Enhancing global environmental benefits through excellence in evaluation

Evaluating Global Environmental Benefits: Lessons from the GEF

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University of Tsukuba – 21 November 2018

Outline

1 GEF and the global environment
2 Evaluating performance and impact
3 Innovative approaches
    Land degradation and value for money
    Transformational change
    Additionality
4 Conclusions

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SECTION 1

GEF and the Global Environment

Scale


$1 billion
$10 billion
$100 billion
Annual GEF funding
Global public funding for environmental issues
Funding needs for action on global environmental issues
versus
$1 trillion
Global public subsidies that lead to overexploitation of natural resources and environmental degradation

gef

Climate change

International waters

Chemicals and waste

Biodiversity

Forests

Land degradation

Strategic relevance

Conventions. Main funding mechanism for:

Countries

More than **140** recipient countries

Support for **middle income countries** remains important

Support to **LDCs and SIDS** has increased

Also relevant to the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

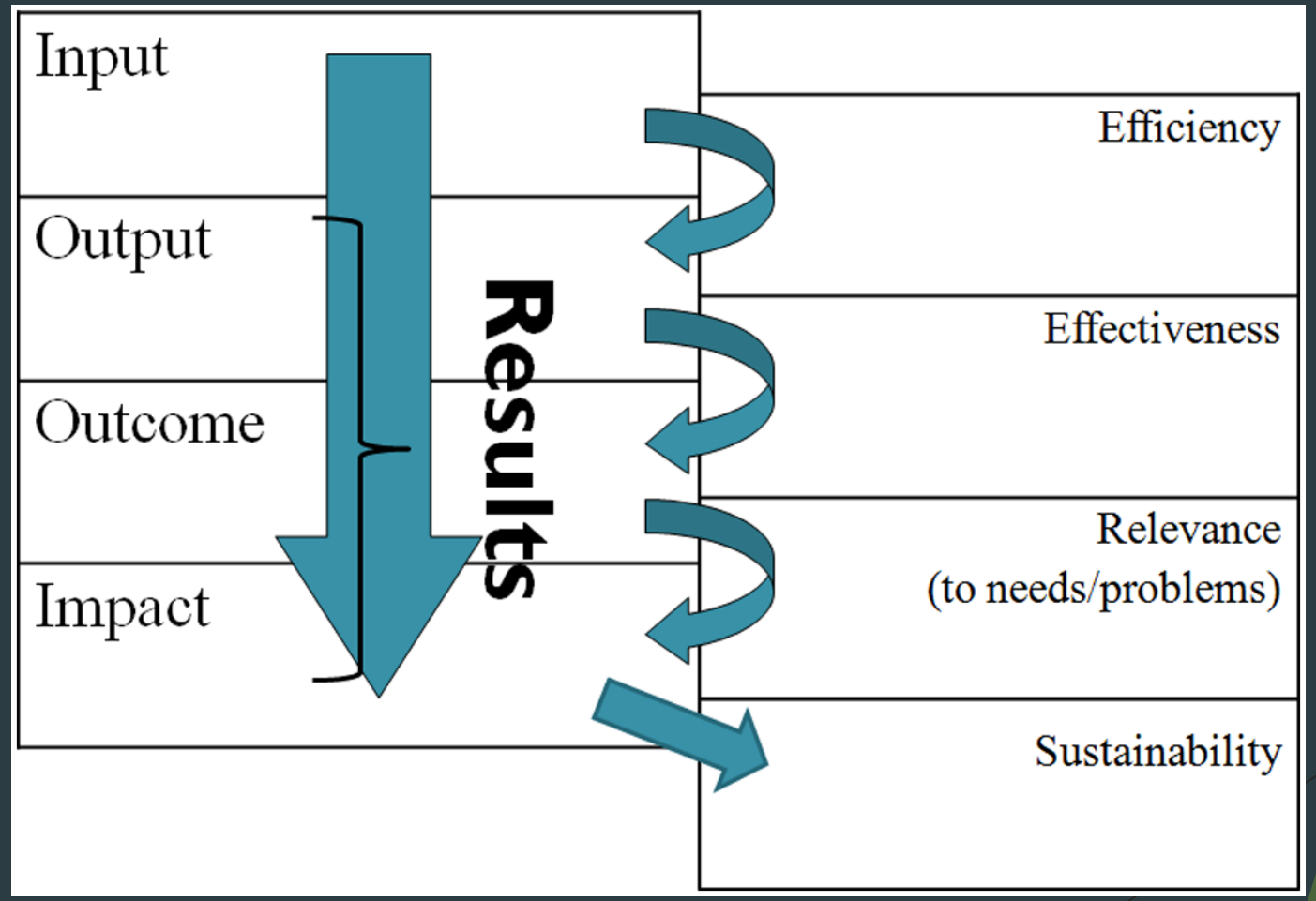
SECTION 2

Evaluating Performance and Impact

Role of evaluation

- Evaluation is judgment made of the relevance, appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of development efforts, based on agreed criteria and benchmarks among key partners and stakeholders
- It involves a rigorous, systematic and objective process in the design, analysis and interpretation of information to answer specific questions
- It provides assessments of what works and why, highlights intended and unintended results, and provides strategic lessons to guide decision-makers and inform stakeholders

Evaluation criteria



Source: Van den Berg 2011

OPS6 Overview

Objective

To provide solid evaluative evidence to inform the replenishment negotiations for **GEF-7**

