

28th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting
June 4, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 05

**FY21 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION
OFFICE OF THE GEF UNDER THE LDCF AND SCCF**

(Prepared by the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF)

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.28/ME/01, “FY21 Work Program and Budget for the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF under LDCF/SCCF,” approves the multiannual budget of \$117,000 for the Independent Evaluation Office to carry the proposed work program for fiscal year 2021 and distributed as follows:

1. \$41,000 from the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and
2. \$76,000 from the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)

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INTRODUCTION

1. During fiscal year (FY) 2020 the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) completed the activities of the annual work program approved by the Least Developed Countries Fund/Special Climate Change Fund (LDCF/SCCF) Council at the 26th Council meeting in June 2019. The IEO prepared the LDCF/SCCF Annual Evaluation Report (AER) 2020 and the 2020 Update of the Program Evaluation of the LDCF is ongoing.

2. The IEO introduced the first multiannual budget for IEO's FY16–19 work program for LDCF/SCCF in June 2015. This is in line with the practice for the GEF Trust Fund and accommodates multiyear evaluations such as the Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS7) and knowledge sharing activities after the completion of evaluations. As the Funds mature, the number of evaluations that are multiyear will grow, whereas the budget is approved on an annual basis. Moving from a year-by-year work program to a four-year work program is in support of the development of a longer-term evaluation vision toward the Funds.

3. The IEO continues to provide quality evaluations on the performance and results of the LDCF and SCCF for accountability purposes, and the FY20–23 LDCF/SCCF indicative work program is organized around the three objectives of the *GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and Operational Improvements July 2018 to June 2022*: (1) reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for climate change adaptation; (2) mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience for systemic impact, and (3) foster enabling conditions for effective and integrated climate change adaptation. The IEO has also contributed evaluative evidence and lessons to help refine the strategic priorities contained in the GEF programming strategy on adaptation.

4. In June 2019, the LDCF/SCCF Council approved a budget for the IEO of \$93,000 for FY20. The IEO estimates that the budget will be fully utilized by the end of the fiscal year. This document presents a progress report on the activities completed by the IEO in FY20, and a work program and a budget for activities proposed for FY21.

PROGRESS REPORT AND FOUR-YEAR WORK PROGRAM

Annual Evaluation Report

5. The IEO has prepared the LDCF/SCCF AER 2020 to report on the performance of the LDCF and SCCF. It presents an assessment of the terminal evaluations of 29 completed projects, with a combined value of \$118.6 million in LDCF/SCCF funding, and \$280.8 in materialized cofinancing. This is the largest number of terminal evaluations since our annual analysis started seven years ago. The AER 2020 covers 21 LDCF and 8 SCCF projects and reports on project outcomes and sustainability, and the quality of project monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The AER 2020 also reports on innovative approaches, gender considerations in these projects, and includes a synthesis of lesson learned from the 2020 cohort of completed projects. This year

the AER is being submitted to Council as an information document (GEF/LDCF.SCCF.28/ME/Inf.01).

6. The management action records to track adoption of the LDCF/SCCF Council's decisions across the GEF partnership are also presented in the AER 2020. The two LDCF/SCCF Council decisions taken at the June 2016 meeting on the program evaluation of the LDCF and the May 2017 meeting on the program evaluation of SCCF are tracked in the AER 2020.

7. As the LDCF/SCCF portfolio matures, the submission of an increasing number of terminal evaluations¹ will permit a more detailed assessment of the portfolio's performance, including project results, processes that may affect project results, M&E arrangements, gender consideration, innovative approaches, lessons learned, and good practice. In FY21, the AER 2021 will assess the terminal evaluations that are submitted to the IEO during the 2020 calendar year.

Fund Program Evaluations

8. As part of the four-year work program of the IEO approved by the LDCF/SCCF Council at its 26th meeting in June 2019, the IEO is conducting the 2020 Update: Program Evaluation of the Least Developed Countries Fund. The main objective of this evaluation is to assess the progress made by the LDCF since the 2016 LDCF program evaluation and the extent to which the LDCF is achieving the objectives set out in the GEF adaptation strategy for 2018–22. The evaluation will also follow up on conclusions and recommendations of the 2016 LDCF evaluation and will provide the LDCF/SCCF Council with evaluative evidence of the Fund's relevance and emerging results. Evaluative evidence will be based on a portfolio review of project and program documentation, interviews with key stakeholders, and field visits to two countries, including two postcompletion evaluations. In FY20, the IEO prepared the approach paper that is available on the GEF IEO websites, completed the portfolio review, and carried out the field visits. In FY21, the IEO will complete the evaluation and it will be presented to the LDCF/SCCF Council in December 2020.

9. An update of the 2017 SCCF program evaluation² was also part of the four-year work program of the IEO approved by the LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2019. The number of closed SCCF projects has increased from 18 at the time of the 2017 evaluation to 30 today. The update will include an assessment of the GEF adaptation strategy for 2018–22, and will provide evaluative evidence on the progress toward SCCF objectives, as well as the major achievements and lessons learned from the operations of the SCCF in financing and promoting its broad mandate covering adaptation to climate change impacts and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, accessible to all developing countries that are parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Components of the evaluation will include a portfolio review of project and program documentation, interviews with key

¹ It is estimated that the number of terminal evaluations submitted will grow at an increasing rate.

