



Global Environment Facility

Summary of Document GEF/ME/C.31/3

GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation: The Philippines (1992-2007)

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed Document GEF/ME/C.31/4, *GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation: the Philippines (1992-2007)*, and document GEF/ME/C.31/6, *Management Response to the GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation: the Philippines*, takes notes of the recommendations of the evaluation and the management response and requests the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for developing GEF country programs and strategies, in consultation with the GEF Agencies and taking into account their country assistance programs, for recipients with significant GEF support like the Philippines.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Philippines has been a long standing partner of the GEF. It has received GEF financial support since 1992 through a variety of projects and activities in collaboration with the GEF Agencies, government agencies, and civil society.
2. The evaluation of the GEF support to the Philippines took place from December 2006 to April 2007 following the Standard Terms of Reference for the GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation developed by the GEF Evaluation Office in October 2006. It was conducted by staff of the GEF Evaluation Office and an evaluation team of international and local consultants. The objectives of the evaluation are to provide the GEF Council with an assessment of how the GEF is implemented in the Philippines. It reports on results from projects and assesses how these projects are linked to national environmental and sustainable development strategies as well as to the GEF mandate of generating global environmental benefits within its focal areas.
3. The focus of the evaluation was 30 GEF national projects, the GEF Small Grants Programme and a few selected regional projects in which the Philippines participate with an estimated GEF investment of \$145 million. These activities were approved by the GEF Council (where applicable) and endorsed by the CEO between 1992 and December 2006 (the GEF Pilot Phase to the end of GEF3). Projects in the pipeline for GEF4 were not included. These activities have been implemented primarily by two of the GEF Agencies, the World Bank (WB) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Recently UNIDO and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have started implementation of GEF projects.

4. The evaluation reaches the following conclusions:
 - (1) The GEF support has been relevant to the Philippine national development plans and its environmental priorities;
 - (2) GEF support to the Philippines has been relevant to the objectives and mandate of the GEF;
 - (3) GEF support to the Philippines has produced global environmental benefits but declining environmental trends and lack of compliance endanger these achievements;
 - (4) There are several inefficiencies related to the GEF's portfolio in the Philippines.
5. The findings and conclusions of the evaluation lead to the following recommendation to the GEF Council:
 - (1) The GEF should develop country programs and strategies for large recipients of GEF support like the Philippines.
6. Furthermore, the following recommendations have been brought to the attention of the Government of the Philippines:
 - (2) Compliance with the environmental policies and regulations requires urgent attention;
 - (3) The Philippines could consider including in future GEF support the globally unique small island regions, land degradation and improvement to climate change resilience;
 - (4) Improve the efficiency of the GEF mechanisms in the Philippines.