

## Summary of Document GEF/ME/C.43/01

### GEF Evaluation Office: Progress Report from the Director

#### Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/ME/C.43/01, *GEF Evaluation Office: Progress Report from the Director*, takes note of the on-going work of the Office and the preparations for the Fifth Overall Performance Study of the GEF, and requests the Secretariat to include a Management Response to the recommendations of the Fifth Overall Performance Study in the documents for negotiation of the sixth replenishment of the GEF.

#### Executive Summary

1. The Progress Report of the Director is meant to provide the Council with important information on on-going work, on top of the other reports that are presented to this Council meeting, i.e. the fifth Annual Report on Impact and the second Annual Thematic Evaluations Report. The Annual Report on Impact contains the main findings and recommendations emerging from the impact evaluation of the GEF's support to the South China Sea, whereas the Annual Thematic Evaluations Report provides the same regarding the Focal Area Strategies Evaluation.
  2. In preparation for OPS5 the Evaluation Office has participated in a workshop in Paris on "comprehensive evaluations", focused on assessing the achievements and performance of international organizations. Many of the issues raised in Paris will potentially enrich OPS5, but one issue is raised with Council in this report: in the past ten years all comprehensive evaluations **except** the Overall Performance Studies of the GEF have received management responses, to enable the governing bodies to take decisions on the basis of both evaluation findings and recommendations and the response of management to these findings and recommendations.
  3. The lack of a management response does not signify that the GEF has not used and recognized the evaluation findings and recommendations emerging from Overall Performance Studies. However, currently the exact way in which findings and recommendations are decided upon is not transparent. The final document of the GEF-5 replenishment negotiations has just one paragraph which informs the Council on how OPS4 findings and recommendations were taken into account. It is proposed that a management response would be introduced for OPS5. The first report of OPS5, which will be delivered to the first or second meeting of the replenishment, and a subsequent Council meeting, would be accompanied by a management response. Furthermore, it is proposed that the final report of OPS5 is accompanied by a management response. The Council is invited to request the Secretariat to prepare these management responses in collaboration with the GEF Agencies.
- 2) Lastly, this report contains overviews of on-going work in the country portfolio evaluation and performance streams. It informs the Council on the second phase of the community of practice "Climate-Eval", which is hosted by the GEF Evaluation Office.