



Global Environment Facility Evaluation Office

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Evaluation of the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)

Terms of Reference - Executive Summary

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SCCF Background

The Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) was first established in July 2001 with the approval of Decision 5/CP.6 by the 6th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held at The Hague. Following COP guidance, the SCCF shall finance activities within four funding windows:

- a) **Adaptation:** to support the implementation of adaptation actions in non-annex I parties.
- b) **Transfer of technologies:** to support transfer of environmentally sustainable technologies, concentrating on, but not limited to, technologies to reduce emissions or atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gasses, in line with the recommendations from the national communications, technology assessments (TNAs) and other relevant information.
- c) Support six specific sectors, **Energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry, and waste management**
- d) **Economic diversification for fossil fuel dependent countries:** activities to assist developing countries whose economies are highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing, and export or on consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products in diversifying their economies.

Among these four funding windows, the COP defined adaptation activities as the “top priority” of the SCCF and technology transfer and its associated capacity-building activities as an “essential area to receive funding”. The GEF has been entrusted by the UNFCCC COP with the management of the SCCF under direct guidance from the COP and separately from the GEF Trust Fund. The governing body of the SCCF is the LDCF/SCCF Council which meets two times a year. The SCCF follows GEF operational policies except where the LDCF/SCCF Council decides otherwise in response to COP guidance.

SCCF Portfolio

As of June 2011, the LDCF/SCCF Council has approved \$136 million from the SCCF Trust Fund to finance 33 SCCF projects plus two Multi Trust Fund (MTF) projects that feature a SCCF contribution. This is in addition to \$862 million provided in co-financing from other sources.

The GEF agencies primarily implementing SCCF projects are UNDP as well as the World Bank. IFAD, EBRD, ADB and UNEP are also involved in a number of projects. In terms of geographic distribution, most SCCF projects are located in Sub-Sahara Africa (9 projects), but the larger amount of funding was allocated to projects in East Asia and Pacific (28%) and Latin American and the Caribbean (24%).

The majority of SCCF projects fall under SCCF A (Adaptation, 31 projects), primarily in the water and agriculture sectors. Four projects are funded under SCCF B (Transfer of Technologies). Windows C and D do not feature available funding nor approved projects.

Evaluation objectives

At its 8th meeting in July 2010, the LDCF/SCCF Council requested the GEF Evaluation Office to undertake an evaluation of the SCCF. The main objective of the evaluation is to provide the LDCF/SCCF Council with evaluative evidence on the progress towards SCCF objectives as well as main achievements and lessons learned from the implementation of the SCCF so far, and to provide recommendations on the way forward for the SCCF. The evaluation therefore focuses on the overarching question:

What are the key lessons that can be drawn from the implementation of the SCCF ten years after its establishment?

The SCCF evaluation will assess the implementation of the SCCF using aggregated data along four standard evaluation criteria: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and results (and their sustainability). Within each of these, the evaluation will identify and focus on a set of key areas of interest to specify and substantiate the respective criterion:

Four evaluation criteria:

I. Relevance: How relevant are the SCCF programming and its portfolio to the guidance of the UNFCCC, the GEF mandate including its connection to other GEF projects and the recipient countries' environmental and sustainable development agendas?

II. Efficiency: How efficient are the SCCF programming and its portfolio in reaching their objectives and expected outcomes?

III. Effectiveness: How effective are the SCCF programming and its portfolio in achieving expected outcomes or progress towards achieving expected outcomes?

IV. Results/Sustainability: What are the positive and negative, foreseen or unforeseen effects produced by the SCCF to this point, including results already achieved by the fund and its portfolio, and how sustainable are these results?

Evaluation design

The evaluation of the SCCF will take place between April and November 2011. It will be led by a task manager from the GEF Evaluation Office (GEFEO) and conducted by staff of the GEFEO along with a senior international consultant. To guide the implementation of the evaluation, the evaluation team has developed a series of protocols for conducting interviews, desk project reviews and field visits to a number of selected projects. The evaluation design includes the following four building blocks:

I. Background Analyses

- a) **Literature review:** A review of relevant literature will be conducted with a focus on previous evaluations of adaptation projects, programs and strategies as well as activities dealing with mainstreaming of adaptation into national policies and procedures.
- b) **Meta evaluation of prior evaluations of SCCF projects:** Over the last few years, the GEFEO and other agencies have conducted evaluations that have reviewed SCCF funded projects. The evaluation team will conduct a meta-evaluation to synthesize lessons, findings and experiences from prior assessments of SCCF funded projects.
- c) **Review of UNFCCC COP Decisions and LDCF/SCCF Council guidance:** The evaluation team will compile all relevant guidance from both institutions to be considered in the assessment.
- d) **Assessment of relevant M&E Systems, including an initial assessment of the AMAT**

II. Data Collection

- a) **SCCF Portfolio database:** A database of all SCCF projects will be prepared including basic project information such as project cycle, financing (including co-financing), implementing institutions involved, themes, countries, main objectives, key partners, and implementation status.
- b) **Project reviews:** Every SCCF project will be subject to a desk review and all project related information available will be analyzed and interviews will be conducted with relevant project stakeholders. The data gathered from the project reviews will be aggregated at the portfolio level and used to evaluate the SCCF as a whole.
- c) **Interviews with key stakeholders:** In-depth interviews will be conducted with a range of stakeholders, including GEF adaptation task force members, GEF Secretariat, UNFCCC secretariat, and GEF agencies staff, governments, NGOs, project implementers and other key project stakeholders and beneficiaries.
- d) **Field Visits:** Four projects have been selected for field visits, one in each of the four regions most extensively covered by the SCCF portfolio: East Asia Pacific (China), Middle East and North Africa (Egypt), Sub-Saharan Africa (Tanzania) and Latin America & the Caribbean (Guyana).

III. Data Analysis

The evaluation team will conduct an analysis of the data collected to triangulate findings and determine trends, main findings, lessons and conclusions. Different stakeholders will be consulted during the process to test preliminary findings and trends. A draft report will be presented at a consultation workshop.

IV. Dissemination

The draft evaluation report will be shared with GEF agencies and presented at the LDCF/SCCF Council meeting in November 2011. Its target audience will be the GEF Council and all GEF stakeholder as well as the general public and professionals interested in climate change adaptation or technology transfer.

The evaluation and accompanying publications will be made available through the GEFEO website and will be distributed to the GEF Council members, GEF country focal points, GEF Secretariat, the climate change task force, STAP, relevant GEF Agency staff and other interested parties through email. Learning products from this evaluation will be identified and developed for specific and targeted audiences. Knowledge sharing will be explored with the activities under the Community of Practice on Climate Change and Development.