

22. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convey to the Global Environment Facility the concerns of the Parties on the transparency of the process of approving Global Environment Facility projects in accordance with Article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention;

23. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, in response to the concerns of the Parties on transparency of the process of approving Global Environment Facility projects, to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties, information regarding paragraph 3.3(d) of the Memorandum of Understanding;

Ecosystem restoration

24. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility and Parties in a position to do so and other donors, such as international financial institutions, including regional development banks, to provide support for ecosystem restoration activities, as well as monitoring processes as appropriate, and integrated where relevant into programmes and initiatives for sustainable development, food, water and energy security, job creation, climate change mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and poverty eradication;

Strategic Plan

25. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, and *invites* other development partners and donors in a position to do so, to continue to provide support in a timely manner, based on the expressed needs of Parties, especially for developing countries and, in particular, least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, for the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with the strategy and targets for resource mobilization agreed to in decision XII/3;

Aichi Targets 11 and 12

26. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies to facilitate the alignment of the development and implementation of protected area and other effective area-based conservation measures in its sixth and seventh replenishment periods with the national actions identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and, as appropriate, through the regional workshops for the achievement of Targets 11 and 12, with a view to facilitating the systematic monitoring and reporting of the results of those projects as they contribute to the implementation of the national action plans for the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 and other related targets;

Sixth national report

27. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, in the light of the revised guidelines for reporting under the Convention and its Protocols, to assess the required funding levels for national reporting, and provide financial support to developing countries accordingly in a timely and expeditious manner;

Cross-sectoral mainstreaming

28. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility and other donor and financial institutions to provide financial assistance for country-driven projects that address cross-sectoral mainstreaming when requested by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition.

Traditional knowledge

29. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, international financial institutions and development agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations, as appropriate and consistent with their mandates to consider providing financial and technical assistance to developing country Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly women within these communities, to raise awareness and to build their capacity relevant to the implementation of the Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, and to develop, as appropriate, community protocols or processes for “prior and informed consent” or “free, prior and informed consent”, depending on national circumstances, or “approval and involvement”, and fair and equitable benefit-sharing.

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

30. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide finance in support of activities related to the Biosafety Clearing-House;

31. *Emphasizes* the importance of continuous and predictable support by the Global Environment Facility to eligible Parties to support their compliance with reporting obligations under the Protocol;

32. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide financial support to enable developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition to further implement the Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building;

33. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue to assist eligible Parties that have not yet done so to put in place a national biosafety framework and to make funds available to this end;

34. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to provide eligible Parties with financial resources to facilitate effective implementation of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, in the context of relevant project activities and within its mandate;

35. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide funding for capacity-building related to risk assessment and risk management in the context of country-driven projects;

36. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility:

(a) To continue to make specific funding available to eligible Parties to put in place their national biosafety frameworks;

(b) To continue to fund projects and capacity-building activities on issues identified by the Parties to facilitate further implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including regional cooperation projects, such as those using regional and subregional networks to build capacity for the detection of living modified organisms, with a view to facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, and harnessing associated synergies;

(c) To ensure that the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria adopted in annex I to decision I/2 of the Conference of the Parties are duly followed in an efficient manner in relation to access and utilization of financial resources;

Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing

37. *Adopts* the following transitional clause in the eligibility criteria for funding under the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund:

“Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition that are Parties to the Convention and provide a clear political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol, shall also be eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility for the development of national measures and institutional capabilities in order to enable them to become a Party. Evidence of such political commitment, accompanied by indicative activities and expected milestones, shall take the form of an official written assurance by a Minister to the Executive Secretary that the country intends to become a Party to the Nagoya Protocol on completion of the activities to be funded.”

38. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to provide support to eligible Parties for interim national reports under the Nagoya Protocol.

*Annex I***FOUR-YEAR FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMME PRIORITIES FOR THE SEVENTH REPLENISHMENT PERIOD (2018-2022) OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TRUST FUND**

