

# 2021 Program Evaluation of the Special Climate Change Fund

(Prepared by the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF)

## - Approach Paper - January 2020

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## Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank
CAF	Development Bank of Latin America
COP	conference of the parties
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FSP	full-size project
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IEO	Independent Evaluation Office
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LDC	least developed country
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
MSP	medium-size project
MTF	multitrust fund
MTR	midterm review
OPS5	Fifth Overall Performance Study
OPS6	Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF
PIF	project identification form
PIR	project implementation report
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
TE	terminal evaluation
TER	terminal evaluation report
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNIDO

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

WWF-US

United States World Wildlife Fund

# I. Background and Context

## a. Introduction

1. At its 26<sup>th</sup> meeting in June 2019, the Least Developed Countries Fund/Special Climate Change Fund (LDCF/SCCF) Council approved the four-year work program for the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF (IEO) which includes an update to the 2017 program evaluation of the SCCF during fiscal year 2021 (IEO 2019a). The IEO will evaluate the SCCF focusing on performance and progress towards SCCF objectives and results in the four years since the 2017 evaluation. The evaluation will follow-up on conclusions and recommendations of the 2017 SCCF evaluation and will provide the LDCF/SCCF Council with evaluative evidence of the Fund's relevance and emerging results. An overview of the 2017 SCCF evaluation recommendations is provided in annex A.

## b. SCCF background and portfolio

2. The SCCF was recognized in 2001 as a funding channel under the Bonn Agreements on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, with the approval of Decision 5/CP.6 by the Sixth Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held at The Hague and Bonn (UNFCCC 2001). The SCCF was then established with the approval of Decision 7/CP.7 by the Seventh COP of the UNFCCC held at Marrakesh (UNFCCC 2002). The decision states: That a special climate change fund shall be established to finance activities, programmes and measures related to climate change that are complementary to those funded by the resources allocated to the Global Environment Facility climate change focal area and by bilateral and multilateral funding, in the following areas: (a) adaptation; (b) technology transfer; (c) energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management; and (d) activities to assist developing country Parties referred to under Article 4, paragraph 8 (h) [i.e., economies dependent on income from fossil fuels] in diversifying their economies (UNFCCC 2001; UNFCCC 2002).

3. The SCCF is mandated by parties to the UNFCCC to provide support to parties not included in Annex I of the UNFCCC. With its broad scope covering climate change adaptation as well as mitigation, the SCCF represented the only comprehensive climate change fund under the UNFCCC until the establishment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Subsequent guidance was provided to the GEF by numerous COPs which helped to further define the design of the SCCF, and are outlined in annex B. An overview of UNFCCC COP guidance and decisions is provided in annex B. In particular, at COP 9 and COP 12, the SCCF was requested to prioritize funding for different activities granting "top priority" to adaptation activities that focus on health, disaster risk management (DRM), technology transfer, mitigation activities in specific sectors, and activities that support economic diversification with the aim of moving away from the production, processing, export, and/or consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products. In response to a request made at COP 18 SCCF has begun funding the NAP process in non-LDCF countries (which can apply for such funding under the LDCF.) The SCCF is structured to support activities in four windows (figure 1). As of the September 30, 2020 SCCF financial report prepared by the trustee, 15 donors had pledged contributions to the first two windows, with

\$294.46 million pledged towards the SCCF-A window and \$61.33 million pledged towards the SCCF-B window, with no pledges or contributions towards activity windows SCCF-C or SCCF-D (GEF 2020).

**Figure 1: Overview of SCCF Activity Windows**

<b>SCCF-A: Adaptation</b>	<b>SCCF-B: Transfer of technology</b>
Adaptation in the following areas: 1. Water resources management 2. Land management 3. Agriculture 4. Health 5. Infrastructure development 6. Fragile ecosystems (including mountain ecosystems), and 7. Integrated coastal zone management. (COP 9 Decision 5/CP.9, par.2)	1. Implementation of the results of technology needs assessments 2. Technology information 3. Capacity-building for technology transfer, and 4. Enabling environments. (COP 9 Decision 5/CP.9, par.3)
<b>SCCF-C: Mitigation in selected sectors</b>	<b>SCCF-D: Economic diversification</b>
Sectors including: 1. Energy 2. Transport 3. Industry 4. Agriculture 5. Forestry, and 6. Waste management. (COP 12 Decision 1/CP.12, par.1)	1. Capacity-building at the national level in the area of economic diversification, and 2. Technical assistance with respect to the investment climate, technological diffusion, transfer and innovation, and investment promotion of less GHG emitting, environmentally sound energy sources and more advanced fossil-fuel technologies. (COP 12 Decision 1/CP.12, par.2)

Source: UNFCCC Decisions: <https://unfccc.int/decisions>, accessed September 2019.

4. By the first LDCF/SCCF Council meeting in December 2006, 13 contributing participants had pledged \$61.5 million toward the SCCF, of which \$40.6 million was received in payments (GEF 2006). Subsequently, cumulative net project allocations approved by the Council or Chief Executive Officer (CEO) amounted to \$17.1 million as of April 30, 2007, and the first SCCF projects started implementation in August 2007 (GEF 2007).

5. The GEF acts as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC and was entrusted with the administration and financial operation of the SCCF. The SCCF is separate from the GEF Trust Fund, and—together with the LDCF—has its own council. The governance structure and operational procedures and policies that apply to the GEF Trust Fund are also applied to the LDCF and SCCF, but the LDCF/SCCF Council can modify these procedures in response to COP guidance or to facilitate LDCF/ SCCF operations to enable them to achieve their objectives.

6. The SCCF is also part of the operating entity of the financial mechanism for the Paris Agreement. The SCCF is entrusted to continue to play a key role to strengthen developing countries' resilience to

climate change, with a renewed focus on implementation. At the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of long-term goals are the nationally determined contributions (NDCs).<sup>1</sup> Each country outlines its efforts to reduce national emissions and to adapt to impacts of climate change. SCCF supports NDCs and seeks to align its programming with priorities identified in NDCs.

7. Unlike the GEF Trust Fund, which is replenished every four years, the SCCF receives voluntary contributions with no regular replenishment schedule. Because requests for funding significantly exceed the available resources—and in response to a recommendation from the first SCCF program evaluation presented in 2011—preselection criteria were developed in 2012 that focus on project or program quality, balanced distribution of funds in eligible countries, equitable regional distribution, balanced support for all priority sectors, and balanced distribution among GEF Agencies based on comparative advantage (GEF 2012a; GEF 2012b).

8. As part of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF endorsed by the Council in June 2018, the GEF Secretariat introduced the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation (hereinafter referred to as the “Challenge Program”) (GEF 2018a). The Challenge Program, intended as the main vehicle for addressing SCCF objective 1: “reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for climate change adaptation” (see box 1) modifies the pre-selection process, soliciting project concepts through a call for proposals. The existing pre-selection criteria are then applied to these proposals to identify those which will be invited to be developed further for approval by the LDCF/SCCF Council (GEF 2018b). Additionally, incentive for objective 2, “mainstreaming adaptation and resilience for systemic impact,” are being managed outside the pre-selection modality and are aligned with the regular GEF Trust Fund cycle.

9. The SCCF works with the same 18 Agencies as the GEF listed in table 2. These 18 GEF Agencies have direct access to SCCF and work closely with project proponents such as government agencies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to design, develop, and implement activities financed by the Fund. As of September 2020, 13 GEF Agencies were involved in SCCF operations (ADB, AfDB, CAF, CI, EBRD, FAO, IFAD, IDB, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, the World Bank Group, and WWF-US). The largest share of the portfolio in terms of approved projects is implemented by UNDP with 24 percent of all projects approved (22 projects), while the World Bank Group has the largest share of total funds approved, at 26 percent.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 2: GEF Agencies Involved in SCCF Operations**

All GEF Agencies	GEF Agencies involved in SCCF
<b>Original GEF Agencies</b>	
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
The World Bank Group	The World Bank Group
<b>Agencies added in two rounds of expansion</b>	
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Asian Development Bank (ADB)

<sup>1</sup> More information about NDCs is available from <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs#eq-5>.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Portal Extended Report, accessed August 2020.

African Development Bank (AFDB)	African Development Bank (AFDB)
Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO)	
Conservation International (CI)	Conservation International (CI)
Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)	Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)
Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)	
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO)	
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
West African Development Bank (BOAD)	
World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US)	World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US)

Sources: GEF website; [www.thegef.org/partners/gef-agencies](http://www.thegef.org/partners/gef-agencies), accessed October 2020 and GEF PMIS and portal.

