

GEF Council Meeting
June 29 – July 2, 2010
Washington, D.C

Agenda Item 8

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE ANNUAL COUNTRY PORTFOLIO EVALUATION REPORT - 2010

(Prepared by the GEF Secretariat)

General Comments

1. The Secretariat has taken note of the Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation Report – 2010 prepared by the Evaluation Office. The report is based on Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPEs) conducted in two countries: Turkey and Moldova.
2. The Secretariat welcomes the main conclusions of the evaluations, in particular the GEF's contribution toward achieving significant results in the Biodiversity focal area, leveraging of additional investments, and the dissemination of environmentally sound technologies in climate change. Important progress was also made in achieving results and improving capacities in the climate change, persistent organic pollutants and international waters (IW) focal areas. We also are in agreement with the conclusions regarding the relevance of GEF support of national sustainable development and environmental priorities, international conventions and regional processes. We take note that national ownership of the GEF portfolio is limited but improving in both countries.
3. We are pleased to have evidence of the replication of GEF-supported activities in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including the application of GEF introduced tracking tools to measure protected area management effectiveness. It is important to note that management effectiveness at the country level has extended beyond the original scope of the GEF investments. We concur with the conclusion that GEF support of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use has been of strategic importance and has generated significant impacts. To address barriers associated with socio-economic factors, the GEF Secretariat, in collaboration with GEF agencies, is in the process of strengthening guidance associated with gender and socioeconomic analysis and the measurement of local benefits.
4. The Secretariat takes note that the overall conclusions and recommendations for the IW portfolio emphasize positive attributes of both countries. We affirm the appropriateness of setting up foundational capacity and enhancing national capacity. These findings confirm the relevance of the GEF's mandate and contribution to achieving national environmental priorities.
5. With regard to the current Agency fee policy, the GEF Secretariat welcomes the thorough reporting of progress made by Moldova and Turkey in strengthening policy and institutional support for combating land degradation. As mentioned in last year's management response to the ACPER, we find the comments regarding the lack of funding for land degradation to be vague. Underfunding is an issue that applies across the entire GEF portfolio, and we note that land degradation is not the only area where a higher resource level would help countries to better meet their environmental priorities. We welcome the recommendation to the Governments of Moldova and Turkey to invest in combating land degradation and highlight that the STAR allocations may facilitate accessing GEF resources and working with the GEF as a strategic partner.
6. The GEF is committed to working with countries to increase country ownership across the GEF portfolio. The GEF funded Country Support Programme (CSP) is just one initiative that provides an opportunity to strengthen ownership and capacity. In addition, sub-regional workshops and constituency meetings are an important forum for focal points to receive updated

information about the evolution of the GEF and its procedures from GEF and Agency resource persons.

7. We are pleased that the duration of project processing and implementation compares well to average GEF figures. The new GEF project cycle introduced a streamlining of the approval process that produces more rapid results. The project cycle provides the structural change for efficiency; however its implementation must be strictly enforced in order to achieve the objectives of the streamlining efforts.

8. The Secretariat finds it worrisome that there is little evidence that M&E contributed to coherent management decisions or increased efficiency (in Turkey). Furthermore, the dissemination of information and sharing of lessons is limited. While the Secretariat can provide guidance on the dissemination of project results and lessons learned, it is the implementing agencies' responsibility to effectively monitor at the project level and ensure dissemination of results within a country. The review of the M&E policy should address these issues.

Response to Recommendations

1. We support the recommendation that Focal Point involvement be enhanced in M&E activities. As part of the M&E policy review, focal points will be involved in monitoring. As roles and responsibilities are further elaborated, the policy should address ways for the GEF Agencies to more systematically involve operational focal points in M&E, in addition to sharing information in a timely manner.

2. The Secretariat will review its current consultation process with operational focal points to identify cost effective ways to deliver guidance and support in the areas of monitoring and results-based management, as a follow up to the approval of a revised M&E policy in November 2010.