



**Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
Twenty-fourth session**

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 17–27 August 2026

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

Securing of additional investments and relations with financial mechanisms

**Report by the Global Environment Facility on the financing of programmes and projects concerning
desertification, land degradation and drought**

Financing of programmes and projects concerning desertification, land degradation and drought

Report by the Global Environment Facility

1. The memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) adopted in decision 11/COP.13 provides that the GEF will submit a report to each regular session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) through the secretariat on the financing of programmes and projects concerning desertification, land degradation and drought.

2. In decision 9/COP.16, the COP invited the GEF to strengthen its support for countries in programming Land Degradation Focal Area resources to combat desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) and achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, including in the context of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes. It also requested the GEF to support Parties to meet their reporting obligations in a timely manner, and invited the GEF to further align the Land Degradation Focal Area strategy implementation with the Convention goals to enable countries to address their DLDD priorities, in particular through sustainable land management and the restoration of degraded lands. In addition, it invited the GEF, to enhance knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and the dissemination of sustainable land management best practices. The COP also requested GEF support and partnership engagement for both the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative as well as upstream engagement with key partners, including the Southern African Development Community in support of the Southern Africa Great Green Wall Initiative. It also invited the GEF to strengthen its efforts in this regard to enable countries to address their desertification, land degradation and drought priorities, in particular through sustainable land management, integrated and transboundary water resource management, drought resilience and the restoration of degraded lands. It requested the GEF, within its mandate, to continue to support the implementation of the national drought plans and other drought-related policies, especially strengthening early warning, preparedness, mitigation and recovery, rehabilitation and monitoring systems, and capacity-building. Furthermore, the COP invited the GEF, under its ninth replenishment, to prioritize the allocation of resources to proactive drought management to support Parties in the implementation of their actions.

3. The report issued by the GEF is made available at the following link: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-report-unccd-cop17> for review by the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention. A draft decision will be made available



on the UNCCD webpage¹ with a view to formulating a final decision for consideration by the COP.

¹ <https://www.unccd.int/resources/other/collaboration-global-environment-facility>.