



Global Environment Facility

Summary of Document GEF/ME/C.35/3

GEF Evaluation Office: Peer Review of the GEF Evaluation Function

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/ME/C.35/3, “Peer Review of the GEF Evaluation Function” requests the Evaluation Office to take the findings and recommendations of the Peer Review, as well as comments made during the Council meeting, into account when preparing a revision of the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, to be presented to Council at its meeting in the second half of 2010. Furthermore, the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Peer Review should be incorporated in the Fourth Overall Performance Study of the GEF.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This Working Document contains the Executive Summary of the Report of the Independent Professional Peer Review of the Evaluation Function of the GEF. This is followed by the Response of the GEF Evaluation Office on the Peer Review.
2. The Independent Peer Review took place on the invitation of the GEF Evaluation Office as an essential part of the Fourth Overall Performance Study. One of the key questions of OPS4 is on the implementation of the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy that was approved by Council in February 2006. The Evaluation Office would have a conflict of interest in evaluating the policy and the Peer Review was asked to provide an independent professional perspective on the policy and the implementation of the policy by the GEF Evaluation Office.
3. The Peer Review concludes that the independence of the GEF Evaluation Office is assured, that the credibility of its reports is high, and that the usefulness of the reports beyond the direct use in Council could be enhanced. Its recommendations focus on increasing the consultations between the Office and its partners in the GEF, especially the GEF Secretariat, and increasing the interactions between the Office and recipient countries, especially in the case of case studies or field work that is undertaken in the framework of thematic and global evaluations. Furthermore, the Panel advocates more field work in evaluations.
4. The Evaluation Office agrees to the general direction of the Peer Review Report and proposes in its Four-Year Work Plan and Budget to start up a consultative process with the GEF Secretariat and other GEF partners to ensure that the recommendations of the Panel are taken up in a revision of its work plan and its modes of operation. This could then be incorporated into a revised GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, to be presented to Council at its meeting in the

second half of 2010. When undertaking the consultative process to prepare a revision of the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, the formulation of monitoring issues will be undertaken jointly with the GEF Secretariat, which bears a special responsibility for the monitoring of the GEF portfolio.

5. The main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Peer Review will be incorporated in the Fourth Overall Performance Study of the GEF.