Methodology

29 evaluations and studies

Mix of qualitative and quantitative approaches including geospatial analysis

Formative approaches to evaluate ongoing programs

Limitations

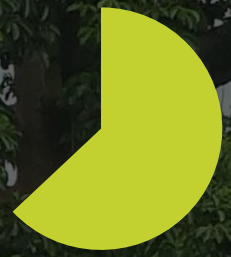
Limitations imposed by data and timing

Site visits to all regions

Performance and Impact

79%

Satisfactory outcomes



63%

of projects have outcomes that are likely to be sustained

Drivers of good performance:

- Project design
- Quality of implementation and execution
- Materialized co-financing

- Performance and sustainability of outcomes > in middle income countries
- Institutional capacity challenges in Africa

PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT

Broader adoption and transformational change

61%

of projects achieved
broader adoption

59%

of projects achieved
environmental stress reduction

Mechanisms for broader adoption:

+ Mainstreaming and replication
  Scaling-up and market change

Success factors for transformational change:

- Clear ambition in designs
- Addressing market reforms through policies
- Mechanisms for financial sustainability
- Quality of implementation and execution
- May be achieved by projects of different size

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Common findings

Relevant to conventions

Strong performance ratings on outcomes with limited variation

Sustainability of outcomes (Land degradation & Biodiversity)

M&E Design (International Waters and Chemicals)

M&E Implementation (International Waters, Chemicals and Multifocal)

Variation in private sector engagement

Transformational change

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SECTION 3

Innovative Approaches

Mexico

Land Degradation and Value for Money

LAND DEGRADATION

Evolution of the strategy

GEF-1-2

Operational Program on Integrated Ecosystem Management

LD seen as a "linkage activity"

GEF-3

Operational Program on SLM.

LDFA established as a focal area.

GEF the financial mechanism for the UNCCD.

