# GEF IEO Terminal Evaluation Review form (retrofitting of APR2004 cohort)

This form is for retrofitting of the TERs prepared for APR2004. While several topics covered in this form had already been covered in the earlier form, this revised form adds several other performance and impact related concerns.

### 1. Project Data

Summary project data				
GEF project ID		333		
GEF Agency project ID		9		
GEF Replenishment P	Phase	GEF-1		
Lead GEF Agency (inc	lude all for joint projects)	UNDP		
Project name		Renewable Energy-Based Electr Development (RESPRO) in Ghar	icity for Rural, Social and Economic a	
Country/Countries		Ghana		
Region		AFR		
Focal area		Climate Change		
Operational Program Priorities/Objectives	or Strategic	6- Promoting adoption of renev	vable energy by removing barriers	
Executing agencies in	volved	Ministry of Mines and Energy, G	Shana	
NGOs/CBOs involven	nent	through consultation, participa	tion in executing agency	
Private sector involve	ement	through consultations, participa	ation in executing agency	
CEO Endorsement (FS	SP) /Approval date (MSP)	3/24/1998		
Effectiveness date / p	project start	6/17/1998		
Expected date of pro	ject completion (at start)	6/16/2001		
Actual date of projec	t completion	6/16/2001		
		Project Financing		
		At Endorsement (US \$M)	At Completion (US \$M)	
Project Preparation	GEF funding	0.06		
Grant	Co-financing			
GEF Project Grant		2.47	2.47	
	IA/EA own			
Co-financing	Government	0.5	0.5	
	Other*	0.1		
Total GEF funding		2.53	2.47	
Total Co-financing		0.6	0.5	
Total project funding		3.13	2.97	
(GEF grant(s) + co-fin				
	Terminal ev	aluation/review information	1	
TE completion date		Oct-2002		
TE submission date		12/1/2002		
Author of TE		Dr.Samir Amous		
Original GEF IEO TER		Baastel		
Original GEF IEO TER (2004) reviewer		David Todd		
Revised TER (2014) completion date			05/22/2014	
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Revised TER (2014) co Revised TER (2014) p TER GEF IEO peer rev	repared by	05/22/2014 Nelly Bourlion		

\*Includes contributions mobilized for the project from other multilateral agencies, bilateral development, cooperation agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and beneficiaries.

# 2. Summary of Project Ratings

Criteria	Final PIR	IA Terminal Evaluation	IA Evaluation Office Review	GEF EO Review
Project Outcomes	S	N/A	N/A	MS
Sustainability of Outcomes	L	N/A	N/A	MU
M&E Design	N/A	N/A	N/A	MU
M&E Implementation	N/A	N/A	N/A	UA
Quality of Implementation	N/A	N/A	N/A	UA
Quality of Execution	N/A	N/A	N/A	S
Quality of the Terminal Evaluation Report	-	-	N/A	MU

# 3. Project Objectives

3.1 Global Environmental Objectives of the project:

The project's global environmental objective, as stated in the project document, is to provide an effective model for large-scale use of low carbon renewable energy-based electricity supply technologies that would significantly reduce the growth in greenhouse gas emissions that would result from a fossil-fuel based energy system.

The project will facilitate significant reduction in the growth of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electrification of off-grid communities, and through effective demonstration, will help catalyze similar processes elsewhere. According to the PD (pg.46) between one million and three million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would be avoided over twenty years if renewable energy-based electricity services are provided to most of the villages in Ghana.

3.2 Development Objectives of the project:

The project's goal, as stated in the project document, is to facilitate the development of national capacity, combining both private sector and public sector efforts, to use primary renewable energy-based technologies, especially photovoltaics (PV) and PV/diesel hybrid power systems, to provide sustainable rural electric power services. These technologies would be used for both individual applications and centralized electrification of off-grid communities not technically or economically suitable for electrification via grid extension. Specific objectives of the project are:

- to increase the Government of Ghana's understanding of the technical requirements, equipment options, and capital and operating costs for the use of photovoltaic (PV) energy systems, both as stand-alone units and hybrid power plants, for rural electric power delivery;
- (2) to demonstrate in Ghana the technical, economic, and institutional feasibility of sustainable large-scale distribution and application of small-scale PV units and hybrid power systems to

the people of Ghana, government officials, the private sector and the international development community;

- (3) to enable the Volta River Authority/Northern Electricity Department (VRA/NED) to integrate the use of renewable energy systems into its ongoing rural electrification activities;
- (4) to provide electricity to thirteen off-grid communities in a remote area of Ghana; and
- (5) to catalyze large-scale use of these technologies in the country.

