



GEF/GBFF.06/E/02

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6th GBFF Council Meeting

June 3, 2026

Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Agenda Item 08

FY27 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OFFICE UNDER THE GBFF

(Prepared by the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF)

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document “FY27 Program and Budget for the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF under GBFF,” approves the annual budget of US\$561,000 for the IEO to implement the work program for fiscal year 2027. The budget is within the three-year budget framework previously approved.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The performance, results, and sustainability of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) will be independently evaluated by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), in line with its mandate to ensure accountability and promote learning across all financial instruments managed by the GEF, including the GEF Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund. The IEO will conduct evaluations of GBFF-financed interventions in full accordance with the core principles of independence, credibility, and utility as outlined in the GEF Evaluation Policy (GEF/ME/C56/02/Rev.01). These evaluations will draw on more than two decades of robust, evidence-based learning on the effectiveness, modalities, and impacts of GEF-supported biodiversity initiatives worldwide.

1. PROGRESS REPORT AND FOUR-YEAR WORK PROGRAM

2. The IEO has completed two formative evaluations of the GBFF in accordance with the GEF IEO Work program approved at the first GBFF Council Meeting (GEF/GBFF/01/05). The first evaluation covered the period from the Fund's launch in August 2023 through March 2025 and was presented at the fourth GBFF council meeting in June 2025. The second evaluation assesses the early operational phase from August 2023 through March 2026 and will be presented to the sixth GBFF council in June 2026.

3. The first formative evaluation focused on foundational strategy, operations, and organizational design, assessing the Fund's initial contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Building on this, the second evaluation shifts toward strategic positioning and design readiness. It examines alignment with the KMGBF and GEF-9 directions, as well as the Fund's accelerated and competitive programming model. The evaluation assesses institutional performance across key dimensions including governance, equity, and resource mobilization, while also reviewing administrative efficiency, the role of international financial institutions (IFIs), and the Fund's strategic focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).

4. The first formative evaluation was based on a limited initial portfolio of four approved projects and 36 first-tranche projects from 2024 that were pending CEO endorsement. By the second formative evaluation, the portfolio expanded significantly to 82 projects across five selection rounds, representing \$362.1 million in financing. This includes 40 projects from the first tranche, all of which have submitted CEO endorsement requests and 42 additional projects from the second tranche. Following these assessments, the IEO will continue its evaluation through FY2026 and FY2027 to ensure that the Fund remains aligned with its approved work programs and strategic priorities.

2. IEO WORK PLAN FOR FY 2027

5. In FY2027, the Annual Evaluation Report of the GBFF will transition from an assessment of design readiness to an evaluation of early implementation results. The evaluation will draw on an expanded portfolio, reflecting a growing number of projects that have reached CEO endorsement and are entering implementation. It will be presented at the eighth GBFF Council meeting in June 2027.
6. The evaluation will include a review of the **implementation of recommendations** from earlier formative evaluations, including the timeliness and adequacy of management responses and the extent to which these have contributed to improvements in programming and operations.
7. The evaluation will assess **strategic coherence**, including alignment with the GEF-9 strategy, programming directions, and guidance from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It will also examine the effectiveness of GBFF governance arrangements, including the functioning of the Auxiliary Body and Advisory Board. In parallel, the evaluation will analyze **portfolio coherence and value addition**, including complementarity with GEF Trust Fund biodiversity activities and other funding sources, alignment with national biodiversity priorities, and the extent to which the competitive programming model supports country ownership.
8. The evaluation will include a review of **quality at entry and results architecture**, assessing project design, including results frameworks, theories of change, and alignment with GBFF indicators, as well as their potential to contribute to transformational outcomes. It will also examine Agency performance, including efficiency in progressing from Project Preparation Grants (PPGs) to CEO endorsement, with attention to the participation of newer and smaller Agencies. At the corporate level, the evaluation will assess the adequacy of the GBFF results architecture, including the use of biodiversity indicators and the integration of gender-responsive monitoring approaches.
9. The evaluation will further assess **implementation performance and early results**, drawing on Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) to review progress, emerging outcomes, and contributions to KMGBF targets. It will examine the continued relevance of risk assessments and the application of safeguard frameworks during implementation. In addition, the evaluation will review **resource mobilization efforts**, including the Fund's effectiveness in leveraging financing and engaging non-sovereign partners, such as the private sector, philanthropies, and international financial institutions.
10. Finally, the evaluation will assess **inclusion**, including support for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and engagement with Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It will examine whether projects are reaching intended

beneficiaries, whether barriers to participation persist, and whether learning mechanisms are in place to inform future programming.

11. Through select case studies and field validation, the evaluation will also assess implementation capacity, monitoring and reporting readiness at the project level.

3. GEF IEO BUDGET REQUEST

12. To implement the FY27 work program (Table 1), the IEO requests a budget allocation of US\$561,000, consistent with the amount approved at the first GBFF Council Meeting held on February 9, 2024*.

13. The GBFF evaluation work will benefit from synergies with the IEO’s broader biodiversity evaluations, as well as from efficiency gains through integration with the overall IEO work program.

Table 1: IEO Estimated GBF Fund Budget FY 2027 (\$ million)

Cost Type	FY27 (million)
Fixed Cost	
Salaries and Benefits	0.285
Subtotal (A)	0.285
Variable Cost	
Operations	0.030
Consultants	0.150
KM	0.010
Travel	0.030
Subtotal (B)	0.220
Total (C)	0.505
WBG Hosting Fee (D))	0.056
Total (A+B+C)	0.561

*The World Bank will set aside 11% of the approved budget for FY27, to cover the hosting fees for the Evaluation Function of the GBFF. The estimated fee has been calculated at \$56,000 based on the estimated actual disbursements that are expected in FY27.

References

GEF IEO (Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office). 2025 [Formative Evaluation of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund \(GBFF\)](#). GEF/GBFF/E/C.04/01 Washington, DC: GEF IEO.

GEF IEO (Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office). 2024. FY24 and FY25 [Administrative Budget and Business Plan for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund](#). GEF/GBFF.1/05. GEF, Washington, DC.

GEF IEO (Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office). 2025 [FY26 Administrative Budget and Business Plan for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund](#). GEF/GBFF.04/04. GEF Washington DC