GEF-4

Focal area strategy on LDFA

Shift towards multifocal and programmatic approaches

GEF-5

Focal area strategies linked with the UNCCD's 10 year strategy

GEF-6

Focal area strategies alignment towards LDN

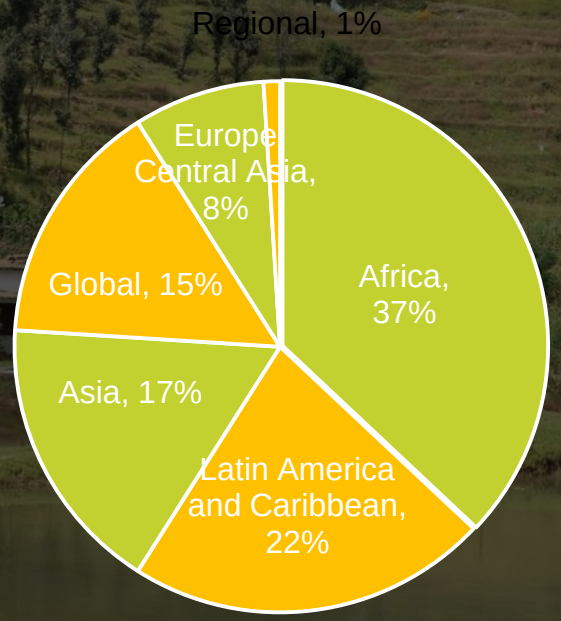
LAND DEGRADATION

Portfolio

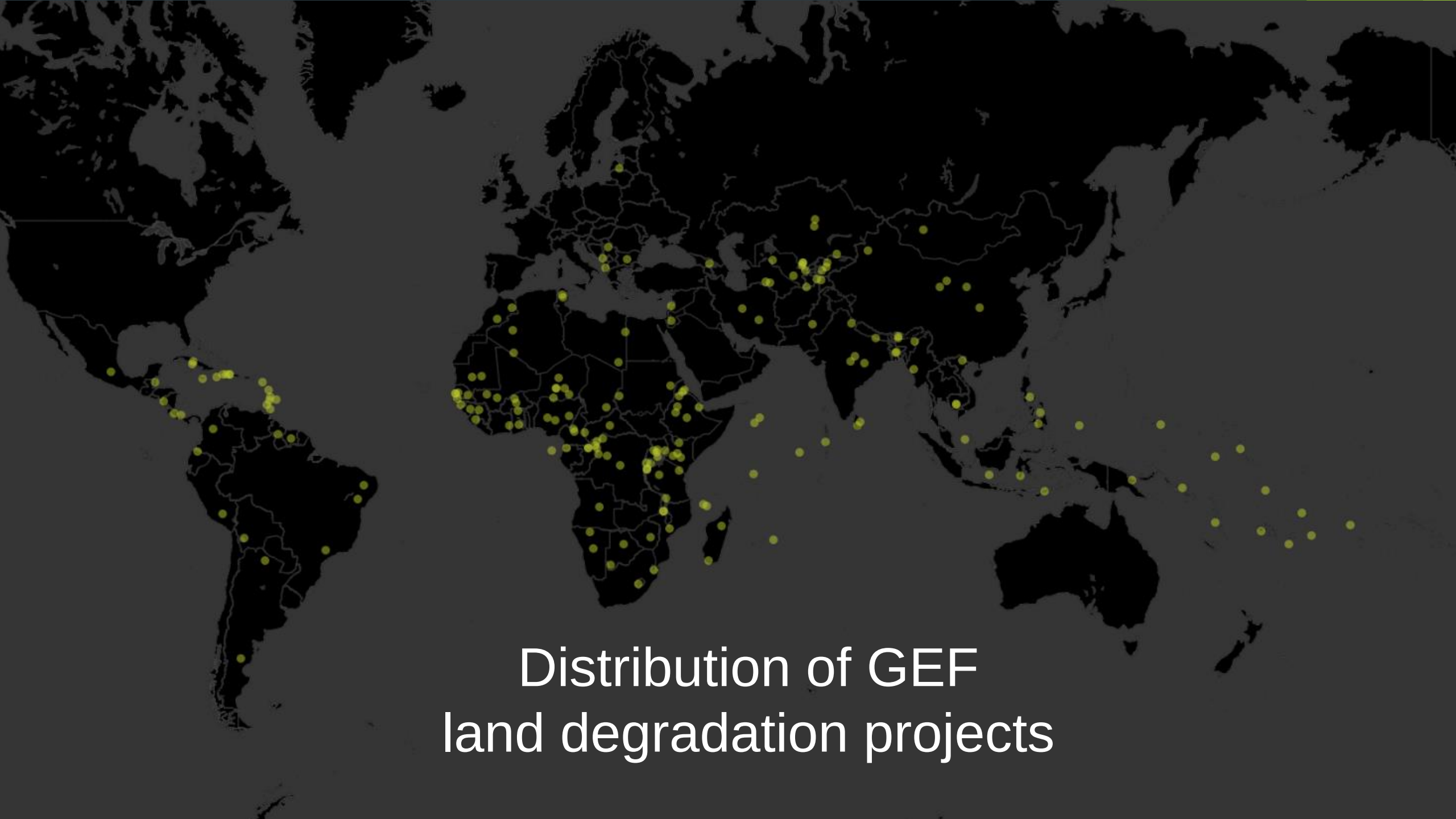
$3.4 billion

618 projects with an LD component
(58% multifocal)

