



# Global Environment Facility

## Summary of Document GEF/ME/C.28/7

### Four Year Work Program and Budget of the GEF Evaluation Office FY07-10 and Results in FY06

#### Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/ME/C.28/7 “*Four Year Work Program and Budget of the GEF Evaluation Office FY07-10 and Results in FY06*” approves the proposed principles underlying the work program for the next four years, and in particular the principle that OPS4 will be implemented by the Evaluation Office, subject to the comments made during the Council meeting. Council approves a budget of \$2,921,365 for FY07 to cover the GEF Evaluation Office’s cost of core tasks. In addition, Council approves the budget for the following special initiatives:

To be implemented in FY07

- (1) GEF EO inputs and participation to the fourth GEF Assembly (\$50,000)
- (2) an additional evaluation of GEF support at country level (\$90,000)
- (3) an evaluation of the ExAs experiences with the GEF (\$70,000); and
- (4) OPS3 ICF budget overrun (\$108,149)

To be implemented in FY07 and FY08

- (5) preparation of an international workshop on evaluation, environment and sustainable development (\$50,000)
- (6) evaluation of the Small Grants Programme (\$150,000)

Regarding FY08 through FY10, Council takes note of the proposed work program and activities and requests the Office to prepare annual budgets for Council consideration and approval in each of its June meetings.

Council agrees with the proposed arrangements for the evaluation of the Small Grants Programme to be conducted by the Office. Council requests the GEF Small Grants Programme to contribute to the cost of this evaluation from its proposed 2007 budget, in the order of \$200,000 to \$250,000 depending on approval of its full budget request for the year. This amount is to be transferred to the Office from the Small Grants Programme through the GEF Trustee. The Council recognizes that this evaluation will take the place of the final evaluation required for replenishment of a new SGP phase.

## **Executive Summary**

1. This document presents a detailed work program for the FY07 through FY10 period and a fully detailed budget to cover the core activities of the GEF Evaluation Office in FY07. The document is presented in three parts. The first part provides a general background and context on how the Office plans to implement the four-year rolling work program. The second part presents the proposed four-year rolling work program, gives Council a description of the priorities, objectives, outcomes and expected deliverables for the FY07-10 period. The third part presents the priorities, deliverables and budget for FY07 that Council is requested to review and approve. The document has one annex which summarizes the Office's achievements in FY06.

2. The FY07-10 period will cover the entire implementation period of GEF4, including the implementation of the RAF. The Evaluation Office's main priority and objective during the next four years will be to begin preparations for and actually implement the OPS4 of the GEF in preparation for the fifth replenishment of the GEF and fourth Assembly. To accomplish this task, the Office proposes to: (1) fully implement, monitor and evaluate the recently approved GEF M&E Policy; (2) increase the evaluation coverage to all operations of the GEF and selected institutional aspects as well as responding to specific requirements from Council; (3) further strengthen the relationships with the global monitoring and evaluation community, especially GEF partners' through a consultative process and an international workshop on evaluation, environment and sustainable development; and (4) assess, disseminate and learn from results and impacts of GEF programs and projects.

3. In FY10, the Fourth Overall Performance Study (OPS4) of the GEF is expected to be delivered to the replenishment process when a new phase of the GEF, GEF 5, is expected to begin. The Office can undertake the proposed four-year rolling work program leading up to and culminating in OPS4, on the understanding that Council decides to entrust the Office with OPS4. Now that the Evaluation Office is fully independent and reporting directly to Council, there is no need to set up a separate evaluation exercise for OPS4. No additional degree of independence would be gained: after all, an independent team of evaluators for OPS4 would be funded by the Council and would report to Council, just like the GEF Evaluation Office. Two elements of OPS4 would still need to be evaluated fully independent: the stakeholder consultation within the GEF and an evaluation of the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy and specifically the role of the GEF Evaluation Office.

4. In FY07, the Evaluation Office proposes to concentrate its work in completing the following core tasks: (1) completing two cross-cutting/thematic studies started in FY06: capacity building and incremental cost methodologies; (2) conducting a new evaluation on the catalytic effect of GEF activities; (3) one evaluation of the GEF portfolio in at least one country (to be decided) and one impact evaluation; (4) oversight program; and (5) knowledge management. In addition, the Office requests the Council to approve special initiatives to: (1) cover the cost for the GEF EO's inputs and participation to the fourth GEF Assembly; (2) conduct an additional GEF country portfolio evaluation; (3) conduct an evaluation of Executing Agencies experiences with the GEF; (4) reimburse ICF Consulting for additional costs of OPS3; (5) begin preparation for an international workshop on evaluation, environment and sustainable development

(workshop to be conducted in early FY08), and (5) conduct an independent evaluation of the Small Grants Programme.

5. Annex 1 provides a summary of the Office's main achievements in FY06: full dissemination of the Third Overall Performance Study (OPS3) to all major GEF stakeholders; Council approval of the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy in February 2006; completion of major evaluations such as the Local Benefits Study, the evaluation of GEF support to the Cartagena Protocol, and the evaluation of the GEF support to Costa Rica as the first case of an assessment of the GEF portfolio at the country level; and the 2005 Annual Performance Report (APR). In January 2006 the Office organized a meeting with the lead consultants and advisors that have worked with the Office in the past to receive feedback on how to improve the Office's programming and maximize the impact of OPS4. The Office also made important progress on several other evaluations, such as the evaluation of Incremental Cost methodologies, Impact Evaluations, capacity building and Joint Evaluation of GEF Activities and Modalities. The Office also incorporated, as planned, two new regular staff: a budget and programming staff and an evaluation officer. The Evaluation Office has joined the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG). Finally, the office officially changed its name to GEF Evaluation Office.

6. The Council is requested to review the document and approve the proposed principles underlying the work program for the next four years, and in particular the principle that OPS4 will be implemented by the Evaluation Office, subject to the comments made during the Council meeting. In addition, the Council is requested to approve a budget of \$2,921,365 for FY07 to cover the Evaluation Office's cost of core tasks and pilot activities (a 3% increase from FY06 budget). In addition, Council is also requested to review and approve the budget for the following special initiatives:

**To be implemented in FY07:**

- (1) GEF EO inputs and participation to the fourth GEF Assembly (\$50,000),
- (2) an additional evaluation of GEF support at country level (\$90,000)
- (3) an evaluation of the ExAs experiences with the GEF (\$70,000); and
- (4) OPS3 ICF budget overrun (\$108,149).

**To be implemented in FY07 and FY08:**

- (5) preparation of an international workshop on evaluation, environment and sustainable development (\$50,000),
- (6) Independent evaluation of the Small Grants Programme (\$150,000).