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GEF-8 Integrated Programme on Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains

Global Project Steering Committee Meeting and First Annual Programme Meeting

Draft concept note March 2026

Date and Time	2.5 days in the week of 13 - 18 April 2026
Format	<i>In person (Hybrid option possible), Integrated with the GEF Global Forum for Integrated Programmes</i>
Interpretation	<i>Simultaneous English and Spanish interpretation will be available</i>
Location	UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya

Background:

The GEF-8 Integrated Programme (IP) Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains brings together eight country child projects across Latin America and Asia focusing on the fashion and construction sectors, or both. The IP aims to drive transformational change by reducing hazardous chemical use, promoting circularity, and strengthening transparency and sustainability across global supply chains.

As part of its governance and coordination commitments, the Supply Chains IP has committed to convening annual programme coordination meetings, held back-to-back where possible with Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings and the annual Global Forum on Fashion and Construction Value Chains. These meetings are intended to provide a structured space for reviewing progress, aligning national efforts with programme-wide objectives, and identifying opportunities for collaboration and replication.

In 2026, the GEF Global Forum for Integrated Programmes (13–17 April 2026) presents an opportunity to convene the first Annual Programme Coordination Meeting of the Supply Chains IP alongside the broader GEF 8 IP community. Holding the meeting in conjunction with the GEF Global Forum will enable Supply Chains IP countries and partners to engage directly with other IPs, contribute to cross-IP dialogue, and increase the visibility of early experiences emerging from the programme.

The Annual Programme Coordination Meeting will be narrower in scope and attendance than the November Global Forum on Fashion and Construction. It is primarily an internal programme event, and will focus on programme delivery, learning, and coordination, rather than global advocacy. Key focus areas will include:

- Early implementation experiences and lessons from country projects
- Practical challenges related to thematic topics including lessons from participating partners
- Opportunities for joint knowledge products, pilots, and peer support
- Alignment with global processes, including the GFC and other relevant initiatives

The annual programme meeting will convene approximately **40–60 participants**, including:

- **Supply Chains IP Country Project Teams:** (Cambodia, India, Mongolia, Pakistan, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru and Trinidad & Tobago)

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- Executing Agency representatives (e.g. Project Manager or Technical Lead).
- Project's National focal point to the Global project steering committee
- **GEF Secretariat**
- **Implementing Agencies:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
- **Other key stakeholders:** sister & cousin projects, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), co-financing partners, global industry actors and other relevant stakeholders, including private sector, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), development banks and research institutes already contributing to the Programme's implementation.

This first annual meeting will be programmatic rather than promotional in nature. It will not replicate the scale or public-facing role of the Global Forum on Fashion and Construction planned for November 2026 but instead function as an internal-facing yet collaborative convening focused on learning, coordination, and forward planning. It will also serve as a key milestone in building momentum towards the November Global Fashion and Construction Forum.

Objective:

The objective of the First Annual Programme Coordination Meeting is to take stock of early implementation, strengthen programme-wide alignment and learning, and set shared priorities as the Supply Chains Integrated Programme moves into full implementation.

Outcomes:

- Reviewed progress and strengthened strategic alignment
 - Assessed early implementation across country projects, recent and forthcoming project launches, and global coordination activities.
 - Launched the programme-level monitoring and evaluation framework and agreed on baseline assumptions.
- Strengthened cross-country learning and collaboration
 - Exchanged lessons on shared implementation challenges and emerging solutions across countries and sectors.
 - Identified concrete opportunities for collaboration, replication, and joint problem solving.
- Priorities set and reinforced programme coherence
 - Clarified operational and technical priorities for the coming year, including preparation for the November Global Forum, priority knowledge products, and coordination mechanisms.
 - Strengthened shared ownership and coherence as the programme transitions into full implementation.
 - Built capacity of executing agency project managers through a dedicated training component.

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Scope and Strategic Positioning within the GEF Global IP Forum

The GEF Global Forum for Integrated Programmes (13–17 April 2026) will bring together all GEF IPs for thematic exchange, peer learning, and dialogue on integrated approaches. The Supply Chains IP will actively participate in the Forum's thematic sessions from 14–16 April, including learning from the experiences of established programmes showcasing where possible country experiences and highlighting implementation challenges.

The Supply Chains IP will capitalise on this convening by organizing a:

Global Coordination Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting – Mon 13 April 2026

A dive into the progress of the global coordination projects activities since the launch, and plans for 2026. This is a formal governance meeting for the global coordination project only, focused on oversight, progress review, and strategic guidance for the global coordination project.

Parallel Training of Project Managers – Mon 13 April 2026

A dedicated capacity-building session will be organised to support programme implementation by the project managers, with a focus on coordination arrangements, reporting and learning processes, and programme-wide expectations.

Participation in the GEF Forum – Tue 14 April 2026 - Thur 16 April 2026

First Annual Programme Coordination Meeting – Fri 17 April 2026

A dedicated full-day meeting for all Supply Chains IP internal stakeholders - countries and cofinancing partners.

Supply Chains IP Site Visits – Sat 18 April 2026

Targeted site visit to an initiative in Kenya's fashion value chain. **Mananasi Fibers** is a Kenyan company developing innovative pineapple fibre textiles. The visit will provide practical insight into sustainable materials and circular production approaches relevant to the objectives of the Integrated Programme.

This sequencing allows the programme to move from governance (through the PSC) to global thematic engagement (the GEF Forum), to focused programme-level learning, knowledge exchange and planning.