1. This four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities provides guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the seventh replenishment period 2018-2022 and is within the context of the GEF mandate to provide resources to achieve global environmental benefits. It utilizes the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Convention's Protocols to set priorities for the financial mechanism, building on the GEF-6 biodiversity focal area strategy and the GEF-6 programming directions, and, hence, is expected to be a key catalyst in translating national biodiversity strategies and action plans into programmes and projects that can be co-financed through the financial mechanism.
2. The seventh replenishment cycle of the GEF Trust Fund will come at a critical juncture for the Convention, as it will cover the last two years of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the first two years of a successor framework. It is for this reason that the four-year framework highlights areas where additional funding from the GEF will provide the necessary support to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as prioritized support for key enabling activities, in particular those which will become important for the post-2020 period, under a successor framework to the current Strategic Plan. The four-year framework also seeks to facilitate the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund commensurate with the funding needs identified in the needs assessment in response to paragraph 11 of decision XII/30.
3. The framework cannot be implemented without financial resources available from the financial mechanism, but its effective implementation will also depend upon the engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including businesses and subnational governments, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities. Particular attention needs to be paid to the gender dimension as well as to respecting, preserving and maintaining traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as their customary use of biological resources, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, at all relevant levels.
4. Effective communication must be incorporated in the design phase as an integral part of projects, to raise public awareness and promote engagement, whenever critical for achieving the conservation and sustainable use of important biodiversity, and it can also contribute to achieving more sustainable consumption patterns, as per Aichi Biodiversity Target 4.
5. Capacity-building and technical support will continue to be provided to recipient countries under the Convention and its Protocols as well as by global and regional partner institutions. Activities undertaken under the framework should be informed by improved biodiversity monitoring programmes.
6. The importance of improving the science and knowledge base relating to biodiversity at the national level should also be taken into account.
7. In line with the findings of the mid-term review of implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, implementation of the four-year framework should include an enhanced focus on policy frameworks and the promotion of policy coherence to achieve the expected outcomes.
8. The framework recognizes the opportunities for synergy, inherent in the unique institutional design of the Global Environment Facility, with related multilateral environmental agreements, as well as synergies with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15. GEF support towards implementation of the Convention and its Protocols as well as of updated national biodiversity strategy and action plans can harness such synergies and, in this vein, the framework encourages integrated approaches to project design as well as global and regional projects, noting that regional approaches are indispensable for addressing certain elements of the biodiversity agenda, such as migratory species. It encourages collaboration at national level among national focal points of the Convention and its Protocols, of related environmental agreements, and of GEF, including through GEF-supported projects.

Priority Cluster I: Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes

Priority A: Improve policies and decision-making, informed by biodiversity and ecosystem values⁶

Expected Outcome 1: Financial, fiscal, and development policies, as well as planning and decision-making⁷ take into account biodiversity and ecosystem values,⁸ in the context of the different tools and approaches used by Parties to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Expected Outcome 2: Identified significant incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity are eliminated, phased out, or reformed, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other international obligations and taking into account national socioeconomic conditions.

Expected Outcome 3: Economic sectors affecting significant biodiversity adopt sustainable supply chains and/or clean production processes, thus minimizing their impacts on biodiversity.

Priority B: Manage biodiversity in landscapes and seascapes

Expected Outcome 4: Loss, fragmentation, and degradation of significant natural habitats, and associated extinction debt, is reduced, halted or reversed, and conservation status of known threatened species is improved and sustained, including through monitoring, spatial planning, incentives⁹, restoration, and strategic establishment of protected areas and other measures.

Priority C: Harness biodiversity for sustainable agriculture

Expected Outcome 5: Biodiversity supporting key agricultural ecosystems, such as through pollination, biological pest control, or genetic diversity, is conserved and managed, contributing to sustainable agricultural production.

Priority cluster II: Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species

Priority D: Prevent and control invasive alien species

Expected Outcome 6: Management frameworks for invasive alien species are improved

Priority E: Reduce pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems

Expected Outcome 7: Anthropogenic pressures on vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems, including coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds, and associated ecosystems, including pollution, overfishing and destructive fishing, and unregulated coastal development, are reduced, thus contributing to ecosystem integrity and resilience.

Priority F: Enhance the effectiveness of protected area systems

Expected Outcome 8: The area of protected areas under effective and equitable management is significantly increased, including development of sustainable financing.

Expected Outcome 9: The ecological representativeness of protected area systems, and their coverage of protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, of particular importance for biodiversity is increased, especially habitats for threatened species.

Priority G: Combat illegal and unsustainable use of species, with priority action on threatened species

Expected Outcome 10: Illegal, unregulated and unsustainable taking, and/or trafficking of species of flora and fauna, including marine species, is significantly reduced and both demand and supply of related products is addressed, with priority action on threatened species.

⁶ See decision X/3, paragraph 9(b)(ii).

⁷ At spatial, non-spatial, sectoral, national and subnational levels.

⁸ See decision X/3, paragraph 9(b)(ii).

⁹ As referred to in Aichi Biodiversity Target 3.