10. At the 24th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting in June 2018 the new GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF/SCCF and Operational Improvements was approved. The findings and conclusions of the 2016 LDCF program evaluation and 2017 SCCF program evaluation contributed to the revision of the GEF programming strategy on adaptation to Climate Change. The goal of the strategy is to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change in developing countries and support their efforts to enhance adaptive capacity. The strategy includes updates to the three strategic objectives and a stronger emphasis on private sector engagement for the LDCF and SCCF, presented in box 1, with definitions provided in box 2. The strategy also seeks to enhance gender equality and mainstreaming and strives to enhance coordinated and synergistic programming with other major climate funds as well as with other GEF focal areas.

### Box 1: GEF Strategic Objectives and Pillars

The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (July 2018 to June 2022) has three strategic objectives:

- Reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for climate change adaptation.
- Mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience for systemic impact.
- Foster enabling conditions for effective and integrated climate change adaptation.

Private sector engagement will be fostered for the LDCF and SCCF through the three objectives of this strategy and implemented through the following two pillars:

- Expanding catalytic grant and non-grant investments



- Support enabling environments for the private sector to act as an agent for market transformation.
- The results framework of the GEF adaptation program is provided in annex D.

Source: GEF 2018a.

## Box 2: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Definitions of Key Terms

The UNFCCC COP guidance and decisions regarding the SCCF (annex B) and GEF strategic objectives and pillars (box 1) make use of several key terms that are defined as follows by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):

**Adaptation** The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In some natural systems, human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects.

**Capacity building** The practice of enhancing the strengths and attributes of, and resources available to, an individual, community, society, or organization to respond to change.

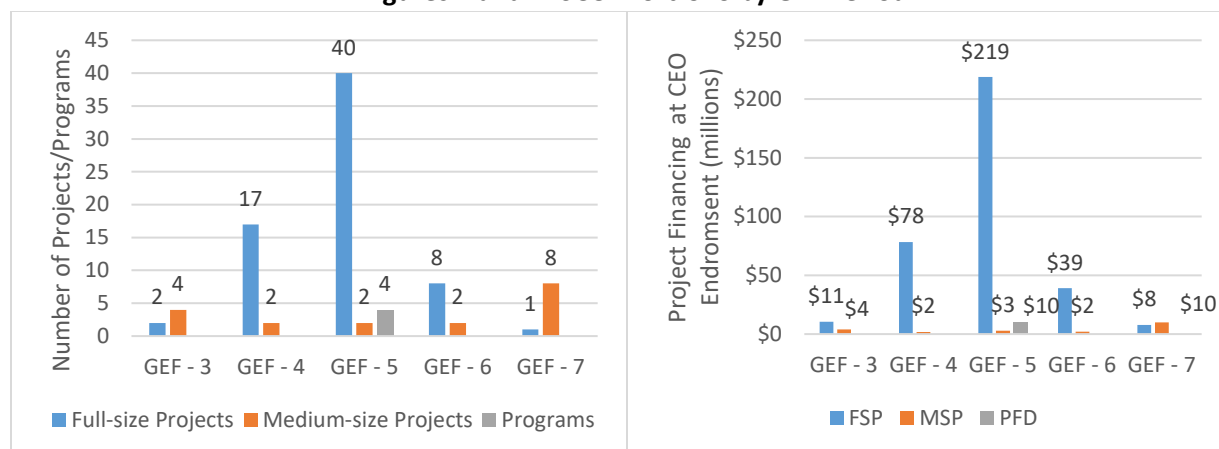
**Resilience** The capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identity, and structure, while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning, and transformation.

**Vulnerability** The propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt.

Source: IPCC 2018.

11. Figures 1 and 2 present the SCCF portfolio by project type. Eighty-six projects and four programs representing \$385 million in grant funding have been approved at the project identification stage, with the largest share of projects and funding approved in the GEF-5 phase. The SCCF portfolio comprises 68 full-size projects, 18 medium-size projects, and 4 program framework documents. Twenty percent of the SCCF portfolio of projects, (18 of 90) and twenty-five percent of the funding are in multitrust fund projects (\$97.9 million of \$385 million), 14 of which were approved in the GEF-5 period and 4 approved in the GEF-7 period.

Figures 1 and 2: SCCF Portfolio by GEF Period

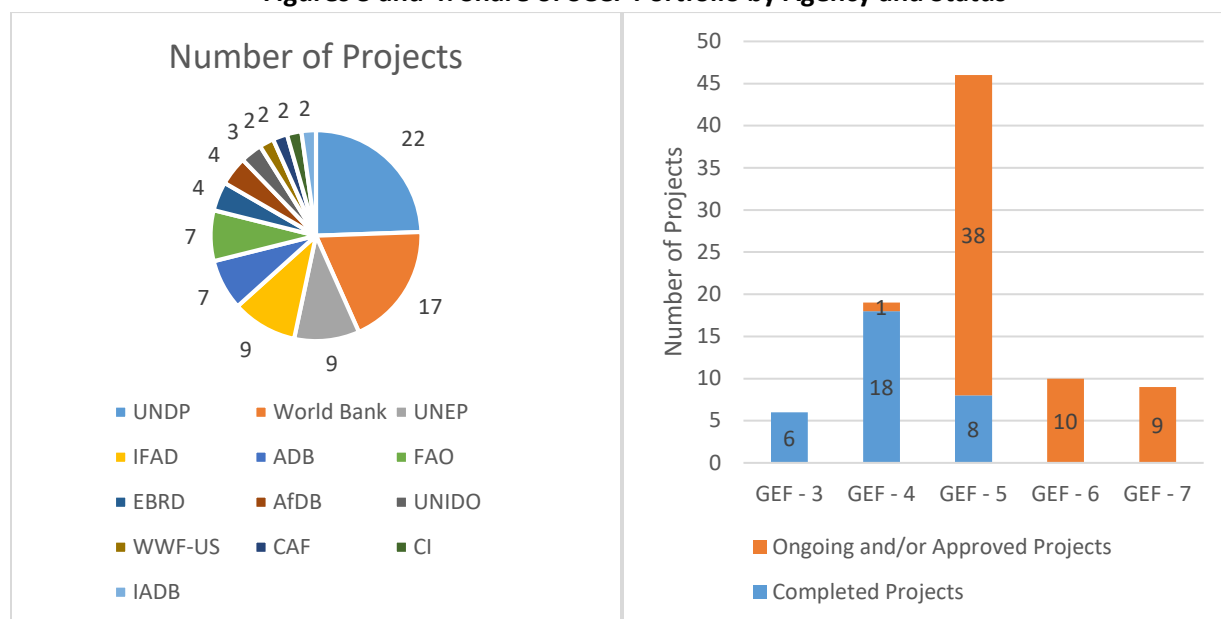


Source: GEF PMIS and portal.

Note: Project financing includes PPG. Fees are excluded.

12. Figures 3 and 4 present the SCCF portfolio by Agency share of projects, and in terms of status, based on data in the GEF Portal. These numbers and project status will be confirmed in the course of the evaluation. As noted above, SCCF projects and programs have been approved for 13 Agencies, with UNDP and the World Bank Group implementing the largest share. Of the 90 approved projects and programs, 32 are completed, while the others are either approved and awaiting implementation start, or under implementation. Three of the four programs, all pertaining to the GEF-5 period, have one child project each under implementation.

**Figures 3 and 4: Share of SCCF Portfolio by Agency and Status**



Source: GEF PMIS and portal.

13. The 2017 SCCF Program Evaluation (predecessor to this evaluation) covered through its portfolio review all submitted project proposals, regardless of their approval or implementation status (117 at the time.) This evaluation will restrict its review to projects which have met the threshold of approval at the project identification form (PIF) stage, or have advanced beyond this stage.<sup>3</sup> Accounting for this difference in threshold for review, the evaluation will review the 11 projects which have reached the threshold of PIF approval between October 2016, the cutoff date for the previous evaluation, and September 2020, the cutoff date for this evaluation. The evaluation will also conduct reviews of all completed projects with terminal evaluations received by September 2020, in order to provide information on outcomes and other results for the full cohort of completed SCCF projects. The list of projects for consideration is included in annex C.

14. This evaluation will take advantage of the small number of projects for review to conduct an in-depth qualitative assessment of project design and performance documents, in order to assess impacts and factors affecting performance in completed projects, and quality of design at entry for recently

<sup>3</sup> Projects meeting the approval threshold of CEO PIF cleared are included for consideration. Cancelled, dropped, pending, and rejected projects are excluded.

designed projects. The aim will not be to add to the results of the portfolio review presented in 2017, which are unlikely to be much changed by a small number of new projects, but instead to complement them with more in-depth coverage of recent developments in the portfolio.