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Provisional Agendas

EA training

13 April 2026: 9:00 – 12:15

No interpretation available

Activity	Facilitator	Description
Welcome and Training Overview 09:00 – 09:15	Global Coordination Project (UNEP)	- Clarify why this training is being held - Set expectations for Executing Agencies' role within the Integrated Programme - Explain how this session links to the Steering Committee meeting (governance), and the Programme Coordination Meeting (learning and alignment)
Understanding the Integrated Programme Logic 09:15 – 10:00	UNEP Implementing Agency	- The Supply Chains IP theory of change - How country projects contribute to: - systems transformation, - chemicals risk reduction, - circularity outcomes - What "programme coherence" means in practice
10:00 - 10:15 Pause		
Programme Coordination, Roles and Expectations 10:15 – 11:00	- Global Coordination Project - UNEP Implementing Agency	- Roles and responsibilities: - Executing Agencies - Implementing Agencies - Global Coordination Project - Coordination mechanisms: - Information-sharing - Peer learning - Engagement with partners - Expectations for participation in: - Annual programme meetings - Knowledge products - joint activities - Monitoring and evaluation - Regular EA calls, and Communities of Practice (e.g. on comms / gender) - PAG - Available resources - Programmatic Stakeholder engagement plan - Communications plan - IPLC plan - Gender action plan - Materials-Map - SharePoint platform for access to all the above information
Monitoring, Reporting and Learning at Programme Level	Global Coordination Project	- Overview of the programme monitoring and reporting framework - How country-level data feeds into programme-level learning

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11:00 – 12:15		- What information should be recorded to make reporting easier - Validation expectations (role of IAs) - Homework to test the Reporting template and guidelines over the course of the week
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Global Coordination PSC

13 April 2026: 9:00 – 12:15

English and Spanish interpretation available

Activity	Facilitator	Description
Welcome, introductions 09:00 – 09:10	UNEP IA	- Opening remarks (5 mins) - Round of introductions (5 mins)
Overview of project implementation 09:10 – 10:20	UNEP Implementing Agency	- Overall Implementation Progress (15 min) - Overview of Year 1 achievements - Delivery against approved workplan - Key implementation challenges and lessons learned - Knowledge Management and Communications Update (30 min) - Knowledge Needs Assessment – overview and results - Status on knowledge products initiated/delivered - Website and branding update Discussion (10 min)
10:20 - 10:35 Coffee/Tea Break		
Stakeholder Engagement Update 10:35 – 11:15	- Global Coordination Project - Implementing Agency	- Gender, Indigenous Peoples and stakeholder updates and action plans - Private sector and industry engagement in 2025 and upcoming activities. - Global Forum in November - Programme Advisory Group (in May)
Monitoring and Evaluation update 11:15 – 11:45	Global Coordination Project	- Overview of the programme monitoring and reporting framework - Updated roadmap of activities on M&E - Preferences for reporting format and the role of the IA's
Budget and Risk Oversight 11:45 – 12:00	- Global Coordination Project - Implementing Agency	- Planned vs actual Year 1 expenditures - Implementation bottlenecks and mitigation measures - Recap of 2026 budget + carryover from 2025

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Closing remarks 12:00 – 12:15	- Implementing Agency - GEF Secretariat	- Summary of Decisions and Next Steps - Final remarks
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Annual Programme Coordination Meeting

17 April 2026: 9:00 – 17:30

English and Spanish interpretation available

Time	Session	Speakers / session lead	Details
8:00 - 9:00 <u>Welcome and registration</u>			
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome & Opening Remarks	- UNEP IA - Project country - GEF Secretariat	Welcome remarks – UNEP / Global Coordination Project Reflections from the GEF Secretariat, including key messages from the Global Forum week Overview of meeting objectives and expected outcomes
09:30 – 10:45	Programme Progress and Strategic Learning Across Implementation Stages	- UNEP IA (overview) - Costa Rica - Trinidad and Tobago	- Programme-wide implementation status - Early lessons from projects operational for several months - Strategic implications for newly launched and upcoming projects. - What needs course correction early and where are risks emerging?
10:45 - 11:00 <u>Tea/coffee break</u>			
11:00 – 12:00	Strategic Reflections from GEF Experience and the Global Forum	- GEF Secretariat - Implementing Agencies - All EAs	- Open discussion - Short reflections followed by moderated discussion - Implications for integrated, multi-country delivery
12:00 - 13:00 <u>Lunch</u>			
13:00 – 14:30	Breakout Working Groups: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) <i>(Simultaneous interpretation will be available during plenary sessions only)</i>	- Reporting back leads (IAs) - UNIDO - FAO - UNEP <u>To be circulated in advance</u> - IPLC engagement strategy - Grievance mechanism	Participants work in small groups to: - Discuss the IPLC strategy in practical terms - Map planned and ongoing IPLC-related activities across country projects - Identify gaps, risks, and opportunities for alignment - Develop monitoring plans and an action plan on IPLC action plan (draft included in the IPLC engagement strategy already)
14:30 - 15:00	Strategic Alignment on Stakeholder Engagement	Global project	Programme-wide stakeholder engagement approach and updates on - PAG - Gender

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15:00 - 15:45	Stakeholder Partnerships	Attending partners (TBC)	10-minute presentations on what they are doing that is relevant to the Supply Chains IP. - How their work can contribute to programme objectives, learning, or scale-up.
15:45 - 16:15 <u>Tea/coffee break</u>			
16:15-17:00	Programmatic M&E	Global Coordination Project	- Monitoring and reporting framework, presentation on questions. - Present the indicators, Recap the guidance. - Updates made following lessons learned during the forum. - Approval and reporting timelines and next steps on GEBs
17:00-17:25	Program Communications and future events	Global Coordination Project	- Programme communications and visibility (incl. social media and branding) - Priority knowledge products (including traceability and transparency) - Key milestones ahead, including preparation for the November Global Forum on Fashion and Construction
17:25-17:30	Closing remarks	GEF Secretariat	