

Summary of Document GEF/ME/C.38/1

Four-Year Work Program and Budget of the GEF Evaluation Office

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/ME/C.38/1, “*Four-Year Work Program and Budget of the GEF Evaluation Office*,” approves the general direction taken for the preparation of the Office’s work during GEF-5, and requests the Office, taking into account comments made during the meeting, to prepare for consideration at its June meeting in 2011 a work program budget in two parts:

- (1) An annual budget for fiscal year 2012 of fixed costs, such as salaries and general operational costs
- (2) A multi-annual budget for evaluations

The annual budgets and the four-year evaluation budget will need to be within the cap for GEF-5 to be established for the Evaluation Office, which will also be taken up in the budget proposal to be presented in June 2011.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In the GEF-4 period the Office has gradually moved from presenting each individual evaluation report to the Council to a stream of annual reports that highlight evaluative findings in three main areas: countries, performance and impact. In addition, major evaluations were presented to the Council on an individual basis. The Fourth Overall Performance Study drew on all of these evaluations and included considerable extra evaluative work. It is proposed that the work of the Office during GEF-5 continues to be presented in four streams of evaluative work, leading up to and including the Fifth Overall Performance Study of the GEF:

- (1) Country Portfolio Evaluations
- (2) Impact Evaluations
- (3) Performance Evaluations
- (4) Thematic Evaluations

2. The experience with OPS4 and other multi-year evaluations showed that the budget of the Office needs to accommodate expenditure peaks linked to the implementation of major studies. These peaks were compensated in other budget years, in order to remain within the cap for the four years. Fixed costs, such as salaries and operational costs are annual in nature, whereas the variable costs linked to evaluations should be multi-annual. In November 2009 Council requested the Office to prepare a new four year work plan and budget which would take the experiences of the GEF-4 period into account. It is proposed that for the GEF-5 period, starting in fiscal year 2012, the Council requests a division of the Evaluation Office budget in two parts:

- (1) An annual budget of fixed costs, such as salaries and general operational costs
- (2) A multi-annual budget for evaluations

3. This proposal would be presented to the Council at its June 2011 meeting. At this stage no funding proposals are yet formulated for GEF-5, since GEF-5 is not yet active and the funding cap for the Evaluation Office during GEF-5 has not yet been set. The annual budgets and the multi-annual budget would need to remain within the funding cap to be set.

4. The work program for fiscal year 2011 will lead to the following major products:

Major Deliverables for FY11 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011)

	Time frame	Comments for FY11
OPS4	Finished	Publication of the full report
Annual Report on Impact 2010	On-going	November 2010 Council
Evaluation of SPA	Jan-Sept 10	
Review of the Earth Fund	March-Sept 10	
Review of the GEF M&E policy	Apr-Sept 10	
Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation Report	On-going	June 2011 Council
Annual Performance Report	On-going	