Cofinancing
20.4 billion

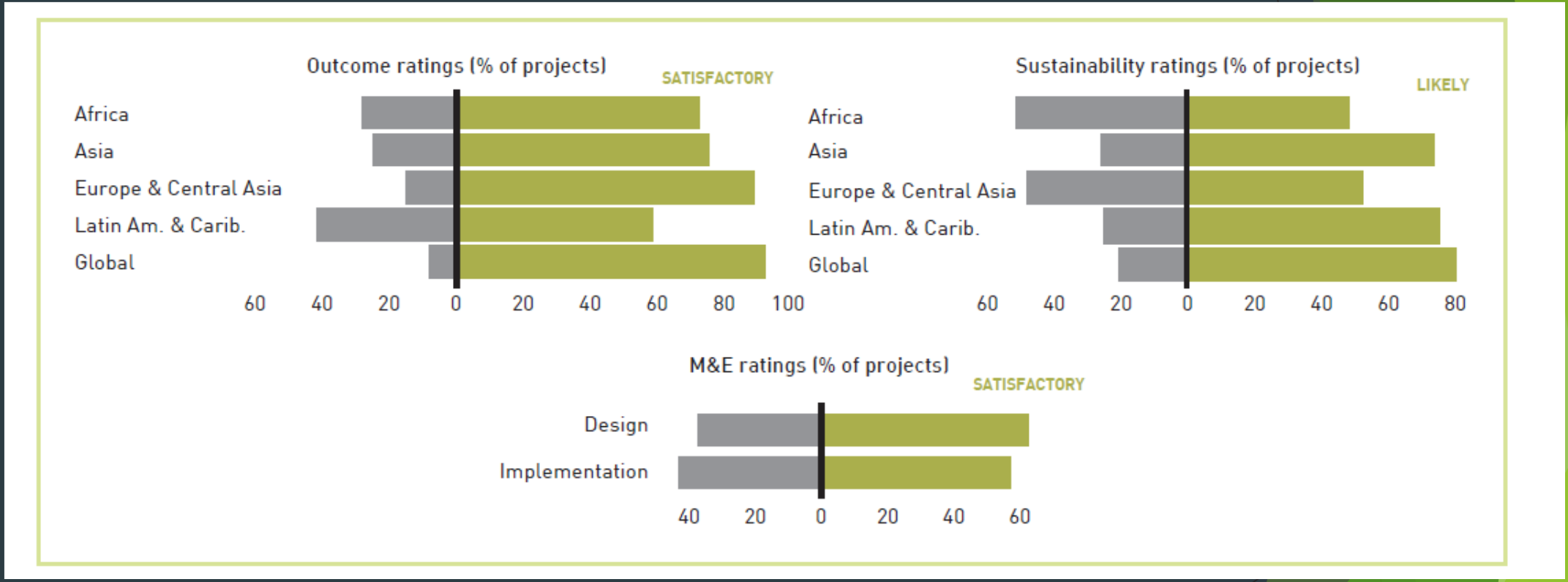


Shift towards integrated landscapes



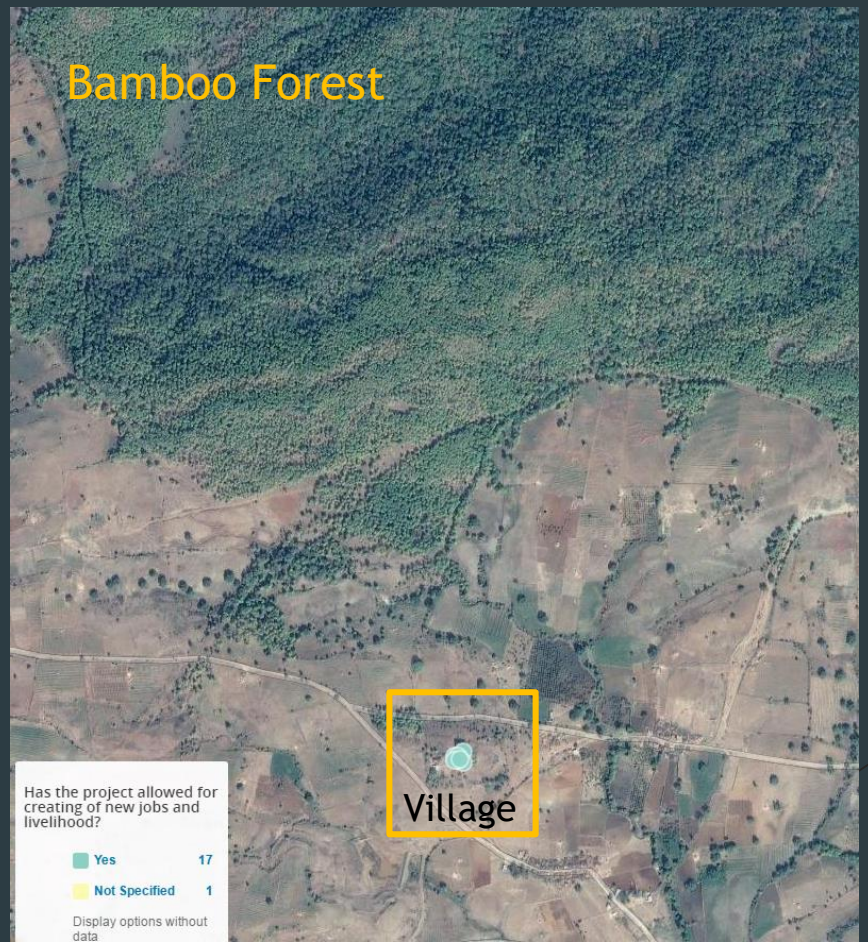
Distribution of GEF
land degradation projects

Results: Performance



Impact assessment