### c. Previous evaluations of the SCCF

15. This is the third program evaluation of the SCCF undertaken by the GEF IEO, with two previous evaluations presented in 2011 and 2017. The 2011 evaluation focused on the first 10 years after the inception of the SCCF. At this early stage of SCCF implementation relatively little evidence on performance of the fund was available, with only two completed projects (GEF IEO 2012). Recommendations focused on the relevance of the SCCF, the role of innovation and learning in the SCCF, the funding process and SCCF project branding.

16. As noted in the section presenting the SCCF portfolio, the 2017 program evaluation covered the complete portfolio of SCCF project proposals submitted. Through this review, the evaluation found that the SCCF portfolio was highly complementary to the three GEF adaptation strategic objectives of reducing vulnerability, strengthening capacities, and mainstreaming adaptation, as well as country driven and well aligned with national environmental and sustainable development policies, plans and priorities. It also found that while almost 45 percent of projects may potentially contribute to the land degradation focal area, potential for SCCF projects to contribute to other focal areas was limited (GEF IEO 2018a). The evaluation presented eight conclusions (presented in annex B) and three recommendations: that the GEF Secretariat should prioritize the development of mechanisms to ensure predictable, adequate and sustainable financing for the Fund, that the GEF Secretariat should articulate and publicly communicate the SCCF's niche within the global adaptation finance landscape, including an explicit statement regarding its relation with—and complementarity to—the GCF, and that the GEF Secretariat should ensure that Project Management Information System (PMIS) data are up to date and accurate.

17. Aside from the series of SCCF program evaluations, SCCF has been covered to some degree through thematic evaluations conducted by GEF IEO and other entities. Early examples include a 2009 evaluation conducted by the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP's work with LDCF/SCCF resources, a 2011 evaluation of the GEF Strategic Priority for Adaptation (SPA) pilot program, which aimed to inform climate change adaptation work supported by the GEF, and a 2012 evaluation of GEF Focal Area Strategies conducted by GEF IEO, which included a technical paper focused on climate change adaptation under the LDCF and SCCF. As part of the Fifth Overall Performance Study (OPS5) of the GEF, SCCF was evaluated as part of OPS5 Technical Document 3, which analyzed the implementation of GEF focal area strategies. Finally, as part of the Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS6) a Climate Change Focal Area Study was completed and published in 2017, which included discussion of the SCCF portfolio, drawing evidence mainly from the 2017 evaluation. Evaluative evidence on adaptation to climate change and SCCF was also synthesized in OPS6 from evaluations and special studies of the GEF Trust Fund that included LDCF and SCCF projects.

## II. Purpose, Objectives, and Audience

### a. Purpose and objective

18. The overall purpose of the evaluation is to provide the LDCF/SCCF Council with evaluative evidence of the Fund's relevance, outcomes and their sustainability.

19. The main objective of this evaluation of the SCCF is to evaluate the progress made by the SCCF since the 2017 SCCF program evaluation and the extent to which the SCCF is achieving the objectives set out in the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for LDCF/SCCF (2018-2022). The evaluation also aims to provide recommendations on the way forward for the SCCF.

### b. Stakeholders and audience

20. The primary stakeholders are GEF Secretariat staff, staff of GEF Agencies and the LDCF/SCCF Council members. Secondary stakeholders are staff of the STAP, staff from Governments, country-level project implementers and other GEF stakeholders and beneficiaries.

21. The evaluation's target audience is LDCF/SCCF Council members, other LDCF/SCCF and GEF stakeholders, as well as the general public and professionals interested in climate change adaptation, national adaptation processes and development.

## III. Evaluation Questions and Coverage

### a. Coverage and scope

22. The focus of this evaluation will be on the developments since October 2016, which was the cutoff date for the 2017 Evaluation of the SCCF. The evaluation will cover the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability of outcomes and additionality of the SCCF, through the evaluation questions listed in the next section.

23. This evaluation will cover several themes and developments which were not the focus of the previous evaluation, reflecting changes in the GEF adaptation strategy and in the portfolio of the SCCF. Guidance from COP 23 encouraged the GEF to further enhance engagements with private sector. While the previous GEF adaptation strategy did include some attention to enhancing private sector engagement in climate resilience, the current strategy has elevated this issue, including private sector engagement as the focus of the two strategic pillars of the strategy :1) expanding catalytic grant and non-grant investments, and 2) support enabling environments for the private sector to act as an agent for market transformation. The pillars are aligned with the approach to private sector engagement articulated in the GEF-7 Programming Directions (GEF 2018d). This evaluation will therefore cover private sector engagement in SCCF for the first time. The portfolio review will include an examination of the ways in which SCCF projects either engage with private sector entities or include activities aimed to improve the enabling environment for private sector engagement in climate resilience. This review will be guided by the models for private sector engagement outlined in the strategy. The SCCF aims to

support local private actors and micro, small, and medium enterprises in their efforts to contribute to adaptation ambitions. To help address priorities identified by NAPs, private sector-relevant themes, such as value chains, market development, risk transfer and sharing mechanisms, insurance/re-insurance and eco-tourism, are relevant. The SCCF may also support incentives and policy measures to encourage private sector engagement, including fiscal and financial tools and instruments for climate risk transfer and management. The SCCF may utilize non-grant instruments in adaptation programming. Additionally, the GEF and GCF may collaborate to identify pathways and opportunities to facilitate private sector-oriented pilot initiatives supported by the SCCF (and LDCF) to be scaled up with the GCF.

24. Special attention will also be given to sustainability. The sustainability of GEF projects, or “the continuation/likely continuation of positive effects from the intervention after it has come to an end” is measured at completion through a rating which assesses risks to continuation of benefits from factors including environmental, financial, sociopolitical or institutional factors in the country (GEF 2019b). The GEF IEO has introduced a methodological approach for postcompletion verification that was piloted in the 2020 LDCF Program Evaluation (GEF IEO 2019c). This SCCF evaluation will review the sustainability ratings of SCCF projects at completion and include postcompletion assessments of two projects using a desk based version of this approach, augmented with field verification from local consultants, if possible, given the Covid-19 pandemic.

25. During the GEF-7 period, there has been a notable shift towards more regional and global initiatives, with all but one of the nine projects which have reached approval during this period being regional or global in scope. In its review of relevance, the evaluation will assess the shift in SCCF projects towards more regional and global and how this has worked from the perspective of country stakeholders. Another trend in the portfolio has been towards multitrust fund projects, with four of the nine projects approved during the GEF-7 period combining funds from SCCF with the LDCF or GEF, and 20 percent of all approved SCCF projects being multitrust fund projects. Given this trend, as well as a focus within the GEF adaptation strategies on expanding synergies with other GEF focal areas the evaluation will pay special attention to SCCF’s portfolio of multitrust fund projects, including their effectiveness, as well as any challenges in their approval and implementation.<sup>4</sup>

26. As with the previous SCCF evaluation, this evaluation will give special attention to gender considerations though it will follow a new approach, guided by changes in the GEF policies and requirements on gender, and in line with the approach taken by the concurrent IEO evaluation of GEF policies. In November 2017 the GEF adopted a new Policy on Gender Equity and a gender implementation strategy in June 2018 (GEF 2017; GEF 2018c). The GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation states that “the proposed results framework includes relevant disaggregated indicators for men and women so that impacts and outcomes, and their gender relevance, can be tracked and analyzed” (GEF 2018a). The focus of the evaluation will be on evidence of the operationalization of the new Gender Policy in the SCCF in project approved after it was introduced, though the evaluation will also review completed projects for inclusion of gender considerations. The evaluation will align its

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<sup>4</sup> The second pillar of the previous GEF adaption strategy was devoted to expanding synergies with other GEF focal areas approved in 2014. The current strategy introduced in 2018 notes COP guidance to promote synergies across focal areas. Annex III of this strategy also outlines new programming features designed to facilitate countries programming multitrust fund projects combining GEF Trust Fund and LDCF/SCCF resources (GEF 2014 and GEF 2018).

review of gender considerations in projects with the approach taken by the concurrent IEO evaluation of GEF policies, which will cover the policy on gender equality. The results framework on gender equality and women’s empowerment is provided in annex E for reference.

