



Global Environment Facility

Summary of Document GEF/ME/C.31/5

GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation: Samoa (1992-2007)

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed Document GEF/ME/C.31/5, *GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation: Samoa (1992-2007)* and document GEF/ME/C.31/6, *Management Response to the GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation: Samoa*, takes note of the recommendations of the evaluation and the management response and requests the Secretariat to take into account Samoa's experience with the GEF in its further development of the proposed GEF-Pacific Alliance for Sustainability, including the following:

- the need for support for establishing an environmental framework in national policies, laws and regulations, and where this has been achieved, the need for support for implementation of the framework so as to achieve global environmental benefits;
- recognition of the importance of marine resources and resilience to climate change to sustain global environmental benefits;
- recognition of the high transaction costs in the region; and
- the need for involving more GEF Agencies in the region, as well as harmonization with recipient countries and other donors.

The Council welcomes the response of Samoa to the Evaluation and invites the Secretariat to take this into account when preparing the programmatic alliance.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Samoa has been the recipient of GEF financial support since the Pilot Phase of the GEF through two regional projects which set the stage for GEF interventions in Samoa (and the Pacific region), creating a partnership between GEF, UNDP, the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) and the Samoan Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), which has lasted until today.

2. The evaluation of the GEF support to Samoa took place between January and April 2007 following the Standard Terms of Reference for the GEF Country Portfolio Evaluation developed by the GEF Evaluation Office in October 2006. It was conducted by a team of staff from the Evaluation Office and members of the Pacific Environmental Consultants, Ltd (PECL). The

objective of this evaluation is to provide the GEF Council with an assessment of how the GEF is implemented in Samoa. It reports on results from projects and assesses how these projects are linked to national environmental and sustainable development strategies as well as to the GEF mandate of generating global environmental benefits within its focal areas.

3. The focus of the evaluation is a portfolio of 18 projects funded by the GEF during the period from 1992 to December 2006 with an estimated investment of \$7 million. Eight are national projects (6 Enabling Activities and 2 Medium-Sized Projects), 7 are regional (projects in which Samoa participates as a member of the Pacific Island States) and 3 global which have national components in Samoa. All focal areas are represented in this cohort of projects and although 80% of projects are implemented through UNDP, the World Bank and UNEP have also had experience with projects in Samoa.

4. The evaluation reaches the following conclusions:

- (1) GEF support has been relevant to the Samoa Development Strategy (SDS) and national environmental policies.
- (2) All GEF funded projects are highly relevant to the GEF mandate and focal areas but slow follow-up support from government sources could jeopardize the sustainability of results.
- (3) Enabling activities have supported Samoa in building the foundations for its environmental frameworks and strategies which are necessary conditions for generating global environmental benefits.
- (4) Completed projects have achieved concrete on-the ground results but reporting on results has limitations because of poor quality of final evaluations and limited baselines.
- (5) Samoa has improved its efficiency to access GEF funding, but there are still some obstacles.
- (6) Most GEF Agencies have not been engaged in Samoa mainly because of the high transaction cost and limited understanding of GEF objectives and procedures.

5. The findings and conclusions of the evaluation lead to the following recommendation to the GEF Council:

- (1) The proposed programmatic approach for the Pacific SIDS should take into account Samoa's experience.

6. Furthermore, the following recommendations have been brought to the attention of the Government of Samoa:

- (2) Environmental concerns as cross-cutting issue need to become visible in the Samoa Development Strategy.
- (3) Increased participation by other stakeholders (ministries, civil society, and private sector) in implementing GEF supported projects will increase national capacity.