

Strategic Positioning of the GEF for its Fifth Phase Inter American Development Bank (IADB)

Overall, IADB supports the overall direction and message of the Report. Our general comments to the paper are:

1. Consider the inclusion of an Executive Brief that will bring up-front the strengths of the GEF and its vision for the future. Although the paper is only 23 papers, it is thick on information.
2. Consider including a table or tables that clearly show the comparative advantage of the GEF, by theme, vis a vis other sources of financing. The challenge is to highlight a niche and capacity that the GEF has built over the years.
3. Highlight the fact that the GEF of the past four years is very different from the old GEF. When IADB joined the GEF in 2004, it was extremely difficult and frustrating to develop and work with GEF projects. Since then, the changes have been significant and we believe for the better. There is much more to be done, but the direction seems right.
4. We welcome the proposal to rely in the future more on the agency's system for processing and approval of operations, to the extent the agency meets the right fiduciary standards. This will improve enormously the reach and the effectiveness of GEF resources.
5. We share in general the comments raised by our colleagues at ADB, particularly in regard to mainstreaming. The MDBs are the best allies for the GEF to achieve mainstreaming objective through their investment programs. This can be enhanced greatly in the future with minimal reforms in procedures and accountability measures. IADB wishes as well that GEF private sector initiatives will be enhanced and materialize through all MDBs under equal opportunities.