Priority Cluster III: Further develop biodiversity policy and institutional framework

Priority H: Implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety¹⁰

Expected Outcome 11: The number of ratifications of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress is increased.

Expected Outcome 12: National implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress is enhanced.

Priority I: Implement the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing¹¹

Expected Outcome 13: The number of ratifications of the Nagoya Protocol is increased.

Expected Outcome 14: Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing to implement the Protocol is increased, including, inter alia and as appropriate, measures for mutual implementation with other relevant international agreements, coordination in transboundary genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and/or procedures to issue internationally recognized certificates of compliance.

Priority J: Improve biodiversity policy, planning, and review

Expected Outcome 15: Parties meet their reporting obligations under the Convention and the Protocols, through submission of relevant national reports and of relevant information through the clearing-houses.

Expected Outcome 16: National policy and institutional frameworks are reviewed, their implementation and effectiveness assessed, and gaps identified and addressed by the frameworks.

Expected Outcome 17: The review and, as appropriate, revision and update, of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in the light of a successor framework to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, is implemented, incorporating an enhanced focus on achieving policy coherence.

Annex II

CONSOLIDATED PREVIOUS GUIDANCE TO THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM

A. Policy and strategy

1. Financial resources should be allocated to projects that fulfil the eligibility criteria and are endorsed and promoted by the Parties concerned. Projects should contribute to the extent possible to build cooperation at the subregional, regional and international levels in the implementation of the Convention. Projects should promote the utilization of local and regional expertise. The conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components is one of the key elements in achieving sustainable development and therefore contributing to combating poverty.¹²

B. Programme priorities

2. The Global Environment Facility should provide financial resources to developing country Parties, taking into account the special needs of the least developed countries and the small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition, for country-driven activities and programmes, consistent with national priorities and objectives and in accordance with the following programme priorities, recognizing that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries, and taking fully into consideration all relevant decisions from the Conference of the Parties.¹³

¹⁰ In abeyance, pending decision of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

¹¹ In abeyance, pending decision of COP-MOP 2.

¹² Decision X/24, annex, A.

¹³ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4; and decision X/25, paragraph 1.

Article 1. Objectives

3. Projects that utilize the ecosystem approach, without prejudice to differing national needs and priorities which may require the application of approaches such as single species conservation programmes.¹⁴

4. Ecosystem resilience and climate change:¹⁵

(a) Capacity-building with the aim of increasing the effectiveness in addressing environmental issues through their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, inter alia, by applying the ecosystem approach;

(b) Developing synergy-oriented programmes to conserve and sustainably manage all ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands and marine environments, that also contribute to poverty eradication;

(c) Country-driven activities, including pilot projects, aimed at projects related to ecosystem conservation, restoration of degraded lands and marine environments and overall ecosystem integrity that take into account impacts of climate change.

5. Marine and coastal ecosystems:¹⁶

(a) Projects that promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity under threat, and implement the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and the programme of work on island biodiversity;

(b) Country-driven activities aimed at enhancing capabilities to address the impacts of mortality related to coral bleaching and physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs, including developing rapid response capabilities to implement measures to address coral-reef degradation, mortality and subsequent recovery;

(c) Implementation of training and capacity-building and other activities related to ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs);

(d) Support for capacity-building in order to further accelerate existing efforts towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas.

6. Projects focusing on the identified national priorities, as well as regional and international actions that assist the implementation of the expanded work programme on forest biological diversity considering conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from genetic resources in a balanced way, underscoring the importance of ensuring long-term conservation, sustainable use, and benefit-sharing of native forests, and the use of the clearing-house mechanism to include activities that contribute to halting and addressing deforestation, basic assessments and monitoring of forest biological diversity, including taxonomic studies and inventories, focusing on forest species, other important components of forest biological diversity and ecosystems under threat.¹⁷

7. Projects that assist with the implementation of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, and which help Parties to develop and implement national, sectoral and cross-sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, including comprehensive assessments of the biological diversity of inland waters, and capacity-building programmes for

¹⁴ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.15.

¹⁵ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.23; decision X/25, paragraphs 21 and 22; and also decision X/33, paragraphs 6 and 16; decision XI/21, paragraph 4.

¹⁶ Decision X/24, annex, paragraphs 4.19, 4.20 ; decision X/25, paragraphs 18, 19; decision XI/5, paragraph 17; decision XII/30, paragraph 22; and also decision X/29, paragraphs 20, 38, 74; decision XI/17, paragraph 22; decision XI/18, paragraph 25; decision XII/23, paragraph 17.

