2020 Program Evaluation of the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF)

Covers performance and progress towards LDCF objectives and results in the four years since the 2016 LDCF program evaluation

December 2020
**Least Developed Country Fund**

**Evaluation design**

**Document and literature review**
- GEF/Council documents
- Recent and relevant evaluations and journal articles

**Portfolio review**
- Projects completed in last four years
- Projects submitted and approved in last four years

**Stakeholder interviews**
- OFPs, and others at country-level
- GEF Secretariat, Agencies, STAP
- UNFCCC, LDC Expert Group

**Field visits**
- Samoa and Rwanda
- Two post-completion evaluations

**Triangulation**
- Data analysis and gap identification
- Findings and conclusions
Least Developed Country Fund

Relevance

COP guidance and decisions

GEF adaptation programming strategy

Country Policies (I)NDGs
Least Developed Country Fund

**Effectiveness and efficiency**

LDCF project design clearly contributes to GEF adaptation strategic objectives, but less so to new strategic pillars.

Gender performance of the LDCF portfolio has improved, however there is a knowledge gap in the gender-related results.

Substantive engagement with the private sector is limited, and LDCF projects face common challenges.

Lack of resources available for new projects during GEF-6 clearly reduced the efficiency of the LDCF project approval process.

Once implementation has begun, efficiency of LDCF projects is comparable to other GEF-administered funds.
Catalytic effects in the portfolio of completed projects ($n = 45$)

- **Production of a public good**: To a large/very large extent
- **Demonstration**: To a moderate extent
- **Replication**: None
- **Scaling up**: To a small/very small extent
Least Developed Country Fund

Post-completion evaluations

Land rehabilitation (terracing and agroforestry), Nyabihu District in Rwanda

Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Nursery on Savai‘i, Island
**Sustainability**

**CONTRIBUTING**

- Continued financing
- Effective stakeholder engagement
- Effective coordination between executing partners

**HINDERING**

- Staff turnover
- Delays in recruitment
- Weak project design
  - **Context-related**
    - Occurrence of natural disasters
    - Financial shocks
    - Political unrest or changes in government
Least Developed Country Fund

Recommendations

1. Build on progress made on **mainstreaming gender** in the LDCF portfolio and aim to decrease the knowledge gap about gender-related results.

2. Continue to enhance the likelihood of the **sustainability** of outcomes.
2020 Program Evaluation of the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF)

Covers performance and progress towards LDCF objectives and results in the four years since the 2016 LDCF program evaluation

December 2020