



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.61/Inf.5  
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61<sup>st</sup> GEF Council Meeting  
December 6 - 10, 2021  
Virtual Meeting

**LONG-TERM VISION ON COMPLEMENTARITY, COHERENCE AND COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY:**

**SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION  
AT THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND BOARD**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	1
Summary of GEF Council Deliberations .....	1
Comments from GCF Board .....	2
Response from GCF Leadership .....	3
Follow-up Actions .....	4

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Long-term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence and Collaboration (LTV) between the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was submitted to the GEF Council as Working Document at its 60<sup>th</sup> Meeting, on June 14-18, 2021.<sup>1</sup>
2. The GEF Council welcomed the document and in particular the establishment of a joint steering committee. The Council looked forward to the annual joint progress report to be submitted to the GEF Council and the GCF Board and requested the GEF Secretariat to inform the Council at its 61<sup>st</sup> session about comments received by the GCF Board and the GEF Council and potential follow-up actions as applicable.
3. The LTV was then presented to the twenty-ninth meeting of the GCF Board (B.29) on June 28 2021, as Annex II to the “Report on the activities of the Secretariat.” The report, which was considered by the GCF Board as agenda item number 5,<sup>2</sup> and covered a number of activities in addition to the LTV, was noted by the GCF Board after extensive comments from Board Members and Alternates.
4. During his remarks presenting the LTV to the GCF Board, the GCF Executive Director affirmed that the Secretariats of both GCF and GEF were deeply convinced of the importance of maximizing synergies. The Executive Director also informed the GCF Board that GCF did not have to approve this action plan as it had had a standing framework agreement on complementarity and coherence with all climate funds since B.17.

## SUMMARY OF GEF COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS

5. As summarized in Highlights of the Council’s Discussions<sup>3</sup>, the Secretariat presented the LTV document to the 60<sup>th</sup> GEF Council, indicating the mission of both institutions is to support climate action towards the goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Both institutions are committed to maximizing the impact and transformational change, and support highest international practice on accountability, transparency, gender, and safeguards.
6. The Secretariat highlighted that there are differences and unique strengths between the two institutions, and that it is important to understand the respective focus of each institution, to minimize potential complications, and generate long-lasting outcomes in climate change mitigation as well as adaptation on the ground. The GEF Trust Fund, LDCF and SCCF are part of this vision.

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<sup>1</sup> GEF, 2021, [Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility](#), Council Document GEF/C.60/08.

<sup>2</sup> GCF, 2021, [Report on the activities of the Secretariat](#), Board Document GCF/B.29/Inf.07.

<sup>3</sup> GEF, 2021, [Highlights of the Council’s Discussions – 60<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting](#), Council Document GEF/C.60/Highlights.

7. Various Council members provided positive comments on the LTV, encouraging the complementarity within the mandates of both funds. The Council further requested to be kept informed of the evolution of the LTV and its implementation.

#### **COMMENTS FROM GCF BOARD**

8. Comments on the LTV came from several GCF board members and alternates.

9. One board member, who is also a GEF Council member, especially welcomed progress on working with the GEF and other environmental funds, as well as the multilateral development banks, as a system, to combat climate change and biodiversity loss for healthy planet and healthy people. The board member stated he was glad to see GCF prioritize nature and nature-based solutions. He continued by stressing that complementarity and blending efforts between GEF and GCF to protect, serve and restore nature, to reduce emissions and to help and partner with climate-vulnerable populations like women and girls, and indigenous communities make sense. He also mentioned that the GEF Council had agreed to take up the matter at its December 2021 Council meeting, and instructed the GEF Secretariat to work with the GCF Secretariat to convey to GEF Council the views of the GCF Board members on the LTV. He noted that he hoped there would be an opportunity for the GCF Board members to convey their views before December, so that the GEF Council can benefit from the views of the GCF Board.

10. Another board member appreciated GCF's engagement with climate funds, such as with GEF and the Adaptation Fund, and noted that targets on complementarity and coherence are exceeded.

11. Another board member highlighted the LTV and shared the view that there is a lot of potential for synergy between the two Funds. The board member noted he was a little disappointed by the lack of ambition in the document as it stands, and that perhaps he would have liked to have seen more ambition. The board member would appreciate to see regular updates on the state of the LTV.

12. Another board member very much welcomed the LTV, and agreed with earlier comments on links between climate and biodiversity and that there is a lot that can be done. The board member presented two additional comments: first, he noted that all complementarity and coherence efforts should improve and simplify access for recipients, and enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the two funds. Second, commenting on entities and accreditation strategy of GCF, the GEF has a well-established network of partners, while the GCF partner network is growing in all directions. Without coordination of GEF and GCF partner institutions, coherence and complementarity in programming will be quite challenging.