¹⁷ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.16.

monitoring the implementation of the programme of work and the trends in inland water biological diversity and for information gathering and dissemination among riparian communities.¹⁸

8. Projects that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in arid and semi-arid areas, including the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands.¹⁹

9. Projects which promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountainous areas.²⁰

10. Projects which implement the Convention's programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, and that assist with the implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.²¹

Article 5. Cooperation

11. Consideration of establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 based on voluntary contributions.²²

Article 6. General measures for conservation and sustainable use

12. Review, revision, updating, and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.²³

13. Further development of approaches on the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development processes.²⁴

Article 7. Identification and monitoring

14. Development and implementation of national biodiversity targets, indicator framework, and monitoring programmes.²⁵

Article 8. In situ conservation

15. Community conserved areas, national and regional systems of protected areas, further development of the portfolio on protected areas towards comprehensive, representative and effectively managed protected area systems addressing system wide needs, country driven early action activities of the programme of work on protected areas to enable its full implementation, projects that demonstrate the role-protected areas play in addressing climate change, and address the long-term financial sustainability of protected areas, including through different mechanisms and instruments.²⁶

16. Diversity of species and genetic resources:²⁷

- (a) Projects that promote the conservation and/or sustainable use of endemic species;
- (b) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020;

¹⁸ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.18.

¹⁹ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.21.

²⁰ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.22.

²¹ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.17.

²² Decision X/25, paragraph 16; decision XI/5, paragraph 26; and also decision X/23, paragraph 7; decision XI/8.D, paragraph 2.

²³ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.1; decision X/25, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4; decision XI/5, paragraph 27; and also decision X/2, paragraphs 9 and 11; decision X/5, paragraph 4; decision XI/2, paragraph 7; decision XII/2, A, paragraph 2, and B, preamble.

²⁴ Decision X/25, paragraph 5; and also decision X/6, paragraph 10.

²⁵ Decision X/24, annex, paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3; decision X/25, paragraphs 7 and 8; and also decision X/7, paragraph 7; decision X/39, paragraphs 8 and 13; decision XI/3, C, preamble.

²⁶ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.4; decision X/25, paragraphs 10 and 11; decision XI/5, paragraph 18; and also decision X/31, paragraphs 9, 10 and 13; decision XI/24, paragraphs 1 and 3.

²⁷ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.5; decision X/25, paragraph 9; decision XI/5, paragraphs 16 and 19; and also decision X/17, paragraph 5; decision XII/15, preamble.

(c) National and regional taxonomic capacity-building activities for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, and project components that address taxonomic needs in the achievement of the Convention's objectives;

(d) Projects that assist with the development and implementation, at national and regional levels, of the invasive alien species strategies and action plans, in particular those strategies and actions related to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems, capacity-building to prevent or minimize the risks of the dispersal and establishment of invasive alien species, improved prevention, rapid response and management measures to address threats of alien invasive species.

*Article 8(j) and related provisions*²⁸

17. (a) Inclusion of perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly women, in the financing of biodiversity and ecosystem services;

(b) Implementation of programmes and projects that strengthen the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, advance community conservation, promote customary sustainable use of biological diversity;

Article 9. Ex situ conservation

Article 10. Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

18. Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines at the national level to ensure that the use of biological diversity is sustainable.²⁹

19. Sustainable tourism that contributes to the objectives of the Convention.³⁰

Article 11. Incentive measures

20. Development and implementation of innovative measures, including in the field of economic incentives and those which assist developing countries to address situations where opportunity costs are incurred by local communities and to identify ways and means by which these can be compensated.³¹

Article 12. Research and training

21. Project components addressing targeted research which contributes to conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components including research for reversing current trends of biodiversity loss and species extinction.³²

Article 13. Public education and awareness

22. Development and implementation of communication, education and public awareness priority activities at the national and regional levels.³³

Article 14. Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

Article 15. Access to genetic resources

23. Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing³⁴

²⁸ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.6; decision X/25, paragraph 12; decision XI/5, paragraph 24; decision XII/30, paragraph 21; and also decision X/42, paragraph 6; decision XI/3, B, paragraph 7; decision XI/14, paragraphs 8 and 9.

²⁹ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.7.

³⁰ Decision XII/30, paragraph 23 and also decision X/22, paragraph 13(e).

³¹ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.8.

³² Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.9.

³³ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.10.

³⁴ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.11; decision X/25, paragraph 13; decision XI/5, paragraphs 21, 22 and 23, and appendix I; decision XII/30, paragraphs 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and appendix II; and also decision X/1, paragraph 14; decision XI/1, D, paragraph 2 and E, paragraph 2; NP-1/6; NP-1/8, annex I, paragraph 29(a); and NP-1/9, annex, paragraph 34.