Mixed methods and triangulation of findings



Apr 2009

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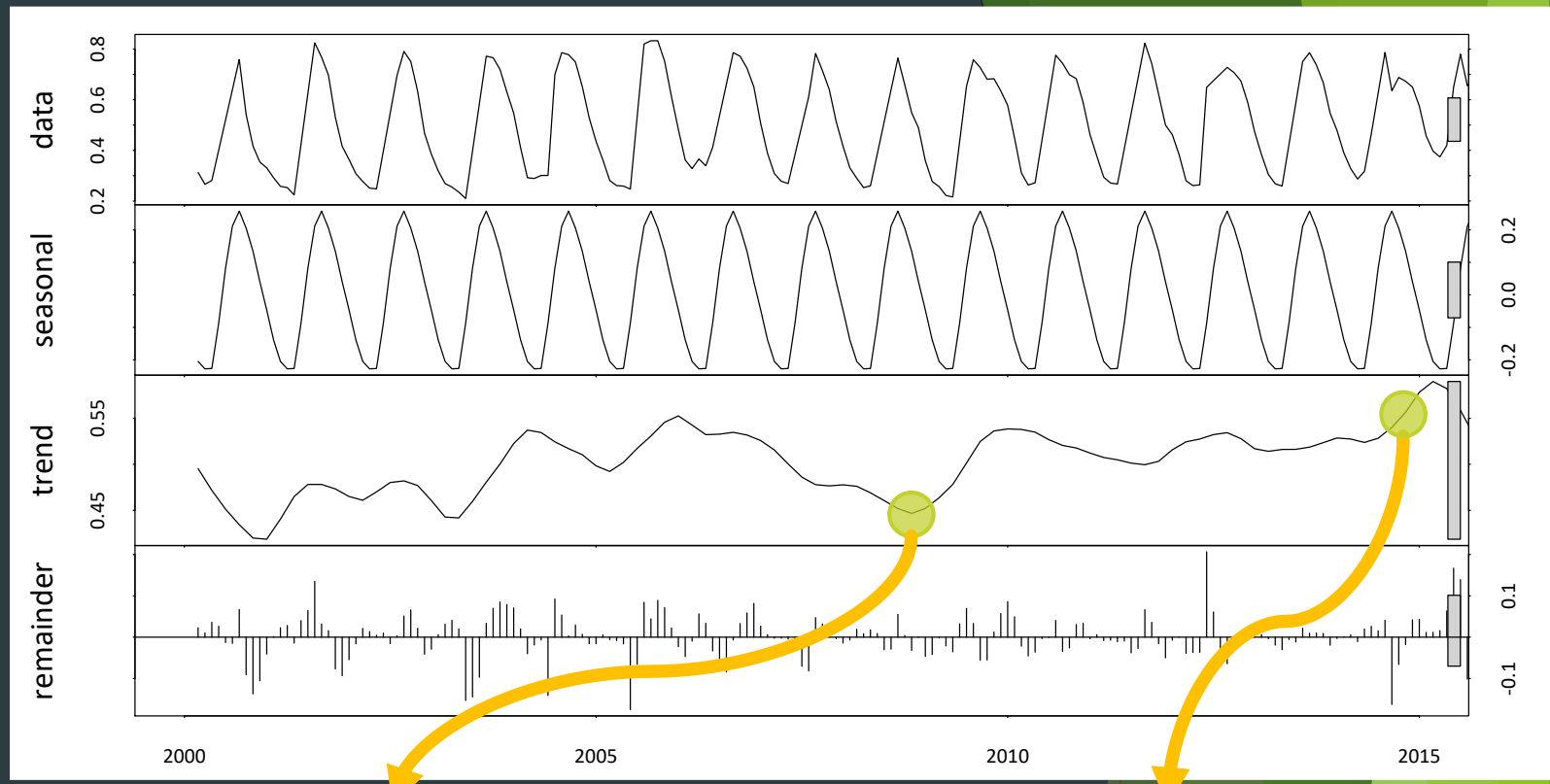
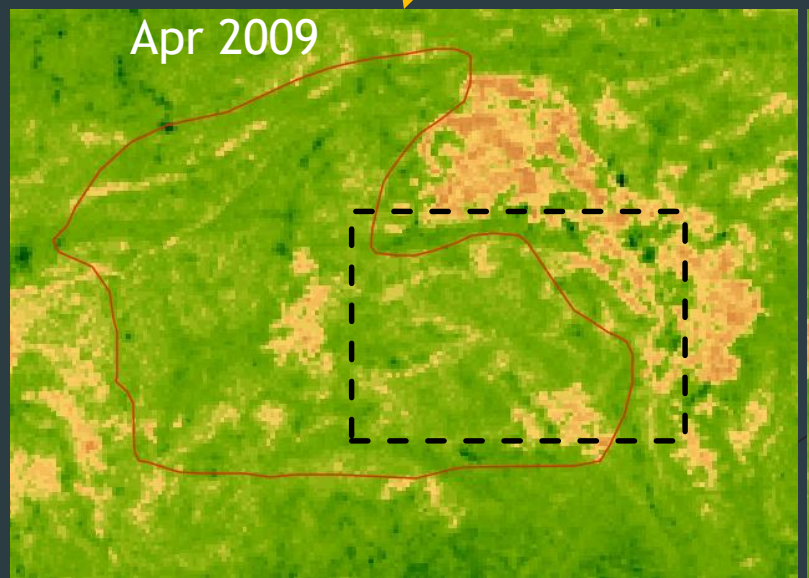
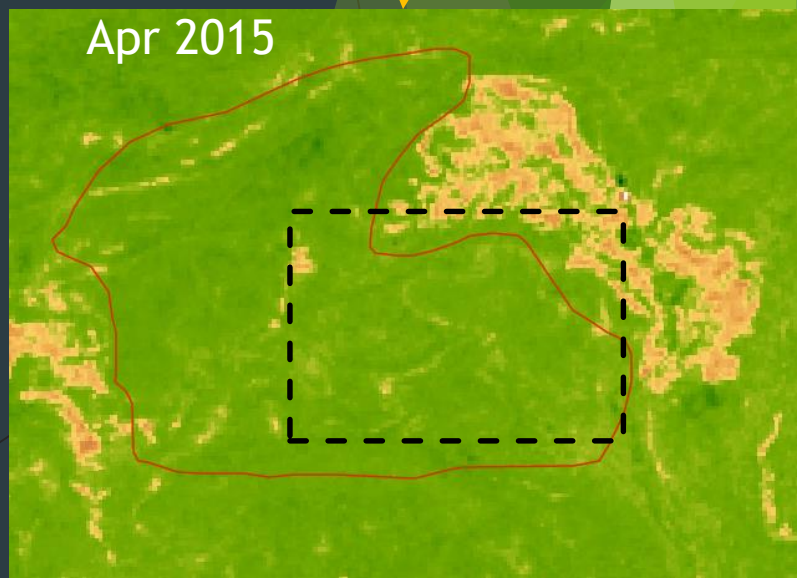






