



Independent
Evaluation Office
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY



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ENHANCING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN EVALUATION



SEMI-ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT

June 2019



OVERVIEW

1. Annual Performance Report 2019: Focus on Sustainable Transport
2. Value for Money Analysis of GEF Interventions in Support of SFM
3. Evaluation of GEF Support to Scaling Up Impacts
4. Evaluation Work in Progress
5. Knowledge Management
6. Management Action Record
7. Peer Review of the Independent Evaluation Function



ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2019

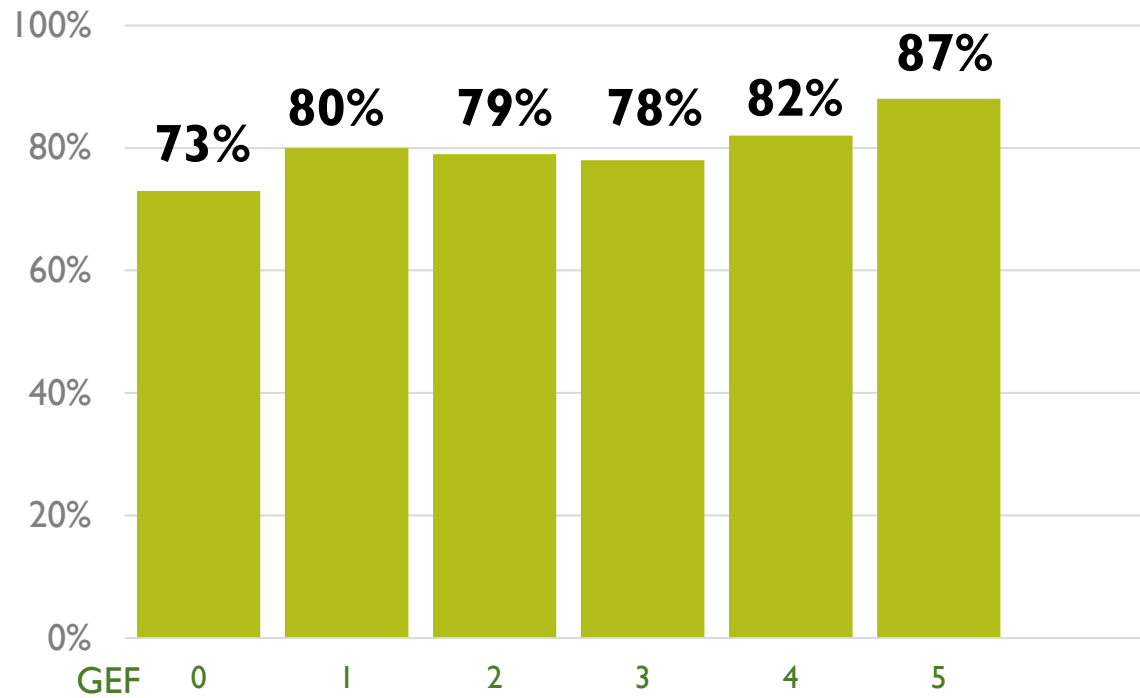
SPECIAL FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT





PERFORMANCE