- (a) Projects that support the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing;
- (b) Building the capacity to develop, implement and enforce domestic legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components, including through:
 - (i) Identification of relevant actors and existing legal and institutional expertise for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable of Benefits Arising from their Utilization;
 - (ii) Taking stock of domestic measures relevant to access and benefit-sharing in light of the obligations of the Nagoya Protocol;
 - (iii) Development and/or amendment of access and benefit-sharing legislative, administrative or policy measures with a view to implementing their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol;
 - (iv) Establishment of ways to address transboundary issues;
 - (v) Establishment of institutional arrangements and administrative systems to provide access to genetic resources, ensure benefit-sharing, support compliance with prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms and monitor the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, including support for the establishment of check points;
- (c) Building the capacity to negotiate mutually agreed terms to promote equity and fairness in negotiations in the development and implementation of access and benefit-sharing agreements, including through enhanced understanding of business models and intellectual property rights;
- (d) Building the capacity of Parties to develop their endogenous research capabilities to add value to their own genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources through, inter alia, technology transfer; bioprospecting and associated research and taxonomic studies; and the development and use of valuation methods;
- (e) Addressing the capacity needs and priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders; in particular projects that would:
 - (i) Encourage their participation in legal, policy and decision-making processes;
 - (ii) Assist in building their capacity related to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, such as through the development of community protocols, model contractual clauses and minimum requirements for mutually agreed terms to secure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits;
- (f) Enabling Parties to actively participate in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and use the best available communication tools and Internet-based systems for access and benefit-sharing;
- (g) Raising-awareness of the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and related access and benefit sharing issues, notably through the development and implementation of national and regional awareness-raising strategies;
- (h) Making financial resources available to assist Parties in preparing their national report;
- (i) Supporting the implementation of the strategic framework for capacity-building and development in support of the implementation of the Protocol.

Article 16. Access to and transfer of technology

24. Preparation of national assessments of technology needs for implementation of the Convention, and promotion of access to, transfer of and cooperation for joint development of technology,³⁵

*Article 17. Exchange of information**Article 18. Technical and scientific cooperation*

25. Strengthening biodiversity information systems such as, inter alia, training, technology and processes related to the collection, organization, maintenance and updating of data and information, and building capacity for the clearing-house mechanism, such as training in information and communication technologies and web content management that enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to fully benefit from modern communication, including the Internet.³⁶

Article 19. Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

26. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:³⁷

(a) Ratification and implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress;

(b) Development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks, in particular biosafety legislation;

(c) Identification of living modified organisms or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health;

(d) Building, consolidating and enhancing sustainable human resource capacity in risk assessment and risk management;

(e) Capacity-building on socioeconomic considerations;

(f) Capacity-building to take appropriate measures in cases of unintentional release of living modified organisms;

(g) Enhancing capacity for public awareness, education and participation regarding the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, including for indigenous peoples and local communities;

(h) Public participation and information sharing, and use of the Biosafety Clearing-House;

(i) National reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Article 20. Financial resources

27. Development and implementation of country-specific resource mobilization strategies.³⁸

Article 21. Financial mechanism

28. The Global Environment Facility should take the following action to further improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism:³⁹

(a) Including gender in the financing of biodiversity and ecosystem services;⁴⁰

³⁵ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.12; decision X/25, paragraph 14; and also decision X/16, paragraph 3(c).

³⁶ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.13; decision X/25, paragraph 15; and also decision X/15, paragraph 4.

³⁷ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.14; decision X/25, paragraph 20; decision XI/5, paragraph 28 and appendix II; decision XII/30, paragraphs 13 and 15, and appendix I; and BS-V/5; BS-V/2, preamble; BS-V/14, paragraph 6; BS-V/16, annex I, paragraph 15; BS-VI/5; BS-VI/2, preamble; BS-VI/3, annex I, paragraphs 31 and 34; BS-VI/14 preamble; BS-VII/5; BS-VII/2, preamble, paragraphs 5 and 6.

³⁸ Decision X/25, paragraph 6; and also decision X/3, paragraph 4.

³⁹ Decision X/24, annex, E, paragraph 2.

⁴⁰ Decision X/24, annex, E, paragraph 2.8; decision XII/7, annex, II, paragraph 7.

