2020 Program Evaluation of the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF)

Covers performance and progress towards LDCF objectives and results in the four years since the 2016 LDCF program evaluation

December 2020
Evaluation design

Document and literature review
GEF/Council documents
Recent and relevant evaluations and journal articles

Portfolio review
Projects completed in last four years
Projects submitted and approved in last four years

Stakeholder interviews
OFPs, and others at country-level
GEF Secretariat, Agencies, STAP
UNFCCC, LDC Expert Group

Field visits
Samoa and Rwanda
Two post-completion evaluations

Triangulation
Data analysis and gap identification
Findings and conclusions
Least Developed Country Fund

Relevance

COP guidance and decisions

GEF adaptation programming strategy

Country Policies (I)NDCs
Least Developed Country Fund

Effectiveness and efficiency

- LDCF project design clearly contributes to GEF adaptation strategic objectives, but less so to new strategic pillars.

- Gender performance of the LDCF portfolio has improved, however there is a knowledge gap in the gender-related results.

- Substantive engagement with the private sector is limited, and LDCF projects face common challenges.

- Lack of resources available for new projects during GEF-6 clearly reduced the efficiency of the LDCF project approval process.

- Once implementation has begun, efficiency of LDCF projects is comparable to other GEF-administered funds.
Catalytic effects in the portfolio of completed projects ($n = 45$)

- **Production of a public good**: To a large/very large extent
- **Demonstration**: To a moderate extent
- **Replication**: None
- **Scaling up**: To a small/very small extent

*Least Developed Country Fund*
Least Developed Country Fund

Post-completion evaluations

Land rehabilitation (terracing and agroforestry), Nyabihu District in Rwanda

Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Nursery on Savai’i, Island
Least Developed Country Fund

Sustainability

CONTRIBUTING

Continued financing
Effective stakeholder engagement
Effective coordination between executing partners

HINDERING

Staff turnover
Delays in recruitment
Weak project design

Context-related
• Occurrence of natural disasters
• Financial shocks
• Political unrest or changes in government
1. Build on progress made on *mainstreaming gender* in the LDCF portfolio and aim to decrease the knowledge gap about gender-related results.

2. Continue to enhance the likelihood of the *sustainability* of outcomes.
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