



Global Environment Facility

Summary of Document GEF/ME/C.34/1

Progress Report from the Director of the GEF Evaluation Office

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/ME/C.34/1 *GEF Evaluation Office: Progress Report from the Director*, takes note of the on-going work of the Office, especially the positive findings on impact of Protected Areas on local communities, and encourages the Office to ensure that all on-going work will be brought forward into the Fourth Overall Performance Study.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The GEF Evaluation Office has started to implement OPS4. Work is under way, especially for 11 country case studies. Consultations with GEF stakeholders have started. A mechanism for high level advice, on the basis of the mechanism for OPS3, will be set up. The independent professional peer review of the evaluation function of the GEF has started. Two panel members will be present during the Council meeting and hope to interact with Council members.
2. Two recent impact evaluations funded by the Office showed that in Costa Rica and Thailand, on the basis of controlled comparison with similar communities elsewhere in the country, communities in the neighborhood of Protected Areas showed an overall economic gain from this vicinity. The methodological approach of developing precise counter-factual evidence (“without project” comparisons) was the key to determining the impacts of the Protected Areas. The Evaluation Office will continue to develop its knowledge base on the interaction between local and global benefits, building on the earlier detailed evaluation of this issue and its recent work on the use of counterfactual based approaches.
3. Major work on the impact of the GEF's support to reduce Ozone Depleting Substances has started in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Two country portfolio evaluations have started in Syria and Egypt. The delayed country portfolio evaluation in Cameroon has been finalized and will be made available to the Council.
4. All on-going work, including the preparatory work for the Annual Performance Report will feed into the Fourth Overall Performance Study.