13. One board member and the GEF Council member very much appreciated the LTV and the deepening collaboration between the two Funds, and noted it is important to ensure that donor resources are used effectively and not overbuild the finance space with redundancy. The LTV is a solid foundation to build on and presents opportunities to generate enhanced

outcomes. He also noted that the LTV was welcomed at the GEF Council and that he was looking forward to the status reports.

14. Another board member reflected on the type of future understanding which may be signed between the GCF and GEF, and suggested that solutions could be very constructive and important for recipient countries, such as for example in the case of the electric mobility initiative in Costa Rica.

15. Another board member commended the joint work on the LTV, and looked forward to the collaboration between the two entities.

16. Another board member welcomed the LTV and the collaboration efforts. However, he highlighted the differences between the two mechanisms in terms of mandates, priority areas and governance structures. While enhancing collaboration, he mentioned that the decision-making process of each institution should be respected and that efforts should be put in ensuring to take advantage of each other's comparative advantages, so as to enhance complementarity of the institutions.

17. Another board member, who also serves on the GEF Council, highlighted the need to avoid the situation of critical projects not getting support and duplication of same projects going to different funds by Agencies. A concrete proposal for the Mediterranean region with private sector was highlighted as a potential example of collaboration within the region.

#### **RESPONSE FROM GCF LEADERSHIP**

18. The GCF Executive Director made the following remarks in response to the comments raised by the Board Members on the LTV.

19. The GCF ED stated that a call for inputs from all GCF Board members could be organized.

20. In response to the comment by one board member on the level of ambition of the LTV, the GCF Executive Director indicated that the LTV is actually fairly ambitious. He noted the LTV is a framework that already includes specific examples of pilot activities such as a joint Amazon-wide Program, collaboration on the Great Green Wall initiative for Sahelian countries, joint electric mobility platforms, innovative adaptation technologies, in addition to the components relative to promotion of joint programming and other elements.

21. The GCF Executive Director also mentioned that specific updates and annual "evaluation" (note: this refers to the annual joint report) will be provided to GEF Council and GCF Board on annual basis, including updates on the work on knowledge products and methodologies.

22. The GCF Executive Director noted that the GCF Secretariat is interested in managing in an extremely active manner the cooperation framework with the GEF, as this could also educate any potential additional effort with other climate funds.

23. Finally, the GCF Executive Director noted that synergy and coherence can have a lot of benefits to minimize duplication of same projects being presented to the two funds and to support critical projects that should not be disregarded.

#### **FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

24. Following the GEF Council and GCF Board meetings, the two Secretariats continued to work together to launch the LTV. The Steering Committee has been constituted based on an agreed terms of reference. The Steering Committee has organized an initial discussion in September 2021, and will hold an in-person meeting at the Glasgow UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting in November 2021.

25. The Steering Committee members from the GCF comprise of the following:

- Pa Osman Jarju / Carolina Fuentes, Director of Country Programming
- Kavita Sinha, Deputy Director, Mitigation and Adaptation
- Simon Wilson, Head of Communications
- Juan Pablo Hoffmaister, Multilateral Governance Manager

26. The Steering Committee members from the GCF comprise of the following:

- Gustavo Fonseca, Director of Programs
- Chizuru Aoki, Lead Environmental Specialist
- Robert Bisset, Head of Communications
- Filippo Berardi, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Focal Area Coordinator for Climate Change Mitigation

27. Progress has been made in the discussions on major initiatives as well as on communications. The two funds are organizing a joint GEF-GCF pavilion at the UNFCCC COP in Glasgow, and hold joint Ministerial events on the LTV, Great Green Wall, Amazon among others. These events are expected to provide opportunities for interested countries and institutions to share their perspectives, learn about possibilities for joint programming and major initiatives by the GEF and GCF, and to facilitate coordination.

28. The two organizations also organized joint events at the IUCN World Congress in September 2021 on the LTV and collaboration among the two funds. The GEF CEO and the GCF Executive Director also briefed the United Nations Secretary General on the LTV and partnership on 22 October 2021, and elaborated on the potential of the two funds to support the Secretary General's Our Common Agenda, which is a call to action to accelerate the implementation of global agreements, particularly on climate change, and partnership.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations, 2021, [Our Common Agenda – Report of the Secretary General](#), New York.

29. A joint progress report will be prepared and submitted to the 62<sup>nd</sup> GEF Council meeting and the nearest GCF board meeting.