



Global Environment Facility

Summary of Document GEF/ME/C.33/1

Four-Year Work Program and FY09 Budget of the GEF Evaluation Office

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/ME/C.33/1 “*Four-Year Work Program and FY09 Budget of the GEF Evaluation Office*” approves a budget of \$3,907,167 for FY09 to cover the cost of operating the GEF Evaluation Office and implementing its work program, including OPS4.

Regarding FY10 through FY12, Council takes note of the proposed work program and activities and requests the Office to prepare annual budgets for Council consideration and approval in each of its June meetings.

The Office will prepare Terms of Reference for OPS4 for Council consideration, review and approval by mail before July 2008.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The principles behind the four-year rolling work program of the Evaluation Office were approved by the Council in June 2007. The work program during a replenishment period will gradually build up to an overall performance study. Given the fact that the replenishment process will start in fiscal year 2009, the proposed work program for 2009 focuses on two major studies: the mid-term review of the Resource Allocation Framework and the Fourth Overall Performance Study of the GEF.
2. Although fiscal year 2008 still has more than three months to go, in general the Office has delivered the reports agreed upon in the work program. One country portfolio evaluation (in Cameroon) ran into delays and will need extra work in order to ensure quality. In fiscal year 2008 the Evaluation Office expects to spend less than its approved budget. Reasons are achieved economies and lower costs for on-going evaluations and preparatory work for OPS4. It is proposed that a report on the activities and final expenditure in FY08 will be sent to the Council in July 2008.
3. The mid-term review of the RAF will be presented to Council at its November meeting. The evaluation work is on-going and within schedule. The main activities over the next few

months include: analysis of data obtained from the GEF Secretariat, a review of the portfolio and extensive consultations (interviews and an electronic survey) with a broad range of stakeholders.

4. The replenishment process of the GEF will start in fiscal year 2009. In order to inform the replenishment process in a timely manner, OPS4 would need to be finalized around the end of FY09, with a presentation of preliminary findings in April 2009. In order to ensure a timely start of OPS4, the Terms of Reference will need to be reviewed and approved by Council through a written procedure. The Evaluation Office proposes to start the process of TOR approval immediately after the Council meeting in April 2008. The emerging key questions for OPS4 have been annexed to this report.

5. In fiscal year 2009, the Annual Reports on GEF Impacts, Performance and Country Portfolio Evaluations will be presented to Council, but the work for these reports will also feed into OPS4. Other on-going evaluations, such as on the catalytic role, will be included in OPS4.

6. The Evaluation Office proposes a budget of \$3,907,167 for fiscal year 2009, a 3% increase vis-à-vis the budget for 2008. If additional funds would be needed for OPS4, this will be proposed to Council in the TOR for OPS4 with accompanying budget. Any higher level funding for fiscal year 2009 would be financed either out of the savings for FY08 or out of the proposed FY10 budget. The overall cap of just over \$15 million as agreed with Council in June 2007 will be maintained.