27. Regarding climate resilience, the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation states that “In line with the IPCC-defined scope of climate finance for resilience, the LDCF and SCCF seek to enhance resilience to the impacts of climate variability and the projected climate change” (IPCC 2014). The GEF Secretariat first developed a programming strategy on adaptation to climate change for the LDCF and SCCF in 2010 to cover the GEF-5 period. New strategies were introduced in 2014 and 2018 for the GEF-6 and GEF-7 periods, respectively. While the strategies have evolved over time, all have maintained the common fundamental goal of increasing resilience to climate change in developing countries. (GEF 2010, GEF 2014, GEF 2018a). This evaluation will review recently approved projects for quality of design, in line with the strategies under which they were approved and performance toward the goal of supporting developing countries to increase resilience to climate change.

### b. Key evaluation questions

28. Key evaluation questions are presented below, grouped by the core evaluation criteria:

<p><b>1. Relevance</b></p>	<p><i>Does SCCF support continue to be relevant to UNFCCC COP guidance and decisions, the GEF adaptation programming strategy, and countries’ broader development policies, plans and programs?</i></p> <p><i>How has the lack of funding affected the relevance of the SCCF?</i></p> <p>The evaluation will assess the relevance of newly approved SCCF projects in responding to the GEF adaptation programming strategy, and country priorities. (See annex B for UNFCCC COP guidance and decisions, and box 1 for GEF strategic objectives and pillars.) The evaluation will also assess the shift of the SCCF portfolio towards more regional and global initiatives and how this has worked from the perspective of country stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>2. Coherence</b></p>	<p><i>To what extent are SCCF projects complementary to interventions funded by other donors, such as the GCF?</i></p> <p>The evaluation will assess coherence in terms of complementarity and coordination with other actors.</p>
<p><b>3. Effectiveness</b></p>	<p><i>How effective is the SCCF at strengthening the resilience of non-LDC developing countries?</i></p> <p>The evaluation will review completed projects to assess the extent to which they have delivered on expected outcomes around climate change resilience. The evaluation will pay special attention to multitrust fund projects, which there has been a concerted effort to facilitate during the GEF-7 period.</p> <p><i>What are the gender equality objectives achieved and gender mainstreaming principles adhered to by the SCCF?</i></p>

	<p>The evaluation will assess the application of GEF’s gender policies during the past four years.</p> <p><i>To what extent has the SCCF engaged the private sector?</i></p> <p>The evaluation will assess newly approved projects in line with the 2018-2022 GEF adaptation strategy regarding private sector engagement and explore the extent of engagement with private sector in completed projects.</p> <p><i>What are the synergies with other focal areas and global environmental benefits delivered through SCCF projects?</i></p> <p>The evaluation will review completed projects for transformational contributions for adaptation benefits and global environmental benefits delivered in contribution to GEF focal areas, with an aim to present aggregate benefits that have been delivered by completed projects.<sup>5</sup></p> <p><i>What are lessons learned from implementation experience?</i></p> <p>The evaluation will synthesize lessons learned from the portfolio of completed projects.</p>
<b>4. Efficiency</b>	<p><i>How efficient has the Challenge for Adaptation preselection process been?</i></p> <p>The evaluation will review the model used for selection for the Challenge for Adaptation program.</p>
<b>5. Sustainability</b>	<p><i>To what extent are the results of SCCF support sustainable?</i></p> <p>The evaluation will review rating of the likelihood of sustainability ratings of SCCF projects at completion and include assessments of the factors that affect sustainability of outcomes of two projects post completion.</p>
<b>6. Additionality</b>	<p><i>What has been the additionality, both environmental and otherwise, of the SCCF?</i></p> <p>GEF additionality is defined as the additional outcome (both environmental and otherwise) that can be directly associated with the GEF supported project or program (GEF IEO 2019a; GEF IEO 2018b).<sup>6</sup> The evaluation will assess SCCF’s additionality in six areas: environmental, legal/regulatory, institutional, financial, socio-economic and innovation outcomes of the SCCF. The evaluation will also pay</p>

<sup>5</sup>The evaluation will use the definition of this term employed for the 2018 Evaluation of GEF Support for Transformational Change: “systemic, and sustainable change with large-scale impact in an area of global environmental concern” (GEF IEO, 2018c).

<sup>6</sup> An Evaluative Approach to Assessing GEF’s Additionality (GEF 2018b), prepared by the GEF IEO, includes a more detailed discussion of definitions of additionality across agencies, as well as the explanation of the definition adopted by the GEF IEO, which follows:

- (a) Changes in the attainment of direct project outcomes at project completion that can be attributed to GEF’s interventions; these can be reflected in an acceleration of the adoption of reforms, the enhancement of outcomes, or the reduction of risks and greater viability of project interventions.
- (b) Spill-over effects beyond project outcomes that may result from systemic reforms, capacity development, and socio-economic changes.
- (c) Clearly articulated pathways to achieve broadening of the impact beyond project completion that can be associated with GEF interventions.

	special attention to the SCCF’s ability to promote synergies across focal areas and what makes the SCCF distinctive from other climate funds.
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**c. Assessing performance**

29. The Fund’s performance will be assessed at the Fund’s macro level as well as the project level. The former will be in terms of the degree to which the SCCF has operated according to the strategic objectives set, informed by the UNFCCC COP guidance and decisions received, to analyze the broader progress to impact. This also translates into evaluating the Fund’s performance regarding the mainstreaming of adaptation into broader developmental policies, plans and programs and assessing how the SCCF has related to other GEF focal areas beyond climate change adaptation. The latter will focus on performance related to the achievement of project results against stated goals. The core evaluation criteria (relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and additionality) will be applied as outlined in the previous paragraph.

**IV. Evaluation Design**

**a. Methodology**

30. The evaluation’s methodological approach is expected to include the following main elements:

- **Document review:** Review of documentation will include GEF specific documents on the SCCF and related interventions, as well as additional literature beyond GEF and LDCF/SCCF Council and project documents, and GEF Secretariat policies, processes and related documents. Document review will also include non-GEF IEO evaluation materials, academic and grey literature on the Fund, and NAP developments. The GEF IEO Management Action Record (MAR), the GEF adaptation strategy for LDCF and SCCF approved in 2018, and any other guidance from GEF Secretariat on SCCF work will be reviewed for implementation of recommendations from the previous SCCF evaluation.
- **Portfolio review:**
  - Quality at entry review. All 11 projects which have been approved by the Council and/or CEO endorsed/approved since October 2016 will be reviewed to assess relevance to UNFCCC guidance and decisions, the GEF adaptation programming strategy, and countries broader development policies, plans and programs.
  - Review of completed projects. All 32 projects which have reached completion to date will be subject to a desk review for outcomes and other results.
- **Meta-assessment:** Since the 2017 SCCF program evaluation the GEF IEO and other agencies have conducted evaluations that have reviewed the SCCF. The evaluation team will conduct a meta-assessment to synthesize lessons, findings and experiences from such assessments of the SCCF and related activities.



- **Interviews:** Interviews regarding the results, operations and management of the SCCF will be conducted with select stakeholders from: the GEF Secretariat as the SCCF administrator, GEF Agencies, relevant government and non-governmental actors in selected countries where SCCF is active, the UNFCCC secretariat and private sector partners.
- **Field Visits:** If feasible, local consultants will be hired to conduct field visits, with a focus on gathering evidence of sustainability of project results postcompletion and gathering the perspective of country stakeholders. Where possible, visits to interview challenge program proponents, many of whom are based in the US, may be undertaken.
- **Triangulation:** The evaluation team will conduct an analysis of, and triangulate data collected to determine trends, formulate main findings, lessons and conclusions. Different stakeholders will be consulted during the process to test preliminary findings. Also see “V. Quality Assurance.”

### b. Design limitations

31. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, field verification by IEO staff will not be possible during the evaluation time frame. However, if possible, the evaluation will make use of local consultants for field verification, taking safety of in-country travel into consideration. If this is not achievable, the office will rely on desk-based research and phone based key informant interviews to gather information.

32. While the GEF Secretariat has reported extensive updates and improvements with the quality of project data as part of the migration from the PMIS to the new GEF Portal platform the GEF IEO continues to find issues in terms of accurate reporting of project status. Portal data will be compared with LDCF/SCCF Council progress reports for the SCCF and GEF Agencies will be requested to verify project data before projects are reviewed.

## V. Quality Assurance

33. In line with IEO’s quality assurance practice, quality assurance measures have been set up for this evaluation. The draft approach paper and draft evaluation report will be circulated and validated before finalization through a comprehensive stakeholder feedback process with the key stakeholders. In the case of the draft evaluation report this will take place prior to the June Council in 2021. Key stakeholders include the GEF Secretariat, GEF Agencies, STAP, and select GEF focal points. Comments, feedback and suggestions will be considered, and the approach paper and final report will be adjusted accordingly. Additionally, the draft approach paper has been internally reviewed in the GEF IEO, and an internal and external peer reviewer with experience in adaptation to climate change evaluation has been selected to provide advice throughout the evaluation process. The internal and external peer reviewer will advise on the evaluation methods described in the approach paper, findings and recommendations of the evaluation, and the draft and final evaluation report.