LAND DEGRADATION

Value for money analysis: 3 main objectives

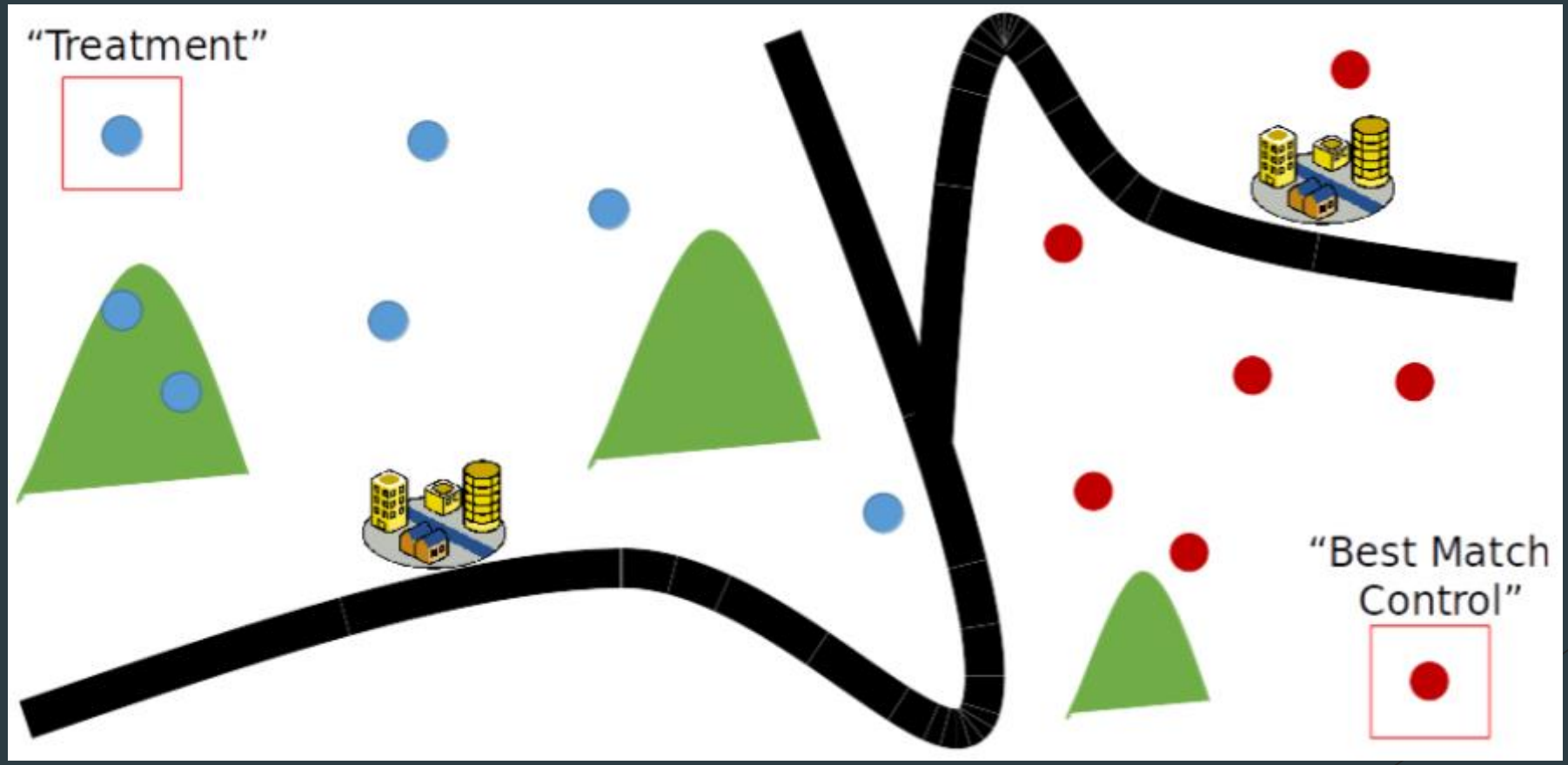
1. Impact of GEF land degradation interventions?
2. Factors associated with the environmental outcomes?
3. Value for money in terms of carbon sequestered?

