

GEF Fifth Overall Performance Study (OPS5)



What are overall performance studies?

The overall performance studies (OPSs) provide an independent assessment of the achievements of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) up to the time of the study. They are undertaken every four years to inform donors before replenishing the GEF.

What is GEF replenishment?

Replenishment is a process by which donors negotiate a total contribution to the GEF to support its programming for the next four-year period. The overall performance study is one of the key documents that inform the replenishment.

What is OPS5?

OPS5 is the fifth overall performance study of the GEF.

What is the purpose of OPS5?

The purpose of OPS5 is to assess the extent to which the GEF is achieving its objectives and to identify potential improvements.

Who are the main users of OPS5?

The primary users of OPS5 are replenishment participants, involved in the discussions and negotiations of the sixth replenishment of the GEF: donor countries, representatives of recipient countries, a representative from the GEF-NGO (nongovernmental organization) Network, as well as the GEF Council and the Assembly, and through the Assembly, the member nations of the GEF.

Countries, partners, parties of the GEF—such as GEF Secretariat, the GEF Agencies, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), and the GEF-NGO Network—and project proponents will also be consulted during the OPS5 process.

Who is responsible for OPS5?

It will be managed and executed by the GEF Evaluation Office. The Evaluation Office Director will take personal responsibility for OPS5 and manage the study. The quality of OPS5 will be ensured by the team of three advisors appointed by the GEF Council. In addition, a reference group will be formed and will integrate professionals from the evaluation offices of the GEF Agencies.

How will OPS5 be done?

OPS5 will employ a mixed-methods approach. A major element will be a meta-evaluation of existing evaluative evidence, as emerging in the years 2009–12. This meta-analysis will lead to new insights that were not obvious in the individual evaluations. In addition, separate evaluation studies will focus on the questions that cannot be answered through the available evaluative evidence. The studies will be done via literature reviews, interviews, data analysis, and fieldwork.

What are the key OPS5 reports?

OPS5 will produce two reports: a first report will be presented at the beginning of the replenishment process, and the final report will be delivered at the final phase of the replenishment.

What are the key issues OPS5 will report on?

OPS5 will report on the following:

First OPS5 Report	Final OPS5 Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance of the GEF to the conventions, as well as relevance of international waters to transboundary issues • Achievements of the GEF at the project level • Progress toward impact at the project level • Catalytic role of the GEF • Trends in ownership, country drivenness, and extent to which country needs have been met • Trends in performance issues • Longer-term impact of the GEF • Trends in performance issues, including cofinancing, management costs and project fees, quality at entry, supervision, as well as performance at the country level • Trends in focal area achievements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in global environmental problems • Emergence of new funding channels, including the GEF's role in some of these channels • Assessment of the comparative advantage of the GEF and whether the GEF has resources to achieve objectives • Donor performance in the GEF and resource mobilization • In-depth look at focal area strategies, as well as multifocal area efforts, including impact • Reform process: System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR); Country Support Program (including national portfolio formulation exercises); broadening of the GEF partnership; reforms in the project cycle; results-based management, including knowledge management • Governance of the GEF • Role of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel • Role of private sector and civil society organizations • Cross-cutting policies: gender, indigenous peoples, public involvement, communication • Update of the GEF Small Grants Programme evaluation • Health of the GEF network and partnerships

What are the key dates of OPS5?

- **March 2012:** Draft approach paper for OPS5 iposted on the GEF website; GEF constituencies and partners invited to send their comments
- **June 2012:** Terms of reference and budget for OPS5 approved by the GEF Council
- **June–December 2012:** Work on meta-evaluation of existing evaluative evidence
- **Early 2013:** First OPS5 report focusing on current GEF results, achievements, and performance
- **November 2012–September 2013:** Separate substudies for OPS5
- **November 2013:** Final OPS5 report

How can I learn more about OPS5?

OPS5 documents and information about OPS5 progress are available on the GEF Evaluation Office webpage at <http://www.thegef.org/gef/OPS5>.

How can I contact the OPS5 team?

All GEF stakeholders are invited to share their comments and questions on OPS5 with the GEF Evaluation Office via email: ops5@thegef.org.