## VI. Deliverables and Dissemination

34. The main findings, conclusions, and recommendations will be presented as a working document to the LDCF/SCCF Council at the June 2021 meeting. It will be distributed to LDCF/SCCF Council members, GEF Secretariat, GEF Agencies, STAP and relevant GEF country focal points. A graphically edited version will be published on the IEO's website and will also be made available to interested parties through email. A four-page summary of the report will be produced and posted on the website. The above-mentioned outputs will be distributed through existing IEO mailing lists as well as to stakeholders involved in the conduct of the evaluation. The main findings, conclusions, and recommendations will be included in the Report of the GEF to the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC. To reach a wider audience the evaluation will also be presented through webinars and at relevant evaluation conferences and workshops such as Adaptation Futures.

## VII. Resources

### a. Timeline

35. The 2021 SCCF program evaluation will take place between October 2020 and June 2021. The initial work plan is shown in table 4 and will be further revised and detailed as part of the further preparation.

**Table 4: Work Plan**

Task	Month:	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
		2020	2020	2020	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
<b>I Evaluation Design</b>										
Draft Approach Paper		█	█							
Feedback Process			█							
Approach Paper			█							
TORs			█							
Protocol Development			█	█						
<b>II Evaluation Context</b>										
Literature Review			█	█	█	█				
Meta-Evaluation Review				█	█					
Evaluation Matrix				█	█					
<b>III Data Collection</b>										
Interviews					█	█				
Project Desk Review			█	█	█					
Field Visits					█	█				
<b>IV Analysis</b>										
Data Analysis				█	█	█				
Draft Report						█	█	█		
Feedback Process							█	█	█	
<b>V Outreach</b>										
Final Document to Council									█	
Presentation to Council										█
Final Graphically Edited Version of Report										→
Webinar										→
Report Summary										→
Blogpost										→

**b. Budget (internal)**

36. The 2021 SCCF program evaluation is budgeted at \$55,000. A further breakdown of cost elements has been provided for the IEO.

**c. Team and skills mix**

37. The evaluation will be led by a task manager from the GEF IEO with oversight from the Chief Evaluation Officer and Director of the IEO. The manager will lead a team comprised of GEF IEO Evaluation Analyst and consultants. A mid-level short-term consultant with technical and policy expertise in adaptation to climate change and evaluation will be hired to provide guidance and specific inputs at major milestones of the evaluation.

# Annex A: Conclusions and Recommendations of the 2017 Program Evaluation of the Special Climate Change Fund

## Conclusions

In its evaluation of the SCCF, the GEF Independent Evaluation Office reached the following eight conclusions:

Conclusion 1: SCCF support has been highly relevant to UNFCCC guidance, to GEF adaptation strategic objectives, and to countries' national environmental and sustainable development goals and agendas. The evaluation confirmed that there is a high degree of coherence between the SCCF portfolio's project objectives and the priorities and guidance provided to the Fund from the UNFCCC. The SCCF portfolio is also highly complementary to the three GEF adaptation strategic objectives of reducing vulnerability, strengthening capacities, and mainstreaming adaptation. SCCF projects were also found to be strongly country driven and well aligned with national environmental and sustainable development policies, plans, and priorities, including, but not limited to, countries' specific climate change goals.

Conclusion 2: The relevance of SCCF support to other, non-adaptation GEF focal areas—and to GEF's global environmental benefits—is limited. The extent to which SCCF projects were relevant to other (non-adaptation) GEF focal areas was limited. While almost 45 percent of projects will potentially contribute to the GEF focal area of land degradation, the apparent potential for contributing to other focal areas is far more modest. Similarly, the SCCF portfolio's likely contributions to global environmental benefits will be very limited and restricted to the global environmental benefit of sustainable land management.

Conclusion 3: The SCCF's niche within the global adaptation finance arena has been its accessibility for non-Annex I countries and its support for innovative adaptation projects. The accessibility of the SCCF to non-Annex I countries was consistently identified by stakeholders as the main distinguishing factor of the Fund, with this being particularly important given the lack of other adaptation-focused grant sources for non-LDCs. The SCCF's support for innovative projects was also identified as another comparatively distinctive element of the Fund. This openness to innovation was seen to be particularly important in light of the nascent Green Climate Fund (GCF). A number of stakeholders felt that the SCCF had the potential to be the ideal incubator for countries to test and refine project concepts prior to seeking large-scale finance through the GCF.

Conclusion 4: The SCCF portfolio is highly likely to deliver tangible adaptation benefits and catalytic effects. The evaluation estimated that virtually all SCCF projects (98.7 percent) had either a high or a very high probability of delivering tangible adaptation benefits; this was supported by evidence gathered during country visits, when benefits already being delivered by SCCF projects were evaluated. Virtually all projects were also found to have achieved some degree of catalytic effect, whereby SCCF work had a positive influence on activities, outputs, and outcomes beyond the immediate project.

Conclusion 5: The ultimate catalytic effect of scaling-up often demands further investments. Most projects had obvious potential to achieve the ultimate catalytic goal of scaling-up, and a number of evaluations identified the institutional capacities that were developed and the political awareness that

was built as two critical foundations for possible future scaling-up. But the key constraint to actual scaling-up was the post-implementation difficulty in securing sufficient resources and/or mainstreaming the work within, for example, national budgets.

Conclusion 6: The SCCF's effectiveness and efficiency has been seriously undermined by limited and unpredictable resources. Despite the continued relevance of the Fund, its popularity among non-Annex I countries, and evidence that tangible adaptation results are being delivered, the SCCF's resources have been completely inadequate to meet demand, with contributions to the Fund effectively stalled since 2014. This is obviously affecting the SCCF's short-term performance, but there is a significant risk that longer-term performance is also being undermined. As a direct consequence of the limited and unpredictable resources, some GEF Agencies have confirmed that they are no longer considering or promoting the SCCF when discussing proposal developments with project partners. The time, financial cost, and political capital required to develop and build support for proposals could not be justified against the high risk of no funding being available. The SCCF resource situation can be characterized as a vicious circle: No resources are available, so no proposals are developed, which can be interpreted by donors as limited interest or lack of demand, so donors do not provide resources.

Conclusion 7: The gender sensitivity of the SCCF portfolio has strengthened over time, with this improvement almost certainly influenced by the GEF's Policy on Gender Mainstreaming and the Gender Equality Action Plan. Based on analysis of three project elements—project design, project monitoring and evaluation, and project implementation—the evaluation found that the gender sensitivity of SCCF projects has improved markedly across all three elements. For example, while 84.2 percent of SCCF projects during GEF-4 had no gender mainstreaming plan, this proportion dropped to 12.5 percent during GEF-6. Important drivers behind this improvement are almost certainly the introduction of the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming during the GEF-5 cycle, and the approval of the Gender Equality Action Plan during GEF-6.

Conclusion 8: There are significant discrepancies in project data from the GEF Secretariat's Project Management Information System (PMIS). A quality assessment of PMIS information was not a specific objective of this evaluation, but project data harvesting from the PMIS revealed that 64 of the 117 projects reviewed had an incorrect project status in the PMIS. Moreover, cross-checking the available project data with GEF Agencies and progress reports to Council revealed further discrepancies in PMIS data.

## **Recommendations**

In its evaluation of the SCCF, the GEF Independent Evaluation Office reached the following three recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Reaffirming and strengthening a recommendation from the previous SCCF program evaluation in 2011, the GEF Secretariat should prioritize the development of mechanisms that ensure predictable, adequate, and sustainable financing for the Fund, given its support for and focus on innovation.

Recommendation 2: The GEF Secretariat should articulate and publicly communicate the SCCF's niche within the global adaptation finance landscape, to include an explicit statement regarding the SCCF's relation with—and complementarity to—the GCF.

Recommendation 3: The GEF Secretariat should ensure that PMIS data are up to date and accurate.

