



GEF/C.66/17  
January 29, 2024

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66<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting  
February 5 – 9, 2024  
Washington, D.C. - USA

Agenda Item 12

**MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO:  
EVALUATION OF GEF SUPPORT TO CLIMATE INFORMATION  
AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS**

**Recommended Council Decision**

The Council, having considered documents GEF/E/C.66/04, *Evaluation of GEF Support to Climate Information and Early Warning Systems*, and GEF/C.66/17, the *Management Response*, takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.

## INTRODUCTION

1. This paper presents the GEF Secretariat's management response to the *Evaluation of GEF Support to Climate Information and Early Warning Systems* (GEF/E/C.66/04) prepared by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO). The evaluation focuses on the support provided by the GEF Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) towards Climate Information and Early Warning Systems (CIEWS).
2. The Secretariat welcomes the evaluation, and is in broad agreement with its findings, recommendations, and conclusions.
3. The Secretariat is very encouraged by the following findings:
  - a. CIEWS projects demonstrate strong alignment with GEF and LDCF/SCCF strategies.
  - b. GEF projects focusing on CIEWS were demand-driven by countries' beneficiaries.
  - c. The data indicates that CIEWS projects are effectively targeting regions with higher risks due to climate-related hazards.
  - d. Local communities were found to be the primary focus in the design of CIEWS projects.
  - e. CIEWS initiatives within LDCF, SCCF, and GEF Trust Fund projects have strategically integrated with and leveraging existing services and warning system platforms.
  - f. A prevalent and noteworthy innovative approach often observed involves the implementation of community-based initiatives.
  - g. GEF projects wield a significant catalytic potential.
  - h. Most CIEWS projects with terminal evaluations have achieved satisfactory outcomes; and
  - i. GEF projects have demonstrated a strong performance in terms of effectiveness.

**Recommendation 1. GEF projects should shift their focus from solely providing early warning information to fostering early actions during disaster events.**

4. The Secretariat partially agrees with this recommendation.
5. Many of the adaptation actions supported by the LDCF and the SCCF aid communities in dealing with natural hazards, for example by supporting the 'climate-proofing' of key public infrastructure such as buildings, water supply and sanitation systems; establishing climate-resilient storm shelters; and 'safety at sea' measures for vulnerable fisherfolk. Such measures can help communities better cope with climate extremes and hazards. However, the GEF does not directly support disaster risk management; therefore, activities that fall purely in the area of

disaster risk management, such as evacuation and reconstruction, are outside the mandate for support provided by the GEF, LDCF and SCCF.

6. In alignment with the mandates of the LDCF and SCCF, the Secretariat will continue to seek opportunities to support early adaptation action in the face of climate variability and extremes, in conjunction with support for climate information and early warning systems.

**Recommendation 2. The GEF Secretariat, STAP, and GEF Agencies should continue aligning indicators with established good practices.**

7. The GEF Secretariat has consulted with STAP and GEF Agencies on the response to this recommendation. The Secretariat partially agrees with this recommendation. While indicators for CIEWS do not align with the focal areas of the GEF Trust Fund, as part of its ongoing efforts to improve capture of socio-economic wellbeing and adaptation benefits, it will explore integrating best practices related to CIEWS indicators in the GEF Trust Fund.

8. The results frameworks of the LDCF and SCCF, however, do include indicators for CIEWS. The Secretariat updates its LDCF/SCCF indicators every four years, as it launches the next adaptation programming strategy. The indicators are revised in accordance with best adaptation practice and in alignment, where possible, with the indicators of other climate funds, while adhering to the principle of streamlining the results framework in order to prevent overburdening of GEF Agencies and countries. The GEF Secretariat will revisit, and may update, the LDCF/SCCF indicators that will accompany the adaptation programming strategy for the 2026-2030 period, including indicators for CIEWS.

**Recommendation 3. The GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies should explore strategies to enhance the financial sustainability of CIEWS components.**

9. The GEF Secretariat has consulted with the GEF Agencies on the response to this recommendation. The GEF Secretariat partially agrees with this recommendation.

10. The LDCF and SCCF projects which support CIEWS include strengthening of institutional capacity of meteorological agencies and mainstreaming their services with sectors such as agriculture. This has often led to robust government institutions which have been continuing to monitor and provide climate and weather data after project completion. Regarding the private sector, engagement has been primarily in the application and use of climate data in sectors where private sector actors are active. The GEF Secretariat is supporting countries in piloting innovative CIEWS based and private sector led adaptation solutions and creating enabling policy environments, including in the agriculture advisory and climate risk insurance sectors. It will continue to identify more such opportunities for private sector engagement in CIEWS, including through the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation. As such, the GEF Secretariat welcomes highlighting the importance of continuing to ensure that GEF support for CIEWS

includes purposeful financial sustainability strategies to enable the medium and long-term functioning and use of the systems.

## **Conclusion**

The GEF Secretariat appreciates the *Evaluation of GEF Support to Climate Information and Early Warning Systems*. Through the LDCF and SCCF, it will continue to build resilience through early action to climate hazards and supporting climate information and early warning systems. It will also revisit and may update, as part of the 2026-2030 adaptation programming strategy, the results indicators for CIEWS as well as other areas served by the LDCF and SCCF, to align with best practice as identified with technical experts and other climate funds. The GEF Secretariat will also continue to support financial sustainability of CIEWS with engagement of all relevant public and private sector actors.