

LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting  
November 12, 2009  
Washington, D.C.

**MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE JOINT EXTERNAL EVALUATION:  
OPERATION OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND (LDCF)  
FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

1. The Secretariat welcomes DANIDA's *Joint External Evaluation: Operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for Adaptation to Climate Change*. The evaluation provides an analysis and documentation of the results and lessons learned from the operations of the entire spectrum of LDCF (including countries, agencies, donors and the Secretariat) in financing and promoting climate change adaptation in the least developed countries.
2. The Secretariat welcomes the report's conclusion that the resources currently made available by the LDCF donors are insufficient both in terms of the scale needed to finance climate adaptation planning and implementation in LDCs and in terms of being reliable enough to allow for the programming of implementation needs across all LDCs. The Secretariat also notes the evaluation's conclusion that this lacking scale and reliability of LDCF resources has precluded more programmatic responses to the adaptation needs identified in the NAPAs. This finding is consistent with the Secretariat's LDCF/SCCF programming strategy for adaptation, which includes a request for a strong replenishment of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the proposal that these funds be replenished on a four-year cycle.
3. The Secretariat and its partners appreciate the finding that funding has been successfully provided to meet the full cost of NAPA preparation in 48 LDCs. It is further noted that the evaluation concluded that NAPAs "have contributed at an early and critical stage to increasing awareness in LDCs of the adaptation challenges that climate change poses," and that "the NAPA reports have become key government statements of adaptation needs in some countries and the priorities they identify are considered generally relevant by most stakeholders."
4. The Secretariat warmly accepts the evaluation's recommendation to simplify the procedures for accessing funds under the LDCF. The Secretariat is currently streamlining procedures and facilitating easy access to LDCF resources while maintaining the technical and fiduciary integrity of the Fund. Therefore, a further streamlining of its procedures has been proposed as part of its policy recommendations for the fifth replenishment of the GEF. The proposal includes piloting an option of direct access to resources for national agencies, and a streamlined project approval cycle which reduces the number of project approval steps from two to one. As the LDCF follows the procedures of the GEF Trust Fund, unless otherwise decided by the LDCF/SCCF Council in response to UNFCCC guidance, such provisions, if approved, would also apply to the LDCF.
5. To further streamline and facilitate the access to LDCF resources, the Secretariat is also preparing an LDCF Step-by-Step Guide in collaboration with the GEF agencies, and the UNFCCC Secretariat and other partners.
6. The Secretariat also acknowledges the comments on bottlenecks in relation to individual and institutional capacity in many LDCs. The project design, approval and implementation process involves many actors and all concerned should focus on removing these barriers. The Secretariat appreciates the insights and recommendations received. These will be taken into account to improve the delivery, effectiveness and efficiency of the Least Developed Countries Fund.