3.3 Were there any **changes** in the Global Environmental Objectives, Development Objectives, or other activities during implementation?

The TE does not provide specific information on the Global Environmental Objectives of the project. However, there is no indication that there were any changes during project implementation.

While not explicitly discussed in the TE (in terms of when, how and why), specific objectives (3),(4) and (5) appear to have been replaced by: Communication, Education, Training andOutreach; Preparation of Post-GEF commercial operations and expansion.

## 4. GEF EO assessment of Outcomes and Sustainability

Please refer to the GEF Terminal Evaluation Review Guidelines for detail on the criteria for ratings.

Relevance can receive either a Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory rating. For Effectiveness and Cost efficiency, a six point rating scale is used (Highly Satisfactory to Highly Unsatisfactory), or Unable to Assess. Sustainability ratings are assessed on a four-point scale: Likely=no or negligible risk; Moderately Likely=low risk; Moderately Unlikely=substantial risks; Unlikely=high risk. In assessing a Sustainability rating please note if, and to what degree, sustainability of project outcomes is threatened by financial, sociopolitical, institutional/governance, or environmental factors.

Please justify ratings in the space below each box.

4.1 <b>Relevance</b>	Rating: Satisfactory
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In Ghana, over 35% of the population has access to electricity. However, this access is unevenly distributed, and heavily skewed in favor of the urban population. Access to electricity is also not evenly distributed across the regions.

In 1989 the Government of Ghana formulated a policy on grid extension, and made a commitment to extend the supply of electricity from the national electricity grid to cover all parts of the country by the year 2020. A National Electrification Scheme (NES) was subsequently conceived as the means for realizing this policy.

Additionally, Ghana Vision 2020 was launched in 1997 as the social and economic development blueprint. A recurring theme in the Vision 2020 is the need to pursue vigorously the activity of expanding the access of rural population to modern energy services, particularly electricity.

The RESPRO project seeks to demonstrate the viability of photovoltaic technology as a cost effective and complementary strategy to extend electricity to remote and dispersed settlements, particularly in Northern Ghana.

Therefore the project is relevant to the development priorities of the Government and to the GEF Operational Programs. According to the TE, this project is also a "potential prime mover for many social services in the areas of health, education, and the development of small and medium scale enterprises, so central to the Government's poverty alleviation agenda" (TE, pg 9).

4.2 Effectiveness	Rating: Moderately Satisfactory
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The effectiveness of this project is rated as Moderately satisfactory.

Overall, the project resulted only in an insignificant amount of carbon reduction, due to the limited number of PV systems disseminate;. No more than a few hundred tons of CO2 equivalent were reduced by the 1,800 PV systems disseminated (TE, pg 4). However, according to the TE, the RESPRO project has succeeded in the achievement of its development objective, by offering new perspectives for the development of carbon-free electricity generation technologies in Ghana.

The project has four immediate objectives:

- (1) Increase the Government of Ghana's understanding of the technical requirements, equipment options, and capital and operating costs for use of PV-based energy systems
- (2) Demonstrate the technical, economic, institutional, and social feasibility of sustainable large-scale diffusion and application of small-scale PV units and hybrid power systems to the people of Ghana, government officials, the private sector, and the international development community – Implement Field Activities;
- (3) Communication, Education, Training and Outreach;
- (4) Preparation of Post-GEF commercial operations and expansion

In terms of the 4 immediate objectives, the following was achieved:

- (1) The RESPRO has made it possible to capitalize on valuable experience on the approaches and modalities for the development of the PV market, and on the logistical, human and financial resources needed to make this technology a reliable alternative to the grid for the rural population.
- (2) This project demonstrates the technical and economic feasibility and sustainability of providing decentralized renewable energy electricity services targeting rural communities, while ensuring high level performance.
- (3) RESPRO has undertaken a number of collaborative activities with relevant NGOS and Universities. In addition, communication-related and outreach activities have been carried out during the course of the project. Aside from the opportunity to supply and install equipment, the sheer extent of RESPRO's awareness creation activities is having a spill-over effect and generating opportunities for the sale of PVs all over Ghana. This stimulation of demand, though still in its infancy, can pave the way for an emerging private initiative to develop the market.
- (4) Activities included under this Objective were partly launched at the time of the TE. The market Survey and the Market Entry Assessment were still outstanding. RESPRO was then in the process of preparing the Business Plan and a Financial Plan for the post-GEF development program. In particular, RESPRO was discussing the establishment of a Non-profit Trust to carry forward the development of PV market in Ghana with the Ministry of Energy. The Government of Ghana was also engaged in high level intergovernmental discussions with Spain, China and the USA regarding a sourcing fund, for post-GEF RESPRO-Trust PV activities.

4.3 Efficiency	Rating: Moderately Satisfactory
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The efficiency of the project is rated Moderately Satisfactory

According to the TE, the sudden opting-out or exit of the Volta River Authority (VRA), the original executing agency of the project, affected the implementation of the Project. In order to avoid the collapse of the project, the RESPRO project had to be established as an autonomous project entity, with the necessity of providing those physical infrastructures for which it had fully relied on VRA; e.g. offices, staff, vehicles, etc.

Additionally, the unexpected serious collapse/decline in the value of the national currency; the Cedi, administered another sudden shock to RESPRO by invalidating most of the calculations and assumptions regarding the principle of the "Full cost recovery basis" for the payment of PV services by the beneficiaries (TE, pg 12). These difficulties were among the many teething problems faced by RESPRO at the inauspicious period of its operational commencement, and caused some delays in the PV dissemination process.

Despite the disruption and delays the TE states that the RESPRO project has properly reacted to this unexpected event by establishing an independent project entity responsible for implementing RESPRO activities, and has fully benefited from the operational flexibility that its status as an independent project unit has allowed.

There is no information available in the TE about the cost-effectiveness of the project.

4.4 Sustainability	Rating: Moderately Unlikely
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Overall, the sustainability of the project is moderately likely.

On one hand, the government of Ghana is currently engaged in high-level intergovernmental discussions with Spain, China, and the USA for the purpose of obtaining funds for post-GEF RESPRO-Trust PV activities. According to the TE, Spain has already expressed some interest in contributing to the future development of the PV market in Ghana (TE, pg 13). Moreover, throughout the project cycle, active participation and control by the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Energy has been prominent. Despite the short duration of the project, the RESPRO has helped convince the Ghanaian Government of the relevance of the PV electrification alternative and of the necessity of fully integrating PV dissemination into its electrification strategy. Additionally, there is significant operational capacity, with five RESPRO offices (including Accra) with some 20 full-time staff members and trained field technicians. Project Staff, under the leadership of the National Project Coordinator, are technically qualified and comprised highly motivated individuals (TE, pg 11).

However, on the other hand, the wide discrepancy in tariffs under the PV fee-for-service system compared to grid tariffs for rural electrification customers discourages the natural growth of the customer base of PV customers in the long –run as communities will tend to exert social and political pressure to receive the cheaper/heavily subsidized grid option. Given the situation in the field, expectations of full active involvement by the private sector in RESPRO/PV system marketing, immediately or within the three year period of the RESPRO project, is not realistic. Finally, the stakeholders feel that the present arrangement, where they are locked into a high cost electricity market, is inequitable and socially unjust. In many cases, rural households have responded to this inequity issue by refraining from applying for PV systems, showing their preference for the grid option, despite the much longer time needed to get access to the grid, and the highly varying quality of the electricity supply (TE, pg 12).

# 5. Processes and factors affecting attainment of project outcomes

5.1 Co-financing. To what extent was the reported co-financing essential to the achievement of GEF objectives? If there was a difference in the level of expected co-financing and actual co-financing, then what were the reasons for it? Did the extent of materialization of co-financing affect project's outcomes and/or sustainability? If so, in what ways and through what causal linkages?

There is no information reported in the TE about the co-financing of the project.

5.2 Project extensions and/or delays. If there were delays in project implementation and completion, then what were the reasons for it? Did the delay affect the project's outcomes and/or sustainability? If so, in what ways and through what causal linkages?