## Annex B: UNFCCC COP Guidance and Decisions

### **COP 6 (II): Bonn, Germany, 16 - 27 July 2001 (FCCC/CP/2001/5)**

#### **I. DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AT THE FIRST PART OF ITS SIXTH SESSION**

##### **Decision 5/CP.6 - Annex, I. FUNDING UNDER THE CONVENTION**

The Conference of the Parties agrees:

3. That:

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| (a) There is a need for funding, including funding that is new and additional to contributions that are allocated to the Global Environment Facility climate change focal area and to multilateral and bilateral funding, for the implementation of the Convention; | SCCF general         |
| (b) Predictable and adequate levels of funding shall be made available to Parties not included in Annex I;  | SCCF target audience |

##### **Decision 5/CP.6 - Annex, I. FUNDING UNDER THE CONVENTION - Special climate change fund**

The Conference of the Parties agrees:

Par. 1. That a special climate change fund shall be established to finance activities, programmes and measures related to climate change, that are complementary to those funded by the resources allocated to the Global Environment Facility climate change focal area and by bilateral and multilateral funding, in the following areas:

- (a) Adaptation;
- (b) Technology transfer;
- (c) Energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management; and
- (d) Activities to assist developing country Parties referred to under Article 4, paragraph 8 (h), in diversifying their economies.

Par. 2. That the Parties included in Annex II and other Parties included in Annex I that are in a position to do so shall be invited to contribute to the fund, which shall be operated by an entity which operates the financial mechanism, under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;

Par. 3. To invite the entity referred to in par. 2 above to make the necessary arrangements for this purpose.

### **COP 7: Marrakesh, Morocco, 29 October - 10 November 2001 (FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1)**

#### **Decision 4/CP.7 - Development and transfer of technologies (decisions 4/CP.4 and 9/CP.5)**

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The Conference of the Parties, [...]

Par. 3. Requests the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, to provide financial support for the implementation of the annexed framework (i.e. the framework for meaningful and effective actions to enhance the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 5, of the Convention, [...]by increasing and improving the transfer of and access to environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) and know-how) through its climate change focal area and the special climate change fund established under decision 7/CP.7. Technology transfer

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**Decision 5/CP.7 - I. ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

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Par. 8. Decides that the implementation of the following activities shall be supported through the special climate change fund (in accordance with decision 7/CP.7) and/or the adaptation fund (in accordance with decision 10/CP.7), and other bilateral and multilateral sources:

- (a) Starting to implement adaptation activities promptly where sufficient information is available to warrant such activities, inter alia, in the areas of water resources management, land management, agriculture, health, infrastructure development, fragile ecosystems, including mountainous ecosystems, and integrated coastal zone management; SCCF funding priorities
  - (b) Improving the monitoring of diseases and vectors affected by climate change, and related forecasting and early-warning systems, and in this context improving disease control and prevention; SCCF - Health
  - (c) Supporting capacity building, including institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness and management of disasters relating to climate change, including contingency planning, in particular, for droughts and floods in areas prone to extreme weather events; SCCF - DRM
  - (d) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national and regional centres and information networks for rapid response to extreme weather events, utilizing information technology as much as possible; SCCF - DRM
- 

**Decision 5/CP.7 - III. IMPACT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESPONSE MEASURES**

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Par. 19. Decides that the implementation of the activities included in paragraphs 25 to 32 below shall be supported through the Global Environment Facility (in accordance with decision 6/CP.7), the special climate change fund (in accordance with decision 7/CP.7), and other bilateral and multilateral sources; Funding priorities - General

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**Decision 7/CP.7 - Funding under the Convention**

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Par. 2. Decides also that a special climate change fund shall be established to finance activities, programmes and measures, relating to climate change, that are complementary to those funded by the resources allocated to the climate change focal area of Global Environment Facility and by bilateral and multilateral funding, in the following areas:

SCCF funding priorities

- (a) Adaptation, in accordance with paragraph 8 of decision 5/CP.7;
- (b) Transfer of technologies, in accordance with decision 4/CP.7;
- (c) Energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management;
- (d) Activities to assist developing country Parties referred to under Article 4, paragraph 8(h), in diversifying their economies, in accordance with decision 5/CP.7;

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Par. 4. Invites the entity referred to in paragraph 3 above to make the necessary arrangements for this purpose and report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session for appropriate action;

SCCF general

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**COP 8: New Delhi, India, 23 October - 1 November 2002 (FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.1)**

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**Decision 7/CP.8 - Initial guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund**

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The Conference of the Parties, [...]

SCCF funding principles

Par. 1. Decides that, for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund, the Global Environment Facility, as an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, should:

- (a) Promote complementarity of funding between the Special Climate Change Fund and other funds with which the operating entity is entrusted;
- (b) Ensure financial separation of the Special Climate Change Fund from other funds with which the operating entity is entrusted;
- (c) Ensure transparency in the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund;
- (d) Adopt streamlined procedures for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund while ensuring sound financial management;

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Par. 2. Decides to further define the prioritized activities, programmes and measures to be funded out of the Special Climate Change Fund in areas enumerated in paragraph 2 of decision 7/CP.7 by undertaking the activities described below:

SCCF funding priorities

- (a) Initiating a process now with a view to providing further guidance to the Global Environment Facility, this process to consist of:
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- 
- (i) Requesting Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 February 2003, views on activities, programmes and measures referred to in paragraph 2 of decision 7/CP.7;
  - (ii) Requesting the Expert Group on Technology Transfer and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to submit to the secretariat, as soon as possible, views, relevant to their mandates, on activities, programmes and measures referred to in paragraph 2 of decision 7/CP.7;
  - (iii) Requesting the secretariat to prepare for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its eighteenth session, a report summarizing and analyzing the above-mentioned submissions;
- (b) Upon completion of such a process, a decision at its ninth session will provide guidance to the Global Environment Facility in order for the Global Environment Facility to operationalize the fund without delay thereafter.

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**COP 9: Milan, Italy, 1 - 12 December 2003 (FCCC/CP/2003/6/Add.1)**

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**Decision 5/CP.9 - Further guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund**

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The Conference of the Parties, [...]

Par. 1. Decides that:

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| (a) The Special Climate Change Fund should serve as a catalyst to leverage additional resources from bilateral and other multilateral sources;                 | SCCF funding principles    |
| (b) Activities to be funded should be country-driven, cost-effective and integrated into national sustainable development and poverty-reduction strategies;    |                            |
| (c) Adaptation activities to address the adverse impacts of climate change shall have top priority for funding;  | SCCF - Adaptation overall  |
| (d) Technology transfer and its associated capacity-building activities shall also be essential areas to receive funding from the Special Climate Change Fund; | SCCF - Technology transfer |
- 

Par. 2. Decides also that the implementation of adaptation activities shall be supported through the Special Climate Change Fund, taking into account national communications or national adaptation programmes of action, and other relevant information provided by the applicant Party, and include:

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| (a) Implementation of adaptation activities where sufficient information is available to warrant such activities, inter alia, in the areas of water resources management, land management, agriculture, health, infrastructure development, fragile ecosystems, including mountain ecosystems, and integrated coastal zone management; | SCCF - Adaptation overall |
|--|---------------------------|
-

(b) Improving the monitoring of diseases and vectors affected by climate change, and related forecasting and early warning systems, and in this context improving disease control and prevention;	SCCF - Health
(c) Supporting capacity-building, including institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness and management of disasters relating to climate change, including contingency planning, in particular, for droughts and floods in areas prone to extreme weather events;	SCCF - DRM
(d) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national and regional centres and information networks for rapid response to extreme weather events, utilizing information technology as much as possible;	SCCF - DRM
Par. 3. Decides further that resources from the Special Climate Change Fund shall be used to fund technology transfer activities, programmes and measures that are complementary to those currently funded by the Global Environment Facility taking into account national communications or any other relevant documents in accordance with decision 4/CP.7 and its annex containing the framework for meaningful and effective actions to enhance the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 5, of the Convention, in the following priority areas: (a) Implementation of the results of technology needs assessments; (b) Technology information; (c) Capacity-building for technology transfer; (d) Enabling environments;	SCCF - Technology transfer
Par. 4. Decides further that activities under paragraph 2 (c) and (d) in decision 7/CP.7 are also to be funded by the Special Climate Change Fund and to this effect invites Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 September 2004, further views on activities, programmes and measures in these areas for further consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its twenty-first session, in order for the Conference of the Parties to take a decision on this matter at its tenth session;	SCCF funding priorities
Par. 5. Requests the entity entrusted with the operation of the fund to arrange expedited access to the Special Climate Change Fund in keeping with current practices of the Global Environment Facility, taking into account the need for adequate resources to implement eligible activities, programmes and measures;	SCCF - Resource approval and disbursement
Par. 6. Invites the entity entrusted with the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund to make the necessary arrangements to mobilize resources to make the fund operational without delay;	SCCF - Resource mobilization
Par. 7. Requests the entity referred to in paragraph 5 above to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties, at its tenth session, the specific steps it has undertaken to implement this decision;	SCCF - Reporting

**COP 10: Buenos Aires, Argentina, 6 - 18 December 2004 (FCC/CP/2004/10/Add.1)**

**Decision 1/CP.10 - Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures**

The Conference of the Parties, [...]

