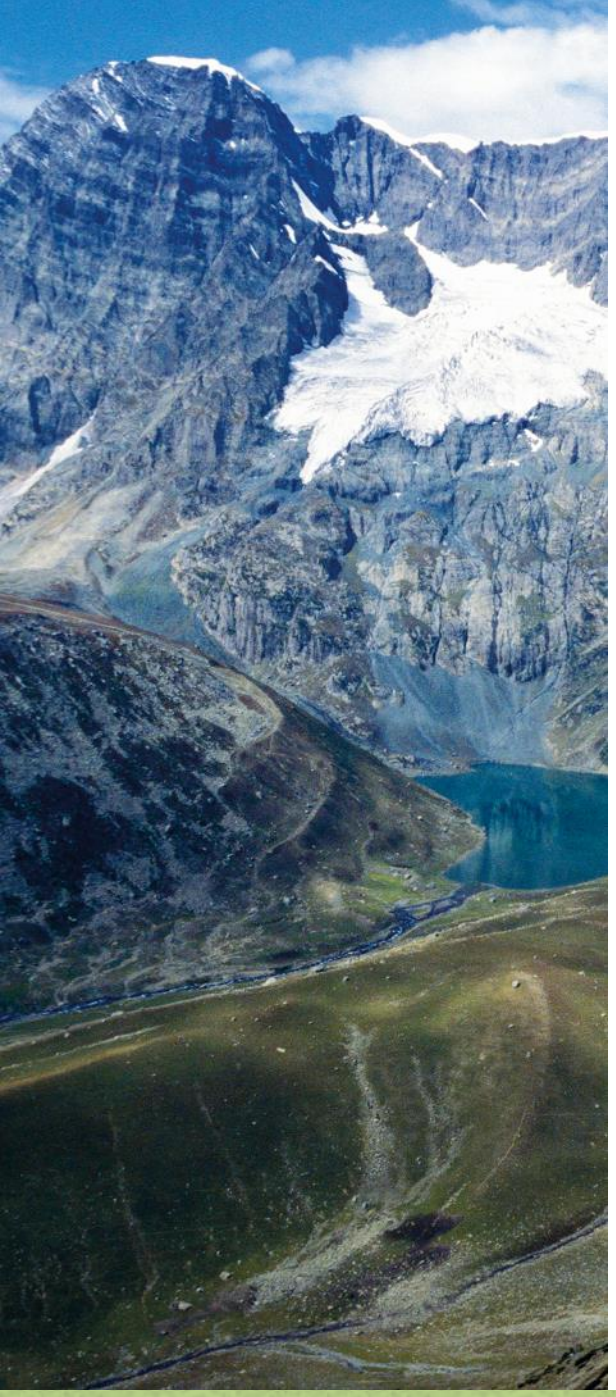

gef IEO Independent Evaluation Office
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Progress Report of the GEF IEO Director

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Director
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Introduction

- This Progress Report of the Director is provided at the time when the sixth replenishment period of the GEF is just beginning, the 5th Overall Performance Study (OPS5) has recently been completed, and there is a new Director in the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO).

- The Progress Report has been informed by the Second Professional Peer Review of the GEF Evaluation Function conducted by an independent panel of experts convened under the auspices of the United Nations Evaluation Group.

Principles

- The functional independence of IEO must be guaranteed at all levels.
- The Council is the primary client, but the GEF IEO will endeavor to enhance its utility to other stakeholders, including the GEF Secretariat and Agencies.
- Utility can be enhanced on many levels without compromising independence.
  - It is important to gauge the demand for evaluative evidence amongst the partners, including the GEF Secretariat, Agencies and other stakeholders to ensure that the IEO be responsive to the information needs of the partners.
- A second dimension of enhancing utility pertains to the timing of evaluations.
  - The management response is not prepared by the GEF Secretariat without consultation with different partners who may include the Operational Focal Points in the countries, specific or all Agencies, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, the NGO network, and others.
- The evaluations IEO conducts will continue to present recommendations to different parts of GEF.

Evaluation Streams

- The work program of IEO is currently organized in four broad streams:
  - Impact evaluations:
    - IEO will need to continue and further expand its work program on impact evaluations.
  - Country portfolio evaluations:
    - Country portfolio evaluations (CPE) play a central role in the current IEO work program. There are clear questions regarding their utility that need to be answered.
  - Performance:
    - The performance stream appears to be fully on track, credible, useful, and highly appreciated by the network partners.
  - Thematic evaluations:
    - We will continue conducting thematic evaluations of important crosscutting topics pertinent to the GEF.
- There must also be flexibility and scope for conducting specific evaluations beyond the regular streams, as prioritized by the Council based on identified needs

Sixth Overall Performance Study

- IEO work must contribute to the replenishment process.
- OPS5 was a comprehensive study of GEF results and performance on various fronts. There is a need to streamline OPS6.
- Conducting overall performance studies of a replenishment is a major challenge due to the rolling nature of the GEF work program.
- OPS6 will build upon all evaluation streams and products that are produced between now and the completion of OPS6.