² IEO, [Program Evaluation of the Special Climate Change Evaluation](#), May 2017. LDCF/SCCF Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.22/ME/02.

stakeholders, and field visits to two countries including two postcompletion evaluations. The evaluation will follow up on the conclusions and recommendations of the 2017 SCCF evaluation and will provide inputs for future revision of the GEF adaptation strategy and to the ongoing process of reshaping the architecture of climate finance. The IEO proposes to update the SCCF program evaluation in FY21. Travel to conduct the postcompletion evaluations are currently planned for February 2021 and in the event travel restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic are still in place, travel will be postponed.

Adaptation in the Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF

10. The IEO has synthesized conclusions and evaluative evidence on adaptation to climate change in OPS6 and OPS5. Adaptation to climate change will be included in OPS7 through various channels. OPS7 will bring in evaluative evidence from the AERs prepared during FY19–22, the updates of the program evaluation of the LDCF and the SCCF, and from GEF Trust Fund evaluations conducted by the IEO during GEF-7. Some of these evaluations will integrate adaptation to climate change, the recently completed strategic country cluster evaluations (SCCEs), in particular. The LDC SCCE and African Biomes SCCE included LDCF/SCCF projects and findings and conclusions that will feed into OPS7. Both SCCEs are being submitted to the Council as information documents in June 2020. Adaptation to climate change will also be included in special studies for OPS7 on, for example, performance, strategies and approaches, and gender equality. The approach paper for OPS7 is being submitted to the Council in June 2020. The work of including adaptation in OPS7 is planned for FY21–22.

Policy and Guidance

11. The *2010 Monitoring and Evaluation Policy* has been revised and a separate *GEF Evaluation Policy* was adopted by the GEF Council in June 2019. In FY20, the IEO started work on updating the *Guidance Document: Monitoring and Evaluation in the LDCF/SCCF* (2014)³ to reflect the change to a separate evaluation policy. This guidance document discusses the fundamentals of M&E practices within the context of the Funds' M&E policies and requirements and provides guidance to apply the M&E policy to LDCF/SCCF activities in accordance with GEF policies and practices. A peer review of the IEO, conducted in FY20, will be submitted to the June 2020 Council meeting as an information document. The peer review made recommendations for further revision of the updated evaluation policy, and, therefore, a revised GEF Evaluation Policy will be submitted to the Council in December 2020. Once adopted, the updated LDCF/SCCF guidance document will be finalized.

Knowledge Management

12. Evaluative evidence and findings from the IEO work program under LDCF/SCCF will be disseminated through several knowledge products and activities. In FY20, the IEO and the Earth-Eval Community of Practice, in collaboration with the International Development Evaluation Association, organized the Third International Conference on Evaluating

³ <http://www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/gef-me-ldcf-sccf-2014.pdf>

Environment and Development, which took place in October 2019. Adaptation to Climate Change was one of the themes of the conference.

13. In FY21, findings and recommendations from the 2020-updated LDCF program evaluation will be disseminated through a graphically edited report and knowledge products. These will be shared with LDCF/SCCF stakeholders and published on the IEO website. The IEO will report on the LDCF program evaluation in the report of the GEF to the conference of parties to the UNFCCC. Findings will also be shared through blog posts on Earth-Eval, an online community of practice hosted by the IEO. Dissemination of evaluative evidence will also take place at conferences, such as Adaptation Futures 2020, contingent on travel restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MULTIANNUAL EVALUATION BUDGET

14. The IEO introduced the first multiannual budget for IEO's FY16–19 work program for LDCF/SCCF in June 2015. This is in line with the practice for the GEF Trust Fund and accommodates multiyear evaluations such as OPSs and knowledge sharing activities after the completion of evaluations. Table 1 presents the estimated budget by activity and fiscal year for a total of \$340,000 for FY20–23. The IEO work program has been tailored so that the approved budgets will allow for an effective and efficient delivery of the proposed evaluation work. The amounts shown for the activities cover the cost of a senior evaluation officer from the IEO to manage and contribute to the activities, and the cost of other IEO staff to carry out the activities.

15. FY19 represents the fourth and final year for the GEF-6 cycle. An underrun of \$2,470 to LDCF and \$5,760 to SCCF has been returned to the Trustee.

16. The LDCF/SCCF Council approved a budget for the IEO of \$93,000 for FY20 at its 26th meeting in June 2019. The IEO estimates that the budget will be fully used by the end of FY20. The IEO requests the LDCF\SCCF Council's approval for the proposed annual budget of \$117,000 for FY21 to cover the cost of the activities in the work program presented above.

Table 1: Multiannual budget of the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF (thousands \$)

Evaluation Activity	FY20 Approved Budget	FY20 Estimated Expenses	FY21 Requested Budget	FY22	FY23	Total
LDCF						
Annual Evaluation Report	20	20	21	22	23	86
LDCF Evaluation	45	45	10	0	0	55
Adaptation in OPS7	0	0	10	15	0	25
Policy and Guidance	4	4	0	0	0	4
Sub-Total (A)	69	69	41	37	23	170
SCCF						
Annual Evaluation Report	20	20	21	22	23	86
SCCF Evaluation	0	0	45	10	0	55
Adaptation in OPS7	0	0	10	15	0	25
Policy and Guidance	4	4	0	0	0	4
Sub-Total (B)	24	24	76	47	23	170
Total (A+B)	93	93	117	84	46	340