



Global Environment Facility

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Agenda Item 8

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE ANNUAL COUNTRY PORTFOLIO EVALUATION REPORT – 2008

(Prepared by the GEF Secretariat in consultation with the GEF Agencies)

1. We have taken notice of the 2008 Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation report prepared by the Evaluation Office of the GEF council, elaborated on the basis of Country Portfolio Evaluations (CPEs) conducted in three African countries: Madagascar, Benin and South Africa.

2. We welcome the principal conclusions of the evaluation, in particular the adequate return on significant global environmental benefits, specifically for biodiversity and international waters. On the Climate Change focal area, we note the progress on the creation of local capacity for GHG emissions mitigation, and on enabling conditions targeted to solar and wind energy. At the same time, given the limited scope of the investments in the climate change focal area in these three countries, the finding regarding limited visible impacts is no surprise, but should not be taken as representative of Climate Change programming in general. We are also pleased to learn about the results on improved capacity, public awareness and the enabling environment across focal areas, as well as the progress on the catalytic effect and replication of GEF funded projects. While we share the concern identified by the evaluation on the risks associated with the long-term sustainability of some of the global benefits achieved so far, we will continue to strive to minimize such risks during the process of reviewing projects for African countries, and for LDCs in general.

3. We note the two recommendations from the evaluation. There has been much progress already on recommendation 1 (strengthening integrated multi-focal area approaches), as reflected in the last two Work Programs submitted to GEF Council. At the same time, it will be necessary to monitor the implementation of these integrated programs and regional approaches for evidence of higher impact and maximization of global benefits. We are pleased to note that in all three countries, the governments and national stakeholders acknowledged the value added by the GEF Agencies in the preparation of projects. We note the findings that the improvements in the GEF project cycle and the overall impact of the council-approved reforms have not yet percolated to the local level. As a concrete measure to narrow this gap, we support and are already acting on recommendation 2 to proactively engage with countries in Africa, particularly LDCs, including exploring more flexible country-based approaches. The GEF funded Country Support Programme (CSP) also provides support to focal points. In addition, sub regional workshops and constituency meetings are organized where focal points receive updated information about the evolution of the GEF and its procedures from GEF Secretariat and agency resource persons. These tools are useful for interaction and learning among focal points.