There were many project implementation delays arising from two main sources:

- (1) The sudden opting-out or exit of the VRA, as the executing agency. In-order not to collapse as a project, the RESPRO had to be established as an autonomous project entity, with the necessity of providing those physical infrastructures for which it had fully relied on VRA; e.g. offices, staff, vehicles, etc.
- (2) The unexpected decline in the value of the national currency. This collapse invalidated most of the calculations and assumptions regarding the principle of the "Full cost recovery basis" for the payment of the PV services.

Both of those issues caused some delays in the PV dissemination process and therefore impacted the number of PV units installed

5.3 Country ownership. Assess the extent to which country ownership has affected project outcomes and sustainability? Describe the ways in which it affected outcomes and sustainability, highlighting the causal links:

According to the TE, active participation and control by the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Energy has been prominent. The Steering Committee which had oversight responsibility over the affairs of the project was composed of very senior staff members of the relevant ministries, together with representatives of the beneficiaries through their elected assembly man from the District Assembly. The Government has demonstrated ownership of the process by proactively dealing with the issues relating to post-GEF funding, and the institutional arrangements necessary to transition the project for future private-public participation. Despite the problems arising at the very inception of the RESPRO Project, the Government of Ghana has gone ahead in a search for synergies, new sources of funds, with positive results. (TE, pg 13).No precise information is given in the TE whether or not they secured new funds.

# 6. Assessment of project's Monitoring and Evaluation system

Ratings are assessed on a six point scale: Highly Satisfactory=no shortcomings in this M&E component; Satisfactory=minor shortcomings in this M&E component; Moderately Satisfactory=moderate shortcomings in this M&E component; Moderately Unsatisfactory=significant shortcomings in this M&E component; Unsatisfactory=major shortcomings in this M&E component; Highly Unsatisfactory=there were no project M&E systems.

Please justify ratings in the space below each box.

6.1 M&E Design at entry	Rating: Moderately Unsatisfactory
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The PD includes a list of the reviews, reporting and evaluations that should be conducted during the project implementation (PD, pg.65): every three months the National Project Coordinator would prepare an informal presentation and written review of progress for the National Project Team, the project would also be subject to formal tripartite review, a project terminal report would be prepared, and a post-project evaluation would be undertaken by UNDP. Some other technical reports and mid-term project performance should be published. Project progress would be subject to on-going monitoring by the UNDP Country Office.

However, apart from this broad list of reports, there is no logical framework analysis (LFA) specifying indicators, means of verification and results, and there is no budget attributed to the M&E.

6.2 M&E Implementation	Rating: Unable to Assess
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The TE does not contain any information about the M&E of the project.

# 7. Assessment of project implementation and execution

Quality of Implementation includes the quality of project design, as well as the quality of supervision and assistance provided by implementing agency(s) to execution agencies throughout project implementation. Quality of Execution covers the effectiveness of the executing agency(s) in performing its roles and responsibilities. In both instances, the focus is upon factors that are largely

within the control of the respective implementing and executing agency(s). A six point rating scale is used (Highly Satisfactory to Highly Unsatisfactory), or Unable to Assess.

Please justify ratings in the space below each box.

7.1 Quality of Project Implementation	Rating: Unable to Assess
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There is no information in the TE about the quality of project implementation. UNDP is barely mentioned and therefore it is not possible to assess on the quality of implementation.

7.2 Quality of Project Execution	Rating: Satisfactory
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According to the TE, the capacity and institutional structure of RESPRO was appropriate for executing the project. After the VRA withdrawal, the option chosen was to establish an independent project entity responsible for implementing the RESPRO activities. By establishing its headquarters in Tamale, and some local office-bases (Bunkpurugu, Nakpanduri, Bolgatanga), in areas of its field operations, by training its core staff and around 90 locally-based technicians in PV installation skills, the RESPRO has been able to establish the appropriate logistical and organizational framework for the project execution.

The Project Steering Committee, which served as the inter-governmental, inter-sectoral group, had oversight responsibility for project execution. The Committee was sufficiently high-powered, and experienced team who met regularly, and provided clear directions for project execution and implementation decisions (TE, pg 11).

