Program Evaluation of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)

(Prepared by the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF)

20th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting
June 09, 2016
Agenda Item 06
Introduction

- Part of the Four-Year Work Program of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the GEF as approved at the 18th LDCF/SCCF Council meeting

- Focusing on performance and progress towards LDCF objectives and emerging results

- Aim is to provide the LDCF/SCCF Council with evaluative evidence of the Fund’s relevance and emerging results
Overarching Evaluative Questions

- **Relevance** - How relevant is LDCF support in light of UNFCCC COP guidance and decisions, the GEF adaptation programming strategy, and countries’ broader developmental policies, plans and programs?

- **Effectiveness and Efficiency** - How effective and efficient is the LDCF in reaching its objectives, based on emerging results?

- **Results and Sustainability** - What are the emerging results and factors that affect the sustainability and resilience of these results?
Methodology

Evaluation Theory of Change

Overarching evaluative questions

Portfolio analysis protocol

- Quality at Entry review of 116 CEO endorsed/approved or under implementation Projects (MSP/FSP)
- In-depth analysis of 11 completed Implementation Projects (MSP/FSP)
- 51 NAPA Country Reports (EAs)
- National Communications
- 172 Implementation Projects (MSP/FSP)*

Meta-evaluation review of recent relevant evaluations

Literature and GEF/Council document review

Development of an LDCF project database

Four country field visits to Cambodia, Haiti, Lao PDR and Senegal

Interviews with key LDCF stakeholders

Data analysis and triangulation. Formulation of main findings, conclusions and recommendations.

* Included all Council approved, CEO endorsed/approved, under implementation and completed projects. Total number of implementation projects, including pending and PM recommended equals 217. Twelve projects were cancelled or dropped.
Conclusions (1-4/8)

- **Conclusion 1:** LDCF supported activities, for the most part, have been highly relevant to COP guidance, and countries’ development priorities.

- **Conclusion 2:** LDCF supported interventions show clear potential in reaching the GEF’s three adaptation strategic objectives.

- **Conclusion 3:** Contributions of LDCF supported interventions to focal areas other than climate change are potentially significant.

- **Conclusion 4:** The efficiency of the LDCF has been adversely impacted by the unpredictability of available resources.
Conclusions (5-8/8)

- **Conclusion 5:** LDCF support to NAPA implementation projects has resulted in catalytic effects in completed projects, though extensive replication and upscaling generally demands further financing beyond the projects’ timeframe.

- **Conclusion 6:** There is a clear intent to mainstream adaptation into countries’ environmental and sustainable development policies, plans and associated processes.

- **Conclusion 7:** The gender performance of the LDCF portfolio has improved considerably in response to enhanced requirements from the GEF, though there is a need for greater clarity on what constitutes ‘gender mainstreaming’.

- **Conclusion 8:** There are significant discrepancies in project data from the GEF Secretariat’s Project Management Information System (PMIS).
Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1:** The GEF Secretariat should explore and develop mechanisms that ensure the predictable, adequate and sustainable financing of the Fund.

- **Recommendation 2:** The GEF Secretariat should make efforts to improve consistency regarding their understanding and application of the GEF gender mainstreaming policy and the Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) to the LDCF.

- **Recommendation 3:** The GEF Secretariat should ensure that the data in the Project Management Information System is up to date and accurate.
The Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.20/ME/02, *Program Evaluation of the Least Developed Countries Fund* and GEF/LDCF.SCCF.20/ME/03, *Management Response to the Program Evaluation of the Least Developed Countries Fund*, takes note of the conclusions of the evaluation and endorses the recommendations.
Thank you!

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