



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/ME/C.57/04
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Agenda Item 09

**MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE SEMI-ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT OF THE
INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OFFICE: DECEMBER 2019**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Secretariat welcomes the *Semi-Annual Evaluation Report of the Independent Evaluation Office: December 2019*¹, which presents: i) the conclusions and recommendations of one evaluation completed by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) during the reporting period from June 2019 through November 2019, ii) a report on the methodological approach for post-completion verification, and iii) an update on other activities of the IEO, including results of its stakeholder engagement and knowledge management needs assessment survey.
2. This paper presents the Secretariat's management response to the Semi-Annual Evaluation Report, including the individual IEO reports:
 - a. GEF/ME/C.57/02, *The Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation of the Small Island Developing States*;
 - b. GEF/ME/C.57/03, *A Methodological Approach for Post-Completion Verification*;
 - c. GEF/ME/C.57/Inf.01, *The IEO Stakeholder Engagement and Knowledge Needs Assessment: Survey Results*

THE STRATEGIC COUNTRY CLUSTER EVALUATION OF THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

3. The Secretariat welcomes IEO's report on the Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation of GEF engagement in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and is pleased to see the IEO found that GEF support to the 39 SIDS reviewed was relevant and yielded positive global environmental benefits consistent with GEF policies and strategies. The Secretariat is also encouraged to see that GEF-financed projects in SIDS are generally strongly aligned with government priorities, reflect the different needs of the various countries, and are relevant to national environmental challenges.
4. With respect to the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation, the Secretariat is in broad agreement that the GEF and its Partner Agencies can build on their comparative advantages, further promote innovation and knowledge exchange, and leverage support provided through the GEF trust funds.
5. The Secretariat notes that the sustainability ratings calculated by the IEO were similar to those of the comparable broader GEF portfolio and that previous work on sustainability by the IEO also determined that the GEF's performance on sustainability is broadly in line with other multilateral funders. Previous IEO reports have noted that the share of GEF projects rated in

¹ GEF/ME/C.57/01

the “likely” range of sustainability is not substantially different from other multilateral organizations.²

6. Finally, the Secretariat is confident that policies and strategies adopted in GEF-6 and GEF-7 subsequent to the design and approval of the GEF-funded operations covered by the IEO report - specifically the special focus and attention on SIDS in GEF-7 and LDCF/SCCF - will even further enhance the relevance and impacts of GEF programming in SIDS.

A METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH FOR POST-COMPLETION VERIFICATION

7. The Secretariat takes note of the IEO’s report on ***A Methodological Approach for Post-Completion Verification***, developed at the request of the Council. The Secretariat is pleased to see this approach could provide a valuable tool to gain insight to the impacts of GEF initiatives, and that the evidence reviewed by the IEO supports the conclusion that GEF projects in the Yellow Sea have achieved sustained impact.

THE IEO STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE NEEDS ASSESSMENT: SURVEY RESULTS

8. The Secretariat takes note of the IEO’s report of the stakeholder survey and knowledge needs assessment with respect to IOE evaluations and knowledge products. The Secretariat is pleased to see the positive responses from survey participants with respect to familiarity, use and relevance of IEO reports.

9. The Secretariat appreciates the useful findings and conclusions arising from IEO reports, and highly values the positive dialogue and fact-checking during the preparation of IEO reports. The Secretariat also notes that, of the 1114 people who responded to the IEO survey, only 64% had read one or more IEO report, and therefore encourages IEO to continue its efforts to expand dissemination channels in light of the preferences revealed by respondents.

² IEO, Semi-Annual Performance Report, November 2017, GEF/ME/C.53/01