



## MFAT Management Response to the Independent Evaluation of the New Zealand-Africa Geothermal Facility (AGF)

Evaluation Report Recommendation	MFAT Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
<p>1. Reinvigorate governance arrangements to support efficient decision making and appropriate visibility of the AGF.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>MFAT agrees that there is scope for governance arrangements to be strengthened, including to more clearly separate out management and strategic oversight functions within the existing governance structure. This would help ensure governance partners are focused on strategic and high-level matters, while enabling management and operational decisions to be more effectively handled through delegated arrangements. An overhaul of governance arrangements is not possible in the remainder of the Activity's first phase, but will be actively considered during the design of any new phase.</p>
<p>2. Consider the sustained location of the Facility Manager with a governance partner or other key donor in the region.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>MFAT agrees that co-location of the Facility Manager with a governance partner will strengthen relationship management and enable greater cohesion and oversight of the programme between governance partners. This has been actively prioritised at all times of the AGF, except where logistical factors have meant this was not possible.</p>
<p>3. The current implementation arrangements are working well (having a flexible facility model with local representation of a Facility Manager with a Facility Management Unit supporting implementation), and this could be retained for a future phase.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>MFAT agrees that current implementation arrangements have been successful and have enabled impact through flexibility and responsiveness to partners' needs. MFAT considers there is scope to improve overall efficiencies and management requirements through some tweaking to commercial arrangements.</p>

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4. Retain the use of New Zealand based suppliers, enhance the visibility of their scope of services and embed mechanisms for local knowledge and skills transfer.	<p>Agree.</p> <p>MFAT has witnessed a very strong preference for New Zealand support and technical expertise. There may be some instances in the future where local capacity has started to increase and can be drawn on in discrete circumstances. MFAT also agrees on the need to enhance visibility for AGF partners of both services the AGF can provide and the detailed scopes of services agreed at each project level.</p>
5. Continue deepening bilateral engagement with implementing partners and explore greater opportunities for regional engagement to support joint learning, collaboration and networking.	<p>Agree.</p> <p>MFAT has found that deep bilateral engagements are more effective at achieving measurable and short-term impact, but agree regional engagement brings wider benefits including improved and sustainable capability and capacity. Regional engagement also raises visibility of the facility, facilitates collaboration and sharing of information and skills between country partners, donors and regional institutions. A combination of deep bilateral engagement alongside wider regional support is generally considered an effective approach.</p>
6. Enhance visibility of the AGF at the national level.	<p>Agree.</p> <p>MFAT agrees that enhanced visibility is important for any future phase. This could explore more streamlined and consistent communications at a national level, though the objectives would need to be considered to ensure consistent alignment with the technical advisory and capacity building services provided by the AGF.</p> <p>A future Communications and Advocacy Plan would likely include online platforms as well as formal communications and advocacy. During scoping of any new phase MFAT may explore suitable host/s for this communications platform and a wider plan to enhance visibility.</p>

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7. Retain current programme areas of support focus and explore opportunities for direct use.	<p>Partially agree.</p> <p>MFAT appreciates there is growing interest in direct use projects in the region, and the AGF has received increased requests in this area. However, any expansion of technical (or geographic) scope must be carefully considered to ensure limited resources are most effectively deployed to maximise impact.</p>
8. Advance MEL from results tracking to strategic analysis and evidence generation to support decision making.	<p>Agree.</p> <p>While MFAT agrees that results monitoring and reporting has been successful in this phase, we recognise there is scope for improvement by incorporating more structured reflection, analysis and learning practices to enhance effectiveness.</p>
9. Strengthen gender and social inclusion in programming.	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI) is an important priority for MFAT and the AGF Steering Committee, which has sought to strengthen GSI programming in the AGF. Subsequently, the AGF has commissioned a GSI scoping assessment to better understand the baseline and identify opportunities / entry points for the AGF. While the AGF is demand-led and there have not been requests from partners to support GSI, the AGF has taken a mainstreaming approach to inclusion by working with networks of women to promote regional training opportunities and requiring closer gender balance in intensive training initiatives. Although the proportion of women trained has increased, advancement toward outcomes in GSI through the AGF is not yet strong.</p>
10. Explore opportunities for donor coordination and harmonisation of geothermal technical assistance and capacity building.	<p>Agree.</p> <p>There is a natural synergy between AGF geothermal technical assistance and being able to de-risk grants or concessionary loans for geothermal exploration. Aligning AGF support with the funding that donors provide is beneficial. To date the AGF has focused efforts to align AGF technical support with meeting funding requirement's from the Africa Union's Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility.</p>