(b) Project procedures.⁴¹

- Further streamline its project cycle with a view to making project preparation simpler, more transparent and more country-driven;
- Further simplify and expedite procedures for approval and implementation, including disbursement, for GEF-funded projects, based on a flexible and national demand driven approach, and avoid additional and lengthy processes;
- Develop policies and procedures that fully comply with the guidance from the Conference of the Parties in a straightforward and timely manner;
- Increase its flexibility to respond to the thematic longer-term programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in accordance with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;
- Improve project information system, including through data sets and web-based data tools, to increase the accessibility of project information and allow for better tracking against the guidance from the Conference of the Parties;
- Consider the benefits to Parties, particularly small island developing States, of an appropriate balance between national and regional projects in the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

(a) *Catalytic role and co-financing*⁴²

- Mobilize co-financing and other modes of financing for its projects related to implementation of the Convention, , and apply co-financing arrangements in ways that do not create unnecessary barriers and costs for recipient Parties to access GEF funds;
- Support diffusion, and facilitate replication and scaling-up, of new and innovative financing mechanism initiatives that have proved to be successful;
- Enhance its catalytic role in mobilizing new and additional financial resources while not compromising project goals;

(b) *Incremental costs*⁴³

- Apply in a more flexible, pragmatic and transparent manner the incremental cost principle;

(c) *Sustainability*⁴⁴

- Promoting exchange of experience and lessons learned in addressing sustainability of funded projects on biological diversity.

(d) *Country ownership*⁴⁵

- Promote genuine country ownership through greater involvement of participant countries in GEF-funded activities;
- Promote utilization of regional and local expertise and be flexible to accommodate national priorities and regional needs within the objectives of the Convention;
- Encourage collaboration at national level between national focal points for the Convention, for related environmental agreements and for the Global Environment Facility, including through the projects supported by the Facility, and including through regional and national workshops for the focal points;

⁴¹ Decision X/24, annex, E, paragraph 2.1; decision XI/5, paragraphs 3 and 4 and decision XII/30, paragraph 8(b).

⁴² Decision X/24, annex, E, paragraph 2.2; decision XI/5, paragraph 5 and decision XII/30, paragraphs 7 and 8(a).

⁴³ Decision X/24, annex, E, paragraph 2.3.

⁴⁴ Decision X/24, annex, E, paragraph 2.9.

⁴⁵ Decision X/24, annex, E, paragraph 2.5.

*(e) Compliance and collaboration of agencies*⁴⁶

- Promote efforts to ensure that the implementing agencies fully comply with the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria of the Conference of the Parties in their support for country-driven activities funded by the Global Environment Facility;
- Undertake efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the process of cooperation and coordination between the implementing agencies with a view to improving the processing and delivery systems of the Global Environment Facility, and to avoid duplication and parallel processes;

*(f) Monitoring and evaluation*⁴⁷

- Consult with the Executive Secretary in relevant review processes undertaken by the Global Environment Facility that affect the financial mechanism of the Convention;
- Include in its monitoring and evaluation activities the assessment of the compliance with the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria established by the Conference of the Parties;
- Elaborate and transmit to the Conference of the Parties, well-summarized evaluation products and full evaluation reports relevant to biological diversity and to the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;
- Include in its regular report findings, conclusions and recommendations of all relevant evaluations of the GEF Evaluation Office;

*(g) Small grants programme*⁴⁸

- Continue its expansion of the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility to other developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States;

Article 22. Relationship with other international conventions

29. Projects and activities to improve synergies among relevant multilateral environment agreements;⁴⁹

Article 26. Reports

30. Preparation of the future national reports;⁵⁰

*C. Eligibility criteria**Convention on Biological Diversity*⁵¹

31. Only developing countries that are Parties to the Convention are eligible to receive funding upon the entry into force of the Convention for them. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, projects that seek to meet the objectives of conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components are eligible for financial support from the institutional structure.

32. The Global Environment Facility continues to provide financial resources to Parties with economies in transition for biodiversity-related projects.

⁴⁶ Decision X/24, annex, E, paragraph 2.4.

⁴⁷ Decision X/24, annex, E, paragraph 2.6.

⁴⁸ Decision X/24, annex, E, paragraph 2.7.

⁴⁹ Decision XI/5, paragraph 20; decision XII/30, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 14; and also decision XI/6, paragraph 16.

⁵⁰ Decision X/24, annex, paragraph 4.24; decision X/25, paragraph 17; decision XI/5, paragraph 25; and also decision X/10, paragraph 5.

⁵¹ Decision X/24, annex, C, paragraphs 1 and 2.

*Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*⁵²

33. All developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including countries among these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, are eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility.

