



GEF/ME/C.41/03
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Agenda Item 8

Management Response to the Annual Thematic Evaluations Report 2011

(Prepared by the GEF Secretariat)

1. The following document presents the management response to GEF/ME/C.41/03, *Management Response to the Annual Thematic Evaluations Report 2011*, prepared by the GEF Evaluation Office. The management response has been prepared by the GEF Secretariat in consultation with the GEF Agencies.

2. The Secretariat welcomes the evaluation of the NCSAs and takes note of the associated findings. The report focuses on the relevance, efficiency, and main achievements of the NCSAs both at the local and aggregate level. As concluded in the evaluation, the NCSA initiative “is the first assessment of environmental capacity needs and capacity development priorities at the national level with a global reach.” The innovative approach and extensive reach of the NCSA initiative makes the lessons, experiences, and recommendations particularly useful.

3. As the evaluation concludes, the NCSA initiative was a central part of the GEF strategic framework for capacity development starting in 2001. The report notes that lessons from NCSAs have “provided direct feedback in the GEF for the development of the GEF-5 Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Strategy that includes five objectives.” In addition, the Secretariat in collaboration with UNDP and UNEP has developed a tracking tool with indicators to track the results of the GEF-5 capacity development objectives. This tool is being piloted with applicable projects approved in GEF-5. The Secretariat will coordinate with Agencies, particularly UNDP and UNEP, to analyze the experience and relevance of the capacity development tracking tool.

4. The Secretariat takes note of the fact that while 132 NCSAs have been completed (87%) they were not necessarily followed up by adequate investments to address capacity development priorities identified. The Secretariat is pleased that the evaluation found that the NCSA initiative was “highly relevant to the national sustainable development agendas and to the capacity development strategies of implementing agencies and of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).” The Secretariat also notes that despite obvious potential synergies between NCSAs and conventions processes, the evaluation found that little uptake of NCSA results were observed through the implementation processes of these conventions.

5. The Secretariat takes note of the evaluation’s first recommendation “**As GEF-5 strategies were approved and are now under implementation NCSA experiences and lessons learned should be incorporated in a new GEF strategic framework for capacity development for GEF-6.**” The Secretariat believes that capacity development is better achieved if situated within projects and programs that are directed towards GEF focal area objectives and therefore would take into consideration the findings of the review while developing the overall programming approach for GEF-6.

6. The Secretariat welcomes the finding that the Global Support Program (GSP) improved the implementation of NCSAs. The Secretariat will work through the Country Support Program (CSP) to ensure that the evaluation’s second recommendation that “**Knowledge products of NCSAs, including toolkits on how to do them, should be made available to agencies and GEF workshops such as Multi-stakeholder dialogues,**” is implemented. Relevant materials

and toolkits will be updated and distributed through the Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs) and Multi-stakeholder dialogues.

Agency Response:

7. UNDP, as the Implementing Agency (IA) responsible for the bulk of the NCSAs, is supportive of the evaluation and supports all of its recommendations. Specifically, UNDP is encouraged by:

“...,the evaluation’s finding that the Global Support Program (GSP) launched in 2005 improved the implementation of NCSAs. UNDP believes the partnership between the GEF Secretariat, UNEP and UNDP has been productive and provides an excellent example of a cost-effective and efficient collaboration that builds on comparative advantages which adds value and sound technical support to the countries. Furthermore, UNDP agrees that the GSP outputs and knowledge base (resource kit, monitoring framework/indicators, lessons, etc.), should be shared and utilized more extensively.

In conclusion, UNDP supports countries’ aspirations to develop their capacities to implement the Rio Conventions, including the need to improve public awareness of the global environment, mainstream environmental priorities into sectoral development policies, programmes and plans, and undertake environmental fiscal reform. The NCSA evaluation supports the global demand and need for critical cross-cutting capacities that are central to meeting and sustaining global environmental objectives. As we move forward in partnership with the GEF Secretariat, UN agencies, Convention Secretariats, donors, CSOs, and other partners, UNDP strives to continuously build upon existing strategies and development plans including country-driven integrated assessments such as the NCSAs, and promote cross-cutting and cross-sectoral approaches.”