SCCF - Financial  
resources

Par. 3. Urges Parties included in Annex II to the Convention (Annex II Parties) to contribute to the Special Climate Change Fund and other multilateral and bilateral sources, to support, as a top priority, adaptation activities to address the adverse impacts of climate change;

**COP 12: Nairobi, Kenya, 6 - 17 November 2006 (FCCC/CP/2006/5/Add.1)**

**Decision 1/CP.12 - Further guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund**

The Conference of the Parties, [...]

SCCF – Sectors (SCCF-  
C)

Par. 1. Decides that the Special Climate Change Fund shall be used to finance activities, programmes and measures relating to climate change in the areas set out in decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 2 (c), that are complementary to those funded by the resources allocated to the climate change focal area of the Global Environment Facility and by bilateral and multilateral funding, particularly in the following priority areas:

- (a) Energy efficiency, energy savings, renewable energy and less-greenhouse-gas-emitting advanced fossil-fuel technologies;
- (b) Innovation including through research and development relating to energy efficiency and savings in the transport and industry sectors;
- (c) Climate-friendly agricultural technologies and practices, including traditional agricultural methods;
- (d) Afforestation, reforestation and use of marginal land;
- (e) Solid and liquid waste management for the recovery of methane;

Par. 2. Decides that the Special Climate Change Fund shall be used to finance activities, programmes and measures relating to climate change in the areas set out in decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 2 (d), that are complementary to those funded by the resources allocated to the climate change focal area of the Global Environment Facility and by other bilateral and multilateral funding initially in the following areas:

SCCF – Diversification  
(SCCF-D)

- (a) Capacity-building at the national level in the areas of:
  - (i) Economic diversification;
  - (ii) Energy efficiency in countries whose economies are highly dependent on consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products;

<p>(b) Support through technical assistance the creation of favourable conditions for investment in sectors where such investment could contribute to economic diversification;</p> <p>(c) Support through technical assistance the diffusion and transfer of less-greenhouse-gas emitting advanced fossil-fuel technologies;</p> <p>(d) Support through technical assistance innovative national advanced fuel technologies;</p> <p>(e) Support through technical assistance the promotion of investments in less-greenhouse gas- emitting, environmentally sound energy sources, including natural gas, according to the national circumstances of Parties;</p>	
<p>Par. 3. Decides to assess, at its fifteenth session, the status of implementation of paragraph 2 above, with a view to considering further guidance on how the fund shall support concrete implementation projects in accordance with paragraphs 22–29 of decision 5/CP.7;</p>	<p>SCCF general</p>
<p>Par. 4. Decides that the operational principles and criteria of the Special Climate Change Fund and the manner in which they are carried out in the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund will apply only to Global Environment Facility activities financed under the Special Climate Change Fund;</p>	<p>SCCF funding principles</p>
<p><b>COP 16: Cancun, Mexico, 29 November - 10 December 2010 (FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.2)</b></p>	
<p><b>Decision 2/CP.16 - Fourth review of the financial mechanism</b></p>	
<p>Par. 5. Decides that the Global Environment Facility should continue to provide and enhance support for the implementation of adaptation activities, including the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action, through the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p>	<p>CCA funding in general</p>
<p>Par. 6. Requests the Global Environment Facility, in its regular report to the Conference of the Parties, to include information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 above;</p>	<p>Reporting general</p>
<p><b>Decision 4/CP.16 - Assessment of the Special Climate Change Fund</b></p>	
<p>The Conference of the Parties, [...]</p> <p>Decides to conclude the assessment of the status of implementation of paragraph 2 of decision 1/CP.12 and to request the entity entrusted with the operation of the Special Climate Change Fund to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session information on the implementation of paragraph 2 (a–d) of decision 7/CP.7.</p>	<p>SCCF Review</p>

**COP 18: Doha, Qatar, 26 November - 8 December 2012 (FCCC/CP/2012/8/Add.1)**

**Decision 9/CP.18 - Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility**

The Conference of the Parties, [...]

Par. 1. Requests the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention:  
[...]

(c) Through the Special Climate Change Fund, to consider how to enable activities for the preparation of the national adaptation plan process for interested developing country Parties that are not least developed country Parties, as it requested the Global Environment Facility, through the Least Developed Countries Fund, to consider how to enable activities for the preparation of the national adaptation plan process for the least developed country Parties in decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 22;      SCCF - NAP process

Par. 2. Also requests the Global Environment Facility, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties, to include information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in paragraph 1 above;      SCCF - Reporting

Par. 5. Also urges developed country Parties to mobilize financial support for the national adaptation plan process for interested developing country Parties that are not least developed country Parties through bilateral and multilateral channels, including through the Special Climate Change Fund, in accordance with decision 1/CP.16, as it urged developed country Parties to mobilize financial support for the national adaptation plan process for least developed country Parties in decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 21      SCCF - Resource mobilization

**COP 21: Paris, France, 30 November - 13 December 2015 (FCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1)**

**Decision 1/CP.21 - III. Decisions to give effect to the Agreement (i.e. the Paris Agreement)**

Par. 58. Decides that the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, the entities entrusted with the operation of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, as well as the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, administered by the Global Environment Facility, shall serve the Agreement;      General funding

**COP 22: Marrakech, Morocco, 07 November-18 November 2016 (FCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1)**

**Decision 6/CP.22- National adaptation plans**

Par 10. Encourages developed country Parties to contribute to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and invited additional voluntary financial contributions to the LDCF, the SCCF, and other funds      SCCF - Resource mobilization

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under the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, recognizing the importance of the process to formulate and implement NAPs

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**COP 24: Katowice, Poland, 2 December-14 December 2018 (FCC/CP/2018/10/Add.1)**

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**Decision 8/CP.24-National adaptation plans**

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Par 9. Notes that funding has been made available for developing country Parties under the Green Climate Fund, and the Least Developed Countries Funds, and the Special Climate Change Fund for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans. SCCF - NAP process

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**COP 25: Madrid, Spain, 2 December-13 December 2019 (FCC/CP/2019/13/Add.1)**

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**Decision 13/CP.25- Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility**

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Par. 3 Welcomes contributions made by Switzerland to the Special Climate Change Fund during the reporting period amounting to USD 3.3 million, and encourages additional voluntary financial contributions to these funds to provide support for adaptation; SCCF - Resource mobilization

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Source: UNFCCC Decisions: <https://unfccc.int/decisions>, accessed September 2020. Note: Decisions from COP 22 onward appended to list provided in the 2017 SCCF Program Evaluation (GEF IEO 2018a).

## Annex C: SCCF Portfolio for review

**Table a: Portfolio of Recently Approved Projects for Review**

GEF ID	Project title	GEF phase	Lead Agency	Country	Fund	Size	GEF grant (\$ millions)
9670	Enhancing Regional Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas	GEF-6	UNEP	Albania, Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Tunisia	SCCF	MSP	1.1
9941	Structuring and Launching CRAFT: the First Private Sector Climate Resilience & Adaptation Fund for Developing Countries	GEF-6	CI	Global	SCCF	MSP	1.0
10195	CSIDS-SOILCARE Phase1: Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) multi-country soil management initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and climate-resilient food systems	GEF-7	FAO	Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia	MTF	FSP	7.7
10296	Adaptation SME Accelerator Project (ASAP)	GEF-7	CI	Global	SCCF	MSP	2.0
10431	Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Coral Reef Insurance in Asia and the Pacific	GEF-7	ADB	Fiji, Indonesia, Philippines, Solomon Islands	MTF	MSP	1.3
10433	Piloting innovative financing for climate adaptation technologies in medium-sized cities	GEF-7	UNIDO	Global	MTF	MSP	0.7



10434	Blended finance facility for climate resilience in coffee and cacao value chains: CC-Blend	GEF-7	UNEP	Regional	SCCF	MSP	1.1
10436	Investment Readiness for the Landscape Resilience Fund	GEF-7	WWF-US	Global	MTF	MSP	1.2
10437	Financial tools for small scale fishers in Melanesia	GEF-7	WWF-US	Fiji, Papua New Guinea	SCCF	MSP	1.1
10438	UAVs/drones for Equitable Climate Change Adaptation: Participatory Risk Management through Landslide and Debris Flow Monitoring in Mocoa, Colombia	GEF-7	CAF	Colombia	SCCF	MSP	0.5
10632	Using systemic approaches and simulation to scale nature-based infrastructure for climate adaptation	GEF-7	UNIDO	Global	SCCF	MSP	2.1

Source: GEF PMIS and portal.