34. All developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including countries among these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, which are Parties to the Convention and provide a clear political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol, shall also be eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility for the development of national biosafety frameworks and the development of national biosafety clearing-houses and other necessary institutional capabilities to enable a non-Party to become a Party. Evidence of such political commitment shall take the form of a written assurance to the Executive Secretary that the country intends to become a Party to the Protocol on completion of the activities to be funded.

*Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing*⁵³

35. All developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, which are Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, are eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility in accordance with its mandate.

36. Developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition that are Parties to the Convention and provide a clear political commitment towards becoming Parties to the Protocol, shall also be eligible for funding by the Global Environment Facility⁵⁴ for the development of national measures and institutional capabilities in order to enable them to become a Party. Evidence of such political commitment, accompanied by indicative activities and expected milestones, shall take the form of a written assurance to the Executive Secretary that the country intends to become a Party to the Nagoya Protocol on completion of the activities to be funded.

D. Reporting from the GEF Council to the Conference of the Parties

37. The report from the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties should be made available three months prior to an ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties as well as with updates as appropriate, and in accordance with rules 28 and 54 of the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary should make it available in all six official languages of the United Nations.⁵⁵

38. The Global Environment Facility should improve results-based reporting on the total contribution of the Global Environment Facility to achieving the objectives of the Convention, including the Facility's contribution to incremental-cost financing and leveraging co-financing.⁵⁶

39. The Global Environment Facility should report on its implementation of the four-year outcome oriented framework of programme priorities and how it responds to the individual elements.⁵⁷

40. The Global Environment Facility should make available a preliminary draft of its report to the Conference of the Parties, particularly focusing on the response of the Global Environment Facility to previous guidance from the Conference of the Parties, to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation prior to the meeting of

⁵² Decision X/24, annex, C, paragraphs 3 and 4.

⁵³ Decision XII/30, paragraphs 19 and 20.

⁵⁴ The original phrase here "for up to four years after the Nagoya Protocol has entered into force" is proposed for deletion. See UNEP/CBD/ NP/COP-MOP/2/5.

⁵⁵ Decision X/24, annex, D, paragraph 1.

⁵⁶ Decision X/24, annex, D, paragraph 2.

⁵⁷ Decision XI/5, paragraph 1.

the Conference of the Parties at which the report will be formally considered, with a view to promoting effective and timely consideration of the information provided in the report.⁵⁸

41. The Global Environment Facility should explore ways to balance the comprehensiveness and conciseness of the report of the Global Environment Facility, acknowledging the need to demonstrate progress in programming resources towards achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.⁵⁹

42. The Global Environment Facility should indicate in its report to the Conference of the Parties, how it plans to respond to the report on the determination of funding requirements, pursuant to paragraph 5.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding.⁶⁰

E. Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

43. The review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism will be conducted every four years and this review should coincide with the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.⁶¹

F. Sixth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund

44. The updated list of developed country Parties and other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties in accordance with Article 20, paragraph 2 of the Convention, is contained in the annex to decision VIII/18.

45. The developed country Parties and others are invited to increase their financial contributions through the financial mechanism during the replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.

46. The Global Environment Facility is urged, in the process of replenishment, to give due consideration to all aspects of the needs assessment report on the levels of funding for biodiversity.

47. The needs assessment report should be transmitted to the Global Environment Facility for consideration, so that the Global Environment 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.

48. In anticipation of the next replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the determination of funding requirements should be undertaken for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

G. Inter-Secretariat cooperation

49. Participation of a representative of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention and of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility is requested in respective meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel on a reciprocal basis.⁶²

50. The Executive Secretary should promote, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, exchange of experience and good practice in financing for biological diversity.⁶³

51. The Executive Secretary and the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility should continue to strengthen inter-secretariat cooperation and collaborate with the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility and the Global Environment Facility agencies.⁶⁴

⁵⁸ Decision XII/30, paragraph 8(e).

⁵⁹ Decision XII/30, paragraph 8(d).

⁶⁰ Decision XII/30, paragraph 12.

⁶¹ Decision X/24, annex, E, paragraph 1; decision XI/5, paragraph 7.

⁶² Decision X/24, annex, G, paragraph 1.

⁶³ Decision X/24, annex, G, paragraph 2.

⁶⁴ Decision X/24, annex, G, paragraph 3; decision XI/5, paragraph 13 and decision XII/30, paragraphs 8(c) and 9.

