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

* 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.

Overarching evaluative questions

Meta-evaluation review of recent relevant evaluations

Literature and GEF/Council document review

Development of an LDCF project database

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)

41 NAPA Country Reports (EAs)

National Communications

172 Implementation Projects (MSP/FSP)*

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.
Recommended Council Decision

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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