The organizational structure was effective. The TE states that there was significant operational capacity, with five RESPRO offices having some 20 full-time staff; and some trained field technicians. The Project Staff under the leadership of the National Project Coordinator were technically qualified and comprised highly motivated individuals. In addition to the Project Office in Tamale, RESPRO established four additional field offices at Bunkpurugu, Nakpanduri, Binde, and Navrongo. According to the TE, this arrangement is critical and the minimum necessary for the delivery of efficient PV services to rural clients. The linkages with the local private sector (village level electricians) proved effective in dealing expeditiously with faults, new installations and customer education at reasonable cost. In some cases, however, some operational gaps and maintenance problems, mainly due to the constraints posed by long rough-road distances to cover, were experienced here and there.

# 8. Assessment of Project Impacts

8.1 Environmental Change. Describe the changes in environmental stress and environmental status that occurred by the end of the project. Include both quantitative and qualitative changes documented, sources of information for these changes, and how project activities contributed to or hindered these changes. Also include how contextual factors have contributed to or hindered these changes.

According to the TE, no more than a few hundreds tons of CO2 equivalent were reduced by the 1,800 PV systems disseminated, because of the limited number of households to be directly equipped by the project. It would, at a longer term, and with the development of the PV market, have much more significant global environmental impact, in particular when taking into account the likely growing contribution of the fuel-based facilities in electricity generation mix Ghana, at the expenses of the hydro-power facilities (TE, pg 19).

8.2 Socioeconomic change. Describe any changes in human well-being (income, education, health, community relationships, etc.) that occurred by the end of the project. Include both quantitative and qualitative changes documented, sources of information for these changes, and how project activities contributed to or hindered these changes. Also include how contextual factors have contributed to or hindered.

According to the TE, the interviewed target group expressed their satisfaction with the positive impacts made on their quality of life, on their small market shops, socio-cultural lives and interactions at their local market squares and public motor parks many of which are now brightened up with the PV security lightings which enhance the security of lives and property by limiting the nocturnal activities of thieves and other social undesirables within the community. While the project demonstrated the limited ability of the target beneficiaries to pay for PV services, on a full cost-recovery basis, this ability to pay should increase dramatically in the future, given the considerable economic and social benefits to be gained from accessing to electricity services.

8.3 Capacity and governance changes. Describe notable changes in capacities and governance that can lead to large-scale action (both mass and legislative) bringing about positive environmental change. "Capacities" include awareness, knowledge, skills, infrastructure, and environmental monitoring systems, among others. "Governance" refers to decision-making processes, structures and systems, including access to and use of information, and thus would include laws, administrative bodies, trust-building and conflict resolution processes, information-sharing systems, etc. Indicate how project

activities contributed to/ hindered these changes, as well as how contextual factors have influenced these changes.

#### a) Capacities

The project was able to establish a training, Evaluation, and Qualification Facility at the RESPRO level, and has undertaken multiple numbers of training and awareness initiatives. In addition, the project coordinator had the opportunity to undertake a Study Tour to Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa, in order to learn from their experiences.

Additionally, RESPRO has undertaken a number of collaborative activities with relevant NGOS and Universities. Communication-related and outreach activities have been carried out during the course of the project.

According to the TE, the extent of RESPRO's awareness creation activities is having a spill-over effect and generating opportunities for the sale of PVs all over Ghana.

#### b) Governance

There is was no direct governance impact at the time of project closure. However, Ghanaian authorities granted an important role to the PV technology, within the electrification strategy, the future establishment of a specific framework aimed at promoting the PV market, and the exploration and provision of new resources for such development.

8.4 Unintended impacts. Describe any impacts not targeted by the project, whether positive or negative, affecting either ecological or social aspects. Indicate the factors that contributed to these unintended impacts occurring.

There is no unintended impact reported in the TE.

8.5 Adoption of GEF initiatives at scale. Identify any initiatives (e.g. technologies, approaches, financing instruments, implementing bodies, legal frameworks, information systems) that have been mainstreamed, replicated and/or scaled up by government and other stakeholders by project end. Include the extent to which this broader adoption has taken place, e.g. if plans and resources have been established but no actual adoption has taken place, or if market change and large-scale environmental benefits have begun to occur. Indicate how project activities and other contextual factors contributed to these taking place. If broader adoption has not taken place as expected, indicate which factors (both project-related and contextual) have hindered this from happening.

