



Summary of Document GEF/ME/C.40/02

Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation Report 2011

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/ME/C.40/02, “*Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation Report 2011*,” document GEF/ME/C.40/03, “*Management Response to the Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation Report 2011*,” and having taken note of the two Country Portfolio Studies in El Salvador and Jamaica (GEF/ME/C.40/Inf.1) requests the Evaluation Office to continue developing and implementing during GEF-5 joint and/or coordinated country level evaluation work with either GEF agencies’ independent evaluation offices or with independent national institutions with recognized expertise in both evaluation and environment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This fourth *Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation Report* introduces and describes the new multiannual cycle of country level evaluations for GEF-5, reports on progress to date of ongoing country portfolio evaluations in the Eastern Caribbean region, in Nicaragua and in Brazil, and provides a synthesis of the main conclusions emerging from two Country Portfolio Studies (CPS) finalized in this year in El Salvador and Jamaica. The report reflects on the CPS as a new instrument for country level evaluation work, in terms of its potential contribution to the country level evaluative knowledge produced by the Office.
2. The new cycle of country level evaluations started this fiscal year in the Latin America and Caribbean region with the Nicaragua CPE and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Cluster CPE, covering Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and St Kitts and Nevis, as well as the two CPSs in respectively El Salvador and Jamaica. The Brazil CPE has also been launched, with a proposal to join forces with a national independent and reputed institution, with recognized expertise in evaluation and environment. Next fiscal year the CPE in Cuba will be launched.
3. Both the El Salvador and the Jamaica country portfolio studies were conducted from October 2010 and April 2011 in coordination and synergy with the country level evaluations conducted by the UNDP Evaluation Office. Drafts of the two CPSs were presented and discussed

together with the drafts of the UNDP evaluations, and comments were received from GEF stakeholders at consultation workshops in each country. Chapters 1 of both CPS reports include the main conclusions and lessons learned and are provided in a separate Council information document. The full reports are provided on the Evaluation Office website. GEF support to these two countries started during the pilot phase of the GEF for El Salvador and Jamaica.

Table 1.1 Project Coverage of each Country Portfolio Study

Country	GEF funding (US mil.)	Number of projects included in the evaluation				National completed projects
		National FSPs and MSPs	SGP	Enabling activities	Regional/ global projects	
El Salvador	11.41	5	Yes	6	20	6
Jamaica	11.86	6	Yes	6	15	7

4. The following four conclusions on the GEF support emerged from the two studies:

- 1) GEF support to El Salvador and Jamaica in all Focal Areas has positively contributed to global environmental benefits. Prospects for sustainability as well as for scaling up the initial benefits achieved are mixed.
- 2) GEF support has contributed to development of capacity in the two countries.
- 3) GEF support has been relevant to the national environmental goals and priorities, as well as to the countries' efforts to fulfill its obligations under the international agreements to which they are signatory.
- 4) Overall, efficiency of project preparation has improved recently in the two countries. GEF projects experience delays during implementation.

5. The experiences gained in the two CPSs led to a valuable lesson learned for the Office: joint and/or coordinated evaluation work with the independent evaluation offices of GEF Agencies, when portfolios under analysis largely coincide, increases its relevance to countries, as it provides deeper insights than would otherwise be possible.

Recommendation

6. Based on the experience gained this year on the coordinated evaluation work conducted in El Salvador and Jamaica with the independent Evaluation Office of UNDP, as well as the proposal of performing joint evaluation work with a national institution in Brazil, the ACPER 2011 recommends that joint and/or coordinated country level evaluation work with either GEF agencies' independent evaluation offices or with independent national institutions with recognized expertise in both evaluation and environment should be pursued during GEF-5.