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Investing in rural people

IFAD Executive Board Country Visits: Dates for 2019 and Destination for 2020

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Executive Board — 123rd Session
Rome, 16-17 April 2018

For: Approval

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the proposed destination for 2020 as well as one of the three proposed dates for the 2019 Executive Board country visit.

IFAD Executive Board Country Visits: Dates for 2019 and Destination for 2020

1. The Office of the Secretary, with the assistance of the Programme Management Department, is responsible for managing the country visit programme for the Executive Board in accordance with the recommendation contained in the Peer Review of IFAD's Office of Evaluation and Evaluation Function, which was endorsed by the Executive Board at its ninety-ninth session (EB 2010/99/R.6).
2. In December 2012, the Executive Board approved a new modality for country visits, which required the Board to decide on the destination of future annual visits. Under the new procedures, country visits would be open to participation by Executive Board members that were not members of the Evaluation Committee. Nine members would participate in the visits: four from List A, two from List B and three from List C. The Lists would decide on the participation, and the visits would be fully funded by IFAD. The Board also stipulated that a maximum of three additional members of the Executive Board that were not members of the Evaluation Committee could join the country visits on a self-financing basis. These new rules were to be applied for the annual country visits from 2014 onwards.
3. In September 2015, the Executive Board recommended a revision of the country selection criteria to include a higher number of least developed countries in future proposals.
4. Accordingly, Management recommended the following criteria in selecting destinations for Board visits to widen the range of potential countries: (i) an ongoing country programme is present (ideally with a mix of lending and non-lending activities); (ii) the country has been subject to a country-level evaluation or a completion report has been produced on the results-based country strategic opportunities programme within the previous two years; (iii) at least two of three country visits over a replenishment period should be to a least developed country (LDC) or country affected by fragility; and (iv) adequate regional rotation must be ensured in country selection.
5. In light of the above and in consultation with the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE), the following plan for country visits in 2018-2020 was presented at the 120th session of the Executive Board for approval:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Recent evaluation</i>	<i>Fragile/LDC</i>
2018	East and Southern Africa (ESA)	Ethiopia	Country programme evaluation 2016	LDC
2019	West and Central Africa (WCA)	Cameroon	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2017	
2020	Near East and North Africa (NEN)	Sudan (The)	Country strategy and programme evaluation 2018	Fragile

6. The destinations for 2018 and 2019 were approved and it was decided to rediscuss the destination for the 2020 visit at a future session.
7. In response to the Board's concerns, Management proposes Egypt as the destination for 2020 as a replacement for The Sudan in an attempt to ensure more equitable regional coverage. Near East and North Africa (NEN) is the region

receiving the fewest visits by the Executive Board. Furthermore, Egypt currently has four investment projects in the active portfolio with IFAD financing totalling US\$265.5 million. A further project is under design will be submitted for approval in 2019. A country strategy and programme evaluation was carried out in 2017, which provides the necessary background for an Executive Board visit.

8. Regarding the proposed dates for the 2019 Executive Board country visit to Cameroon, the common calendar of meetings of permanent representatives¹ has been consulted and three possible periods have been identified. These are:
 - (i) 11 to 15 November 2019;
 - (ii) 22 to 26 July 2019; and
 - (iii) 30 September to 4 October 2019.
9. The Executive Board is invited to approve one of the periods proposed above for the 2019 Executive Board country visit, as well as the proposed destination of Egypt for the visit in 2020.

¹ Maintained by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, IFAD and the World Food Programme.

Summary table of Evaluation Committee/ Executive Board member visits:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Region</i>
2004	Syrian Arab Republic	NEN
2005	Indonesia	APR
2006	Mexico	LAC
2007	Mali	WCA
2008	Philippines	APR
2009	India	APR
2010	Mozambique	ESA
2011	Brazil	LAC
2012	Ghana	WCA
2013	Viet Nam	APR
2014	United Republic of Tanzania	ESA
2015	Morocco	NEN
2016	Brazil	LAC
2017	Bangladesh	APR
2018	Ethiopia	ESA
2019	Cameroon	WCA
2020	Egypt	NEN PROPOSED