

**What is the RAF?**

The GEF Evaluation Office is undertaking a midterm review of the RAF from December 2007 to October 2008, resulting in a report with recommendations to the November 2008 GEF Council.

The RAF is a system for allocating scarce GEF resources within and among focal areas with a view toward maximizing the impact of these resources on global environmental improvements and promoting sound environmental policies and practices worldwide. It is based on

- ▶ country potential to generate global environmental benefits within the biodiversity and climate change focal areas,
- ▶ country performance in terms of having relevant national policies and an enabling environment that facilitates successful implementation of GEF projects.

**What is the purpose of the midterm review?**

To evaluate the degree to which resources have been allocated to countries in a transparent and cost-effective manner based on global environmental benefits and country performance.

**What is its scope?**

- ▶ To evaluate the extent to which the design of the RAF is able to facilitate maximization of the impact of scarce GEF resources to enhance global environmental benefits
- ▶ To assess the extent to which the early implementation of the RAF is providing countries with predictability and transparency as well as enhancing country-driven approaches to improve the potential for delivery of global environmental benefits
- ▶ To compare the design and implementation of the RAF with the resource allocation systems of other multilateral agencies

**What questions will it address?**

The midterm review will answer key questions related to the RAF's design, implementation, and context.

Design

- ▶ To what extent do the global environmental benefits indexes reflect best available scientific data and knowledge?
- ▶ To what extent can the performance indexes be considered best practice?
- ▶ To what extent is the RAF designed to maximize global environmental benefits?

Implementation

- ▶ Has the RAF been implemented in accordance with Council decisions?
- ▶ To what extent has the initiation and implementation of the RAF been transparent and timely?
- ▶ How has the RAF affected the roles and operation of countries, Agencies, and entities under the GEF Instrument?
- ▶ What are the observable changes in GEF programming from GEF-3 to GEF-4?
- ▶ What has been the impact of the various design elements of the RAF that have raised concerns?
- ▶ To what extent has the RAF been cost-effective?

Context

- ▶ What recent developments, both within the GEF and elsewhere, should the Council take into account in considering potential changes in the RAF or the way it is implemented?

**When will it take place?**

- ▶ September 2005      RAF approved by GEF Council for GEF-4 replenishment (2006–10)
- ▶ February 2007      RAF became effective (official start)
- ▶ November 2007      Terms of reference for midterm review approved by GEF Council
- ▶ Dec. 2007–July 2008      Midterm review implementation, data collection, stakeholder consultations
- ▶ August 2008      Analysis and midterm review report drafting
- ▶ End Aug.–Oct. 2008      Consultations on draft report
- ▶ October 2008      GEF Council discussion and decision-making

**How will the RAF be evaluated?**

- ▶ Literature and desk reviews: GEF documents, other similar evaluations, GEF Evaluation Office evaluations
- ▶ Delphi approach: independent peer review panel of experts to assess the indexes and data
- ▶ Analysis of the emerging portfolio and comparison with previous GEF phases
- ▶ Surveys and interviews
- ▶ Stakeholder consultations
- ▶ Subregional consultations with GEF focal points in the Middle East, North Africa, and Southwest Asia; Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States; West and Central Africa; East and Southern Africa; and East and South Asia
- ▶ National Dialogue Workshops
- ▶ Convention meetings
- ▶ Council meetings and NGO consultations
- ▶ Integration of midterm review questions into other GEF evaluations
- ▶ Cooperation with the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, the GEF NGO network, and other Agencies

**Who will evaluate the RAF?**

The midterm review will be managed and executed by the independent GEF Evaluation Office. The Office will have sole responsibility for formation of the evaluation team, selection of independent consultants, data collection, analysis, and presentation to the GEF Council in November 2008. The midterm review team will come under the managerial control of the Director of the GEF Evaluation Office. Day-to-day task management of the midterm review will be undertaken by a Senior Evaluation Officer.

**How will the midterm review be used?**

The GEF Council will make decisions for improvements of the RAF based on the recommendations of the midterm review report and a management response developed by the GEF Secretariat in consultation with the Agencies.

**What is the difference between the midterm review and final evaluation?**

Like any midterm evaluation, the midterm review of the RAF will focus on design and implementation issues. The RAF will also undergo a second independent review at the end of the 4th replenishment period of the GEF (in 2010); at that time, the results or impact on global environmental benefits may be more clear.

**For more information...**

The midterm review terms of reference approved by the GEF Council and more information on the review can be found under the GEF Evaluation Office Web site at [www.gefeo.org](http://www.gefeo.org).

The independent evaluation team welcomes any input, questions, and suggestions; send these to [rafevaluation@thegef.org](mailto:rafevaluation@thegef.org) or

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*The GEF Evaluation Office is an independent entity within the GEF reporting directly to the GEF Council. The Office assesses GEF policies, strategies, principles, and procedures as well as focal area programs. The goals of evaluation in the GEF are to learn from experience, provide an objective basis for assessing the results of the GEF's work, and provide accountability in the achievement of its objectives. It also promotes knowledge sharing on results and lessons learned among the GEF and its partners.*