Methodology

1. Geocoding
2. Geospatial data
3. Data integration
4. Matching analysis
5. Causal tree analysis
6. Valuation of Carbon sequestration

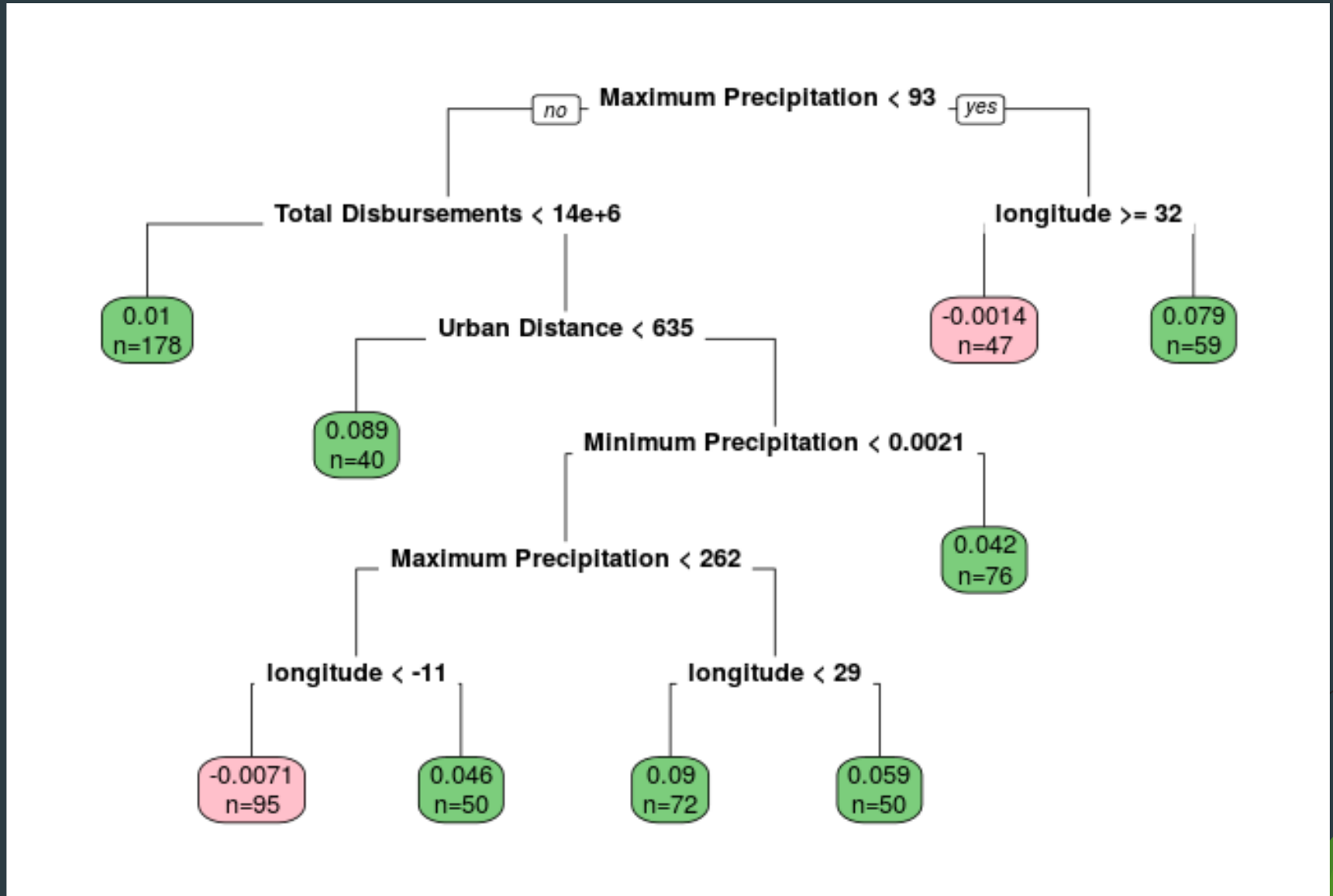
LAND DEGRADATION

Quasi-experimental method



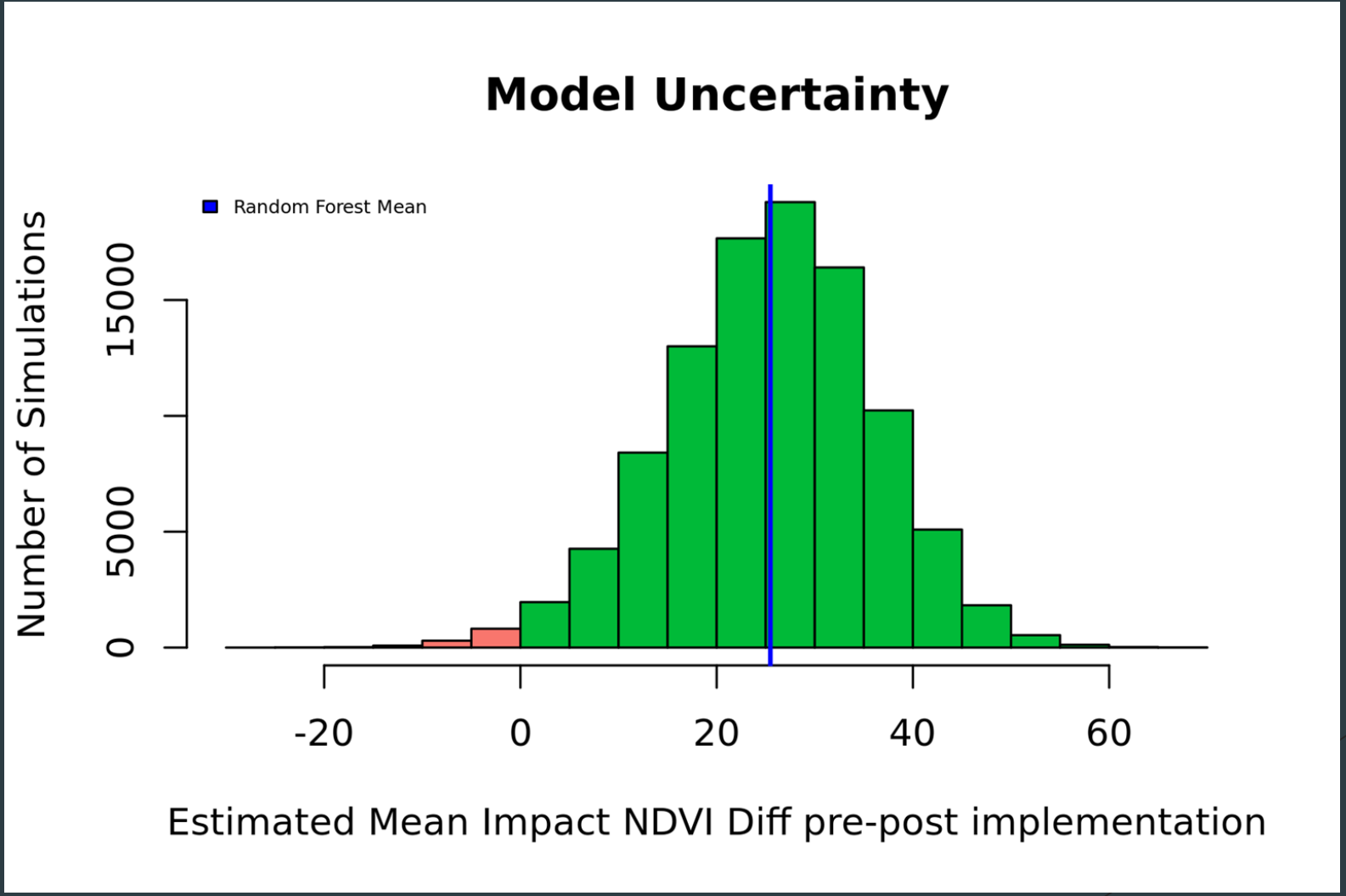
LAND DEGRADATION

Machine learning and causal tree



LAND DEGRADATION

Repeated model simulation



LAND DEGRADATION

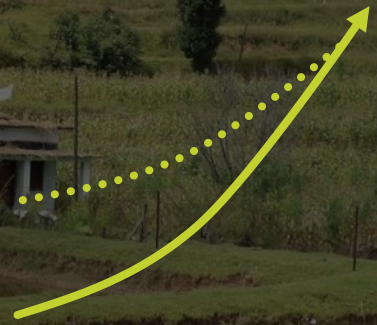
Value for money

$1:1.08

43.52 tC/ha

Lag time of 4.5 to 5.5 years for impacts to be observed

Access to electricity associated with higher impact



Higher impact observed in areas with poor initial conditions

\+

Vegetation productivity

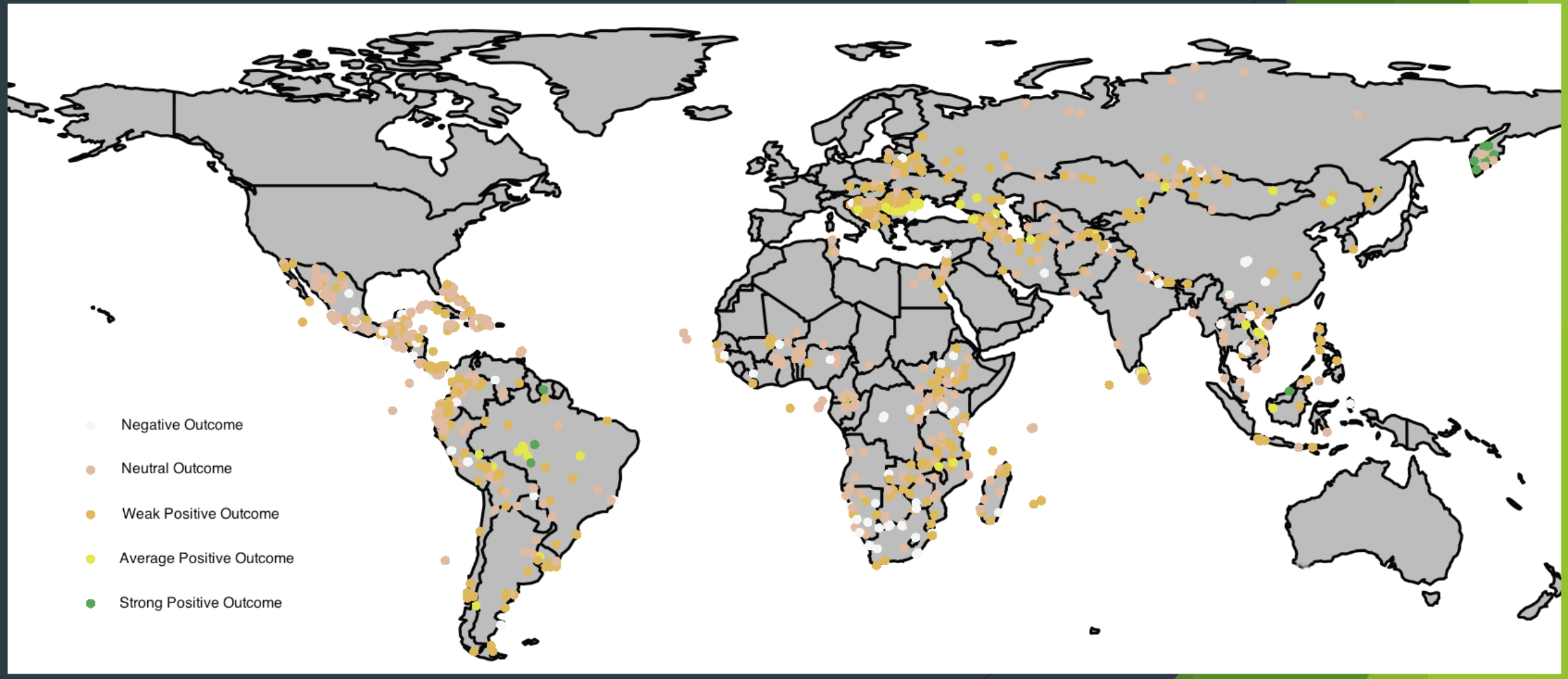
–

forest loss and land fragmentation

LAND DEGRADATION

Bang for the buck

$1:1.08



Land degradation

Strategy

Shift towards **integrated landscape**

Shift from linkages towards land degradation **neutrality**

Climate risks, contextual factors, restoration

Portfolio

High level of effort in **Africa**

Addresses the local socioeconomic **drivers**

Transformational Change & Additionality

Transformational change

- Deep, systemic, and sustainable change with large-scale impact

- Criteria:
  (1) Relevance
  (2) Depth of change
  (3) Scale of change
  (4) Sustainability

- Eight cases purposefully selected

PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT

Examples: transformational change

Uruguay

Wind power
2008: 0%
2016: 33%

Africa

1.3 mln – quality solar lanterns;

Private market transformed

Amazon

13.2 mln ha – strict protection
10.8 mln ha – sustainable use

China

Wind power
2005: 1.3 GW
2015: 129.3 GW

Namibia

98% PAs improved;