According to the TE, the RESPRO has contributed to convincing the Ghanaian Government of the relevance of such electrification alternative, and of the necessity to fully integrate the PV dissemination within its electrification strategy. The multiple follow-up initiatives, launched by Ghana, aimed at providing new resources for PV development, with possible support from

Spain, USA, China, etc., and at establishing adequate institutional framework (e.g. possibly a Renewable Energy Services Trust), provide clear indications and signals of the seriousness that the Government of Ghana is willing to consider the PV technology.

#### 9. Lessons and recommendations

9.1 Briefly describe the key lessons, good practices, or approaches mentioned in the terminal evaluation report that could have application for other GEF projects.

The following lessons are reported in the TE:

- (1) The project not only demonstrated the technical viability of PV systems as an optimal solution to small-load energy needs - lighting and the operation of small appliances - but it has also shown that this option is the most cost-effective for remote and dispersed settlements such as those the in East Mamprussi district or the Tengzuk area which is hard to reach because of surrounding hills.
- (2) RESPRO has demonstrated that stand-alone PV services can revolutionize rural health service delivery by making water pumping feasible, enabling laboratory investigation, task lighting, vaccine refrigeration and surgical operations to be performed efficiently.
- (3) The project experience has revealed that, in the rural areas, any attempt to establish a commercial, full-cost recovery-based solar PV program in a country like Ghana, (with an extensive rural electrification program based on the grid and an established pricing policy that subsidizes low-consumption grid connections) will lead to inequities and further deepen the disparities in benefits derived by consumers from grid and PV connections. A commercially-oriented PV program will also lead to the virtual exclusion of the poor, given that the penetration rate in some target communities is less than 20%, even with the current subsidized tariff.

9.2 Briefly describe the recommendations given in the terminal evaluation.

Some of the recommendations made by the TE are:

- (1) More visibility should be given to project outcomes by publicizing the PV experience in other remote regions
- (2) RESPRO should take on board one of its initially envisioned roles, that is leading the way in promoting productive uses of electricity for rural transformation. Through arrangements with NGOs, micro-finance institutions and other entities, information on technology options and costs could be provided to assist and accelerate the process of rural entrepreneurs and small-scale enterprises taking advantage of business development opportunities created by solar photovoltaic.
- (3) In parallel to the development of larger systems to fit the needs of productive commercial or small industrial entities, the RESPRO should also put a more emphasis on the development of much smaller individual systems to fit the needs of that portion of the population that is willing to acquire PV systems that fit their lighting needs only.
- (4) Urgent discussions should be initiated with the government and the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) on a mechanism that will enable the high cost of PV electricity to be integrated into the national electricity tariff to ensure that the benefits of cross-subsidization due to poor rural communities also reaches RESPRO's clients.
- (5) The RESPRO should actively test ways of gradually involving the private sector and other players in the development of the PV market.
- (6) RESPRO needs to develop its marketing and social animation skills to be more effective and appropriate in targeting poor rural communities, which for the time –being, represent the core of the market
- (7) To achieve greater impact, RESPRO will have to extend its responsibilities beyond the delivery of PV systems. RESPRO should begin to network with other development stakeholders more effectively to ensure that their efforts are combined to achieve the best synergies. Partnerships with local government, District Assemblies, Regional Coordinating Councils, NGOs and other civil society groups on specific tasks relating to community development are one sure way to optimise the benefits of PV electrification for the community.

# 10. Quality of the Terminal Evaluation Report

A six point rating scale is used for each sub-criteria and overall rating of the terminal evaluation report (Highly Satisfactory to Highly Unsatisfactory)

Criteria	GEF EO comments	Rating
To what extent does the report contain an assessment of relevant outcomes and impacts of the project and the achievement of the objectives?	The TE provided a brief assessment of the relevant outcomes and impacts of the project, but it does not use a comprehensive set of indicators on which to base its judgment. Strong	MU

6\*0.3 + 10\*0.1 = 1.8+1= 2.8 =MU

# 11. Note any additional sources of information used in the preparation of the terminal evaluation report (excluding PIRs, TEs, and PADs).