



Global Environment Facility

Summary of Document GEF/ME/C.31/7

Four-Year Work Program and FY08 Budget of the GEF Evaluation Office

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/ME/C.31/7 “*Four-Year Work Program and FY08 Budget of the GEF Evaluation Office*” approves the proposed principles underlying the work program for the next four years, and in particular the principle that OPS4 will be managed and implemented by the Evaluation Office, except for case studies where this would pose a conflict of interest. Council notices that the revised budget includes funding for preparing OPS4 and an increased number of Country Portfolio Evaluations. Council approves a revised and integrated budget of \$3,793,366 for FY08 to cover the cost of operating the GEF Evaluation Office and implementing its work plan.

Regarding FY09 through FY10, 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 also prepare for Council consideration a detailed proposal and budget for the RAF mid-term evaluation at its November 2007 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The GEF has achieved international standards in monitoring and evaluation *on paper*, through its GEF M&E policy and guidelines on various issues. The challenge is now to also upgrade evaluation *practice* to international standards, especially through achieving sufficient evaluation coverage of strategies, policies and programs and sufficient depth of evaluations, to be able to report on what is happening on the ground and which results are being achieved.
2. For this purpose, the GEF Evaluation Office presents an ambitious work plan for GEF-4, which includes the incorporation of OPS4 in its regular work plan, as well as an increased effort in Country Portfolio Evaluations, while continuing the on-going work on impact, thematic and cross-cutting evaluations as well as the Annual Performance Report and knowledge sharing activities to disseminate good practices.
3. Incorporating OPS4 into the regular work plan is possible by preventing conflicts of interest through outsourcing several case studies, while the Office would manage the overall

process, ensure incorporation of full reporting on results, and synthesize findings into the end report. Integrating OPS4 into the regular budget will lead to potential overall savings for GEF-4 of \$1.4 million on overall costs for independent evaluation.

4. Integrating OPS4 into the general budget enables an increase of the Office's annual budgets in GEF-4. The costs for OPS4 are spread out over the remaining three years of GEF-4 and thus allow for a revised budget for fiscal year 2008 of US\$ 3,793,365. Council is requested to approve this budget.

5. This revised budget will eliminate the need for special initiatives, with the ad hoc and exceptional mid-term evaluation of the Resource Allocation Framework as the remaining exception. Furthermore, it allows for an increase of the number of Country Portfolio Evaluations from 2 to 4. In this way a reasonable coverage can be achieved of the actual practice of implementation of the GEF in recipient countries, particularly in Africa in fiscal year 2008.

6. The higher number of evaluations and products will not lead to overburdening the GEF Council and its agenda with evaluation reports. It is proposed that the upcoming four Country Portfolio Evaluations in Africa will be presented to Council in one report. Furthermore, on impact work another annual report is proposed, which will incorporate all on-going and finalized work on impact in the Office.

7. Concrete deliverables in fiscal year 2008 will be the Annual Performance Report, the impact evaluation in East Africa, the joint evaluation (together with UNDP's evaluation office) of the Small Grants Programme, the evaluations of Capacity Development and the Catalytic Role of the GEF, as well as a report on the four Country Portfolio Evaluations.