

## What is OPS4?

An independent study that assesses the performance of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The findings, conclusions, and recommendations will be incorporated into the discussions and negotiations of the fifth replenishment of the GEF.

## What is the purpose of OPS4?

To assess the extent to which the GEF is achieving its objectives and to identify potential improvements. OPS4 will be based on the GEF objectives as laid down in the GEF Instrument and in reviews by the Assembly, and as developed and adopted by the GEF Council in operational policies and programs for GEF-financed activities.

## When will OPS4 take place?

July 2008 to October 2009

- ▶ *July–Sept. 2008:* Preparation of terms of reference and preparatory work
- ▶ *Sept. 5, 2008:* Terms of reference approved by Council
- ▶ *Sept. 12, 2008:* Interagency meeting to discuss implementation of OPS4
- ▶ *Jan. 27, 2009:* Interagency meeting to discuss approach to results and impact
- ▶ *May 12, 2009:* Interagency meeting to discuss preliminary findings
- ▶ *June 2009:* Interim report to replenishment meeting and Council
- ▶ *August 2009:* Interagency meeting to discuss draft final report
- ▶ *Sept./Oct. 2009:* Final OPS4 report to replenishment meeting

## What questions will OPS4 address?

**Cluster 1.** This section will aim at establishing the context and international framework in which the GEF operates, looking at the current understanding of global environmental problems, their dynamic and trends, as well as at the role of the multilateral environmental agreements and the GEF in addressing these issues.

Role and Added Value of the GEF

1. *What is the role and added value of the GEF in tackling major global environmental and sustainable development problems?*

Results of the GEF

**Cluster 2.** OPS4 will respond to questions regarding the concrete, measurable, and verifiable results of the GEF in its focal areas and how these achievements relate to intended results.

2. *Which results have been achieved by the GEF in the six focal areas and in multifocal area activities?*
3. *Which results have been achieved by the GEF in supporting national and local priorities for sustainable development?*

Relevance of the GEF

**Cluster 3.** This cluster focuses on the relevance of the GEF to the conventions and to recipient countries; the questions aim at learning to what extent the GEF has:

4. *Followed the guidance of the conventions for which it is a financial instrument?*
5. *Been able to promote international cooperation in environmental areas that have not previously been covered by agreements?*
6. *Been able to provide feedback to the conventions on their guidance, the implementation of that guidance, and the results achieved, including on multifocal area issues?*
7. *Been relevant to national policies on environment and sustainable development?*

Performance Issues Affecting Results

**Cluster 4.** The questions in this cluster aim to investigate whether GEF performance is up to the best international standards or if improvements are needed.

8. *Is the governance system of the GEF adequate and up to international standards?*

Resource  
Mobilization  
and Financial  
Management

**What is the  
scope of  
OPS4?**

**How will the  
evaluation be  
done?**

**Who will do  
OPS4?**

**How will OPS4  
compare to  
previous OPSs?**

**For more  
information...**

9. *To what extent has the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) succeeded in allocating funding to ensure a maximization of global environmental benefits?*
10. *To what extent has the GEF been efficient and cost-effective in achieving results in each focal area?*
11. *To what extent are the GEF's composition, structure, and division of roles and responsibilities meeting its mandate, operations, and partnerships?*
12. *Is the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy and its implementation up to international standards?*
13. *How successful has the GEF been as a learning organization, including state-of-the-art science and technology?*

**Cluster 5.** Questions in this cluster will assess the replenishment process and financing of the GEF throughout its history.

14. *How effective has the GEF been in mobilizing resources for tackling global environmental and sustainable development problems?*
15. *How have human, financial, and administrative resources been managed throughout the GEF?*

The scope of OPS4 is defined by cluster and key question, ranging from the full history of the GEF to a snapshot of the situation at a certain moment in time, from a few representative interventions to the full GEF portfolio. Different questions ask for a different scope. The specific approach will be based on scope and methodology as has been developed in evaluations of the GEF Evaluation Office, such as of country portfolios, of performance, and of results and impacts.

In collecting and analyzing data and drawing conclusions and recommendations, OPS4 will be based on a wide variety of sources of information, methods of analyses, and meta-evaluation techniques to ensure that the findings will be valid, credible, and legitimate. In general, **a mixed methods and theory-based approach** will be followed, including literature and document reviews, desk studies, field visits and verifications, interviews, surveys, portfolio analysis, and stakeholder consultations. Where needed, a Delphi approach and expert panels will be included. Case studies and study components and comparison studies will be undertaken.

OPS4 will be managed and executed by the independent GEF Evaluation Office. The Office will have sole responsibility for formation of the evaluation team, selection of independent consultants, data collection, and analysis. For issues on which the Evaluation Office would have a conflict of interest, independent evaluators will be hired.

OPS4 will report more on results and impacts than previous studies. It will also provide an assessment of the added value of the GEF in the international context. It will look into issues such as governance, resource mobilization, and financial management.

The Web site of the GEF Evaluation Office, [www.gefeo.org](http://www.gefeo.org), has a dedicated page on OPS4, which contains the latest information and basic documents including the approach paper and terms of reference.

The independent evaluation team welcomes any input, questions, and suggestions; send these to [ops4@thegef.org](mailto:ops4@thegef.org).

***The GEF Evaluation Office is an independent entity within the GEF reporting directly to the GEF Council . The Office assesses GEF policies, strategies, principles, and procedures as well as focal area programs. The goals of evaluation in the GEF are to learn from experience, provide an objective basis for assessing the results of the GEF's work, and provide accountability in the achievement of its objectives. It also promotes knowledge sharing on results and lessons learned among the GEF and its partners.***