Impact Evaluations

- **Biodiversity Focal Area Impact Evaluation**:
  - The Joint Impact Evaluation of GEF Support to Protected Areas and Protected Area Systems aims to assess the impact of GEF support to biodiversity conservation through support to non-marine protected areas (PAs) and PA systems.
  - The evaluation is comprised of three main components:
    - The portfolio analysis: will characterize the 600 GEF projects that have been identified as supporting PAs and PA systems as of August 2014.
    - The global analysis: uses remote sensing data and global databases to determine changes in forest cover, species population trends, and management effectiveness.
    - The case study analysis: involves field visits to 7 countries and 28 PAs.
  - Preliminary results of these analyses were presented at the CBD Conference of Parties in the Republic of Korea in October 2014.
  - As part of this evaluation, a database of Management Effectiveness Tracking Tools (METTs) has been developed.
- **Mainstreaming of Impact:**
  - The IEO is currently focusing on developing ways to enhance evaluation utility across the GEF by seeking to mainstream impact evaluation into other evaluation streams in the Office rather than have it as an isolated activity carried out by a single team.

Country Level Evaluations

- The GEF-5 multi-annual cycle of country level evaluations is being completed with the last three Country Portfolio Evaluations (**CPEs**) during Fiscal Year 15:
  - Two of them are presently ongoing in Russia and Morocco.
  - One CPE is just being launched in Tajikistan.
- Three Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation Reports (ACPERs) have been completed during GEF-5:
  - ACPER 2012: reports on four CPEs – Nicaragua, Brazil, Cuba and a Cluster CPE covering six Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – and two Country Portfolio Studies (CPSs), El Salvador and Jamaica.
  - ACPER 2013: reports on three CPEs – India, Sri Lanka and a Portfolio Evaluation covering Vanuatu and the regional projects executed by the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) – and one CPS in Timor Leste.
  - ACPER 2014: reports on two CPEs – Tanzania and Eritrea – and one CPS in Sierra Leone.
- The **ACPER 2015** will report to Council spring session in 2015 on the last three evaluations (Russia, Morocco and Tajikistan).
- Country level evaluations processes, methods and tools are constantly being updated and refined.
- Process-wise, efforts are being deployed to foster comprehensive in-depth stakeholder engagement and communication all along the evaluation.
- Preparatory work on country level evaluation programming for GEF-6 is ongoing.
- Joint and/or coordinated evaluations with either the independent evaluation units of GEF Agencies, or the countries themselves will continue to be pursued.

Performance Evaluations

- Performance evaluations provide feedback on the quality of the GEF portfolio.
- During the GEF-5 period the IEO:
  - Prepared Annual Performance Reports (**APR**) for the period FY2010 to FY2013.
  - Undertook mid-term evaluations on System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (**STAR MTE**) and National Portfolio Formulation Exercises (**NPFE MTE**).
  - Undertook targeted studies on performance related topics.
- For the GEF-6 period, the Office will continue to prepare APR as an annual feature.
- The IEO has already started preparing for **APR2014**, which will be presented to the GEF Council during its meeting in summer of 2015.
- During the past year, the Office has tracked some 150 terminal evaluations of completed projects that were approved during the Pilot Phase to GEF-2 period.
- New institutions accredited to serve as GEF Partners for the implementation of GEF projects.

Thematic Evaluations

- Thematic evaluations conducted by the IEO assess topics of concern to all GEF activities and provide a basis for decision making and lesson learning on specific themes.
- The thematic evaluations team launched the Good Practice Study on Indicators Development, Selection and Use Principles for Climate Change Adaptation Monitoring and Evaluation in August.
  - The IEO hosts Climate-Eval, a community of practice, whose domain of work is to improve the evaluation of climate change.
- The team is taking into account contributions made by the members of the Climate-Eval community of practice through on-line consultations.
  - The draft report of the study will be present at the Second International Conference on Evaluating Climate Change and Development to be held November 4-6, 2014 in Washington, DC.
- The ongoing Evaluation of GEF Enabling Activities is in its final phase.
- The team is developing a country case study protocol in consultation with GEF stakeholders.
  - LDCF evaluation Review of the Implementation of NAPAs, complements the Enabling Activities Evaluation.
- The thematic evaluations team is continuing its work on gender mainstreaming and RBM.
  - The team is actively participating in the gender task force of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG).
- The thematic evaluation team together with the performance team undertook a mapping exercise to assess links between the GEF-6 results framework and the GEF-5 focal area tracking tools.
- The IEO submitted the first LDCF/SCCF Annual Evaluation Report to the LDCF/SCCF Council in May 2014 to report on the performance of the LDCF and SCCF as well as on ongoing evaluation issues.

Second International Conference on Evaluating Climate Change and Development

- Climate-Eval is an online community of practice hosted by our Office and which overarching goal is to establish standards and norms, support capacity development, and share good practices in evaluations of climate change and development and most recently natural resource management.

- This Conference is a follow-up of the 2008 International Conference on Evaluation of Climate Change and Development in Alexandria, Egypt.

- The Conference focuses on how development can be made more sustainable through effective and sustainable natural resources management, at global, regional, and local levels.

- Abstract proposal were received covering the three major streams of the conference:
  - Policy and program level evaluations
  - Evaluating climate change adaptation
  - Evaluating climate change mitigation

  - Of more than 200 abstracts received, 82 abstracts have been selected to be presented at the conference.

- The Conference will take place on November 4–6, 2014 at the International Finance Corporation headquarters in Washington, D.C.


Thank you
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