Note: All projects submitted and approved (at PIF stage) between October 2016, the cutoff date for the previous SCCF Program Evaluation, and September 2020, the cutoff date for this evaluation, are included.

**Table b: Portfolio of Completed Projects for Review**

<b>GEF ID</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>GEF phase</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>GEF grant (\$ millions)</b>
2553	Piloting Climate Change Adaptation to Protect Human Health	GEF-4	UNDP	Global	SCCF	FSP	5.0
2832	Mainstreaming Climate Change in Integrated Water Resources Management in Pangani River Basin	GEF-3	UNDP	Tanzania	SCCF	MSP	1.0
2902	Design and Implementation of Pilot Climate Change Adaptation Measures in the Andean Region	GEF-4	World Bank	Regional	SCCF	FSP	8.5
2931	Adaptation to Climate Change through Effective Water Governance	GEF-4	UNDP	Ecuador	SCCF	FSP	3.4
3101	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PACC)	GEF-4	UNDP	Regional	SCCF	FSP	13.5
3103	Climate-resilient Infrastructure in Northern Mountain Province of Vietnam	GEF-4	ADB	Viet Nam	SCCF	FSP	3.5
3154	Coping with Drought and Climate Change	GEF-3	UNDP	Ethiopia	SCCF	MSP	1.0
3155	Coping with Drought and Climate Change	GEF-3	UNDP	Mozambique	SCCF	MSP	1.0
3156	Coping with Drought and Climate Change	GEF-3	UNDP	Zimbabwe	SCCF	MSP	1.0
3159	Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts on the Coastal Wetlands	GEF-4	World Bank	Mexico	SCCF	FSP	4.8
3218	Integrating Climate Change into the Management of Priority Health Risks	GEF-4	UNDP	Ghana	SCCF	FSP	1.8
3227	Conservancy Adaptation Project	GEF-3	World Bank	Guyana	SCCF	FSP	3.8

3242	Adaptation to Climate Change in the Nile Delta Through Integrated Coastal Zone Management	GEF-4	UNDP	Egypt	SCCF	FSP	4.0
3249	Adaptation to Climate Change in Arid Lands (KACCAL)	GEF-3	World Bank	Kenya	SCCF	FSP	6.8
3265	Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change Into Water Resources Management and Rural Development	GEF-4	World Bank	China	SCCF	FSP	5.0
3299	Strengthening the Capacity of Vulnerable Coastal Communities to Address the Risk of Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events	GEF-4	UNDP	Thailand	SCCF	MSP	0.9
3679	Economic Analysis of Adaptation Options in Support of Decision Making	GEF-4	UNEP	Global	SCCF	MSP	1.0
3695	Mongolia Livestock Sector Adaptation Project	GEF-4	IFAD	Mongolia	SCCF	FSP	1.5
3907	Technology Needs Assessments	GEF-4	UNEP	Global	SCCF	FSP	8.2
3934	Reducing Disaster Risks from Wildfire Hazards Associated with Climate Change	GEF-4	UNDP	South Africa	SCCF	FSP	3.5
3967	Integrating Climate Change in Development Planning and Disaster Prevention to Increase Resilience of Agricultural and Water Sectors	GEF-4	World Bank	Morocco	SCCF	FSP	4.3
4036	TT-Pilot (GEF-4) DHRS: Irrigation Technology Pilot Project to face Climate Change Impact	GEF-4	IFAD	Jordan	SCCF	FSP	2.0
4255	To Promote the Implementation of National and Transboundary Integrated Water Resource Management that is Sustainable and Equitable Given Expected Climate Change.	GEF-4	UNDP	Eswatini	SCCF	FSP	1.7
4261	Integrating climate change risks into water and flood management by vulnerable mountainous communities in the Greater Caucasus region of Azerbaijan	GEF-4	UNDP	Azerbaijan	SCCF	FSP	2.7

4340	Strategic Planning and Action to Strengthen Climate Resilience of Rural Communities in Nusa Tenggara Timor Province (SPARC)	GEF-5	UNDP	Indonesia	SCCF	FSP	5.0
4368	Promoting Value Chain Approach to Adaptation in Agriculture	GEF-5	IFAD	Ghana	SCCF	FSP	2.5
4492	Adaptation of Nicaragua's Water Supplies to Climate Change	GEF-5	World Bank	Nicaragua	SCCF	FSP	6.0
4512	Pilot Asia-Pacific Climate Technology Network and Finance Center	GEF-5	ADB	Regional	MTF	FSP	10.9
4609	Strengthening the Resilience of Post Conflict Recovery and Development to Climate Change Risks in Sri Lanka	GEF-5	UNDP	Sri Lanka	SCCF	FSP	3.1
4616	Climate Change Adaptation to Reduce Land Degradation in Fragile Micro-Watersheds Located in the Municipalities of Texistepeque and Candelaria de la Frontera	GEF-5	FAO	El Salvador	MTF	FSP	1.6
4960	Scaling up Adaptation in Zimbabwe, with a Focus on Rural Livelihoods, by Strengthening Integrated Planning Systems	GEF-5	UNDP	Zimbabwe	SCCF	FSP	4.0
4967	Scaling up Risk Transfer Mechanisms for Climate Vulnerable Agriculture-based Communities in Mindanao	GEF-5	UNDP	Philippines	SCCF	FSP	1.1
9941	Structuring and Launching CRAFT: the First Private Sector Climate Resilience & Adaptation Fund for Developing Countries	GEF-6	CI	Global	SCCF	MSP	1.0

Source: GEF IEO terminal evaluation reports database.

Note: All completed projects for which terminal evaluations were available by September 2020, the cutoff date for this evaluation, are included.

GEF grant includes PPG. Fees are excluded.

## Annex D: Results Framework of the GEF Adaptation Program

The revised results framework of the GEF Adaptation Program is structured around three strategic objectives with associated outcomes and indicators. As of July 1, 2018, project and program proponents that seek funds from the LDCF and/or the SCCF for climate change adaptation will be requested to align their proposals with one or more of these strategic objectives.

<b>Goal</b>	To strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change in developing countries, and support their efforts to enhance adaptive capacity
<b>Objective 1</b>	Reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for climate change adaptation
<i>Outcome 1.1</i>	Technologies and innovative solutions piloted or deployed to reduce climate related risks and/or enhance resilience
<i>Outcome 1.2</i>	Innovative financial instruments and investment models enabled or introduced to enhance climate resilience
<b>Objective 2</b>	Mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience for systemic impact
<i>Outcome 2.1</i>	Strengthened cross-sectoral mechanisms to mainstream climate adaptation and resilience
<i>Outcome 2.2</i>	Increased ability of country to access climate finance or other relevant, largescale, programmatic investment
<b>Objective 3</b>	Foster enabling conditions for effective and integrated climate change adaptation
<i>Outcome 3.1</i>	Climate-resilient planning enabled by stronger climate information decision support services, and other relevant analysis
<i>Outcome 3.2</i>	Institutional and human capacities strengthened to identify and implement adaptation measures

## Annex E: GEF-7 Results Framework on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)

Outcome area: Gender-responsive GEF program and project design and development		
Indicators	Baselines	Verification
1. Percentage of projects that have conducted a gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assessment	Baseline: 66%	Project documents at PIF and CEO Endorsement/ Approval
2. Percentage of projects that plan to carry out gender-responsive activities - Number of projects with specific gender action plans	Baseline: Not available	
3. Percentage of projects that include sex-disaggregated and gender sensitive indicators	Baseline: 78%	Gender tags in the GEF portal
4. Percentage (and number) of anticipated GEF beneficiaries that are female	Baseline: Not available	GEF Core indicator
5. Percentage of projects that are tagged for expected contribution to closing gender gaps and promoting GEWE in one or more of the following categories: - contributing to equal access to and control of natural resources of women and men - improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance - targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women	Baseline: Not available	Gender tags in the GEF portal
Outcome area: Gender-responsive program and project reporting and results		
Indicators	Baselines	
6. Percentage (and number) of GEF beneficiaries that are female	Baseline: Not available	PIRs/MTRs/TEs (Qualitative analyses)
7. Percentage of projects that report on progress on gender-responsive measures, sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive indicators, and lessons learned	Baseline: 73%	
8. Percentage of projects that report on results in one or more of the following categories: - contributing to equal access to and control of natural resources of women and men - improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance - targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women	Baseline: Not available	

Source: GEF 2018c.

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