H. Other matters related to guidance

52. Guidance to the financial mechanism should be incorporated into a single decision, including the identification of priority issues which will provide support for cross-cutting issues and capacity-building, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in a manner that: (a) is transparent; (b) allows participation; and (c) allows full consideration of its other decisions.⁶⁵

53. Guidance to the financial mechanism, for a specific replenishment period, consists of a consolidated list of programme priorities that defines what to be financed, and an outcome oriented framework, taking into account the strategies and plans under the Convention and its Protocols, and associated indicators. With a view to further streamlining guidance to the Global Environment Facility, proposed new guidance for the financial mechanism will be reviewed to avoid or reduce repetitiveness, to consolidate previous guidance where appropriate and to prioritize guidance in the context of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.⁶⁶

Annex III

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FIFTH REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM

Objectives

1. In accordance with Article 21, paragraph 3, the Conference of the Parties will review the effectiveness of the mechanism, including the criteria and guidelines referred to in Article 21, paragraph 2, with a view to taking appropriate action to improve the effectiveness of the mechanism as necessary. For this purpose, effectiveness will include:

(a) The conformity of the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism, with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) The effectiveness of the financial mechanism in providing and mobilizing new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties, in particular least developed country Parties and small island developing State Parties, and Parties with economies in transition to meet the agreed full incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of this Convention and its Protocols and to benefit from its provisions, taking into account the need for predictability, adequacy and timely flow of funds;

(c) The efficiency of the financial mechanism in providing and delivering financial resources, as well as, in accordance with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, overseeing, monitoring and evaluating the activities financed by its resources, as appropriate;

(d) The efficiency and effectiveness of the activities funded by the Global Environment Facility on the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of its three objectives, as well as, as applicable, of the Protocols under the Convention, taking into account the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;

(e) The effectiveness and relevance of guidance from the Conference of the Parties to the Global Environment Facility;

(f) The coherence with other Rio conventions.

Methodology

2. The review will cover all the activities of the institutional structure operating as the financial mechanism, in particular for the period from July 2010 to June 2017.

3. The review shall draw upon, inter alia, the following sources of information:

⁶⁵ Decision X/24, annex, B, paragraph 2.

⁶⁶ Decision X/24, paragraphs 1-7 and annex, B, paragraph 3; decision XII/30, paragraphs 5 and 10.

- (a) Information provided by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States as well as Parties with economies in transition, as well as developed country Parties, regarding the financial mechanism;
- (b) Reports prepared by the Global Environment Facility, including its reports to the Conference of the Parties, as well as assessments by the GEF agencies;
- (c) Reports of the GEF Evaluation Office that relate to GEF biodiversity activities within the framework of the financial mechanism, including the Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS6);
- (d) Information provided by other relevant stakeholders.

Criteria

4. The effectiveness of the financial mechanism shall be assessed taking into account, inter alia:
- (a) The actions taken by the financial mechanism in response to the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, as consolidated in the annex to decision X/24, as well as decisions X/25, XI/5 and XII/30;
 - (b) The number of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition that receive timely, adequate and predictable funds to meet the agreed full incremental cost to them of implementing measures that fulfil the obligations under the Convention and its Protocols;
 - (c) Views of Parties as to the performance and conditions for the provision of GEF resources, including access modalities. Developing country Parties, in particular least developed country Parties and small island developing States as well as Parties with economies in transition are invited to comment especially on the provision of GEF resources through the implementing and Executing Agencies.
 - (d) The quantity, nature and sources of financial resources provided through the financial mechanism for the attainment of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols;

Procedures for implementation

5. Under the authority and with the support of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary shall contract an experienced independent evaluator to undertake the review, in accordance with the above objectives, methodology and criteria.
6. The evaluator will design a questionnaire using the criteria adopted in the present terms of reference, to be sent to the Parties and other stakeholders as soon as practicable, and prepare a compilation and synthesis of the information received.
7. The evaluator will undertake such desk studies, interviews, field visits and collaboration with the Global Environment Facility and its Independent Evaluation Office, as may be required, for the preparation of the review, subject to the availability of resources.
8. The review will present results disaggregated, among other things, by subregional, regional, donor and recipient Party perspectives.
9. The draft synthesis report and recommendations of the evaluator will be made available to GEF for its review and comments. Such comments shall be included in the documentation and identified by source.
10. Based on the synthesis report and recommendations of the independent evaluator, the Executive Secretary shall prepare, in consultation with the GEF, a draft decision on the fifth review of the financial mechanism, including specific suggestions for action to improve the effectiveness of the mechanism if necessary, for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting to provide its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.
11. The Executive Secretary shall submit all the relevant documents to Parties at least three months prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
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