Doubled number of wild dogs, leopards, cheetahs, lions (2004–12)

Areas of GEF's Additionality

Specific Environmental Additionality

- Value added to achieve global environmental benefits

Legal/Regulatory Additionality

- Transforming legal/regulatory forms to support environmental sustainability

Institutional Additionality/Governance Additionality

- Support to existing institution to efficient/sustainable transformation

Financial Additionality

- Incremental cost from national/local benefits to global environmental benefits

Socio-economic Additionality

- Livelihood and social benefits through GEF activities

Innovation Additionality

- Technology and knowledge

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SECTION 4

Conclusions

Conclusions on the GEF

RELEVANCE

1. Serves multiple conventions and broad range of environmental issues
2. Strong Support to LDCs and SIDS

PERFORMANCE

3. Long history of good performance
4. Ability to address linkages and synergies between focal areas

TRANSFORMATIONAL

5. Ability to Create an enabling environment in countries through legal and regulatory reforms
6. Delivers innovative financial models and risk-sharing approaches

Lessons for evaluation

Partner with global institutions

Use mixed approaches and methods

Continue exploring new technology

Approach evaluation as a dynamic learning process

Implications for evaluation

- Evaluation: How? Why? Under what conditions? Dynamic!
- Must look beyond individual projects
- Define system boundaries
- Methodological rigor and credibility, adaptability
- Unintended consequences
- Do interventions make a difference?

Sustainable development lens!

Thank you!

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