

Country Portfolio Evaluation The Philippines

GEF Council Meeting 31

Agenda Item 7

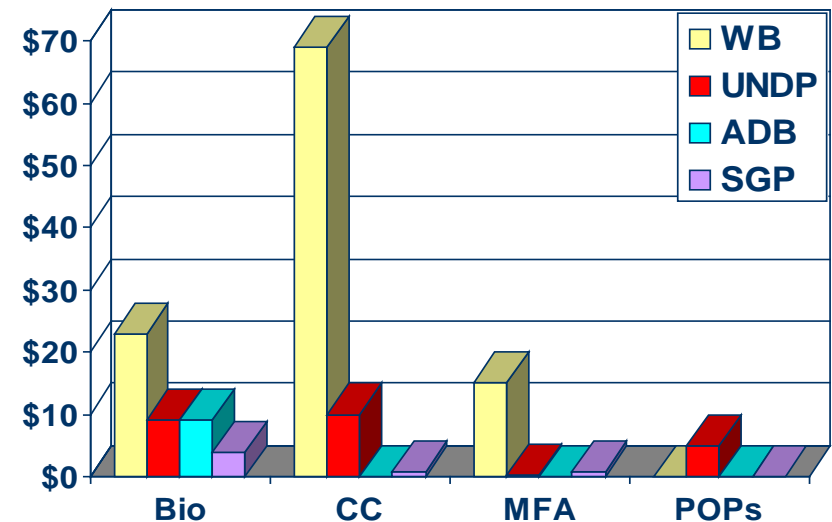
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Purpose of CPEs

- Independently evaluate **relevance** and **efficiency** of GEF support: national environmental frameworks, GEF mandate and policies
- Assess the **effectiveness** and **results** of completed projects per focal area
- Provide **feedback** and **knowledge sharing** to GEF Council, country and agencies
- Three so far: Costa Rica, the Philippines and Samoa; proposed for FY 2008: 4 countries in Africa

The Philippines

- Focus of evaluation: all 30 GEF approved national projects, GEF SGP and selected regional projects with a GEF investment of US\$145 million
- Evaluation took place between December 2006 and April 2007
- Conducted by EO staff and team of consultants



Conclusion 1

- GEF support is relevant to the Philippines national development plans and its environmental priorities
 - as presented in the Medium Term Philippines Development Plan
 - strong linkages with national action plans within GEF focal areas
 - high level of country ownership and commitment to GEF support
 - weak specific links in project documents to MTPDP

Conclusion 2

- GEF support has been relevant to the objectives and mandate of the GEF
 - biodiversity: conservation and sustainable use at species and subspecies levels (mostly in larger islands)
 - climate change: renewable energy, zero-emission transport and energy efficiency
 - POPs: national action implementation plan
 - International waters: focus on marine environments affecting international waters

Conclusion 3

- GEF support has produced global environmental benefits but declining environmental trends and lack of compliance endanger these achievements
 - significant offset of GHG emissions, about 2.26 million carbon tons annually
 - testing of innovative approaches to reduce geothermal CO₂ emissions by re-infusion of CO₂ to underground geothermal plans
 - Philippines considered one of the global powers in geothermal energy
 - Slow downward trend for threatened species
 - Expansion of more than 2 million hectares of Protected Areas and some are best practices in conservation
 - Successful livelihood initiatives in coastal and marine-based projects
 - Replication and catalytic effects on solar and small-scale hydro-power, geothermal investments; biodiversity monitoring; payment for environmental services schemes; coastal environmental management

Impressive results are overshadowed by many obstacles and declining national environmental indicators

- 3.4 million hectares of forest lost between 1990 – 2005 (negative overall achievement of 1 million)
- One of the highest number of threatened species in the world
- Not sufficient budget and human resources for effectively managed protected areas
- Smaller islands not supported yet
- CO2 emission will increase 6 times from 1990 to 2020
- Electrification of mass transportation
- Capacity building efforts still short of grasping actual problems
- Quality of reporting on results is poor

Conclusion 4: there are several **inefficiencies** related to the GEF's portfolio

- There are several inefficiencies related to the GEF's portfolio
 - Project preparation and approval are time-consuming and may lead to problems with stakeholder participation
 - Lack of transparency and poor quality data on the project cycle supports earlier evaluation findings
 - There is general confusion about the implementation of the RAF, particularly with pipeline management
 - Lack of institutionalization of the GEF OPF functions poses challenges for the Philippines to interact with the GEF
 - Limited coordination among agencies implementing GEF in the Philippines

Conclusion 4

- There are several inefficiencies related to the GEF's portfolio
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 - Lack of transparency and poor quality data on the project cycle supports earlier evaluation findings
 - There is general confusion about the implementation of the RAF, particularly with pipeline management
 - Lack of institutionalization of the GEF Operational Focal Point functions poses challenges for the Philippines to interact with the GEF
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Recommendation to the GEF Council

The GEF should develop country programs and strategies for large recipients of GEF support like the Philippines

Recommendations to the Philippines

- Compliance with environmental policies and regulations requires urgent attention
- The Philippines could consider including in future GEF support the globally unique small island regions, land degradation and improvement of climate change resilience
- Improve the efficiency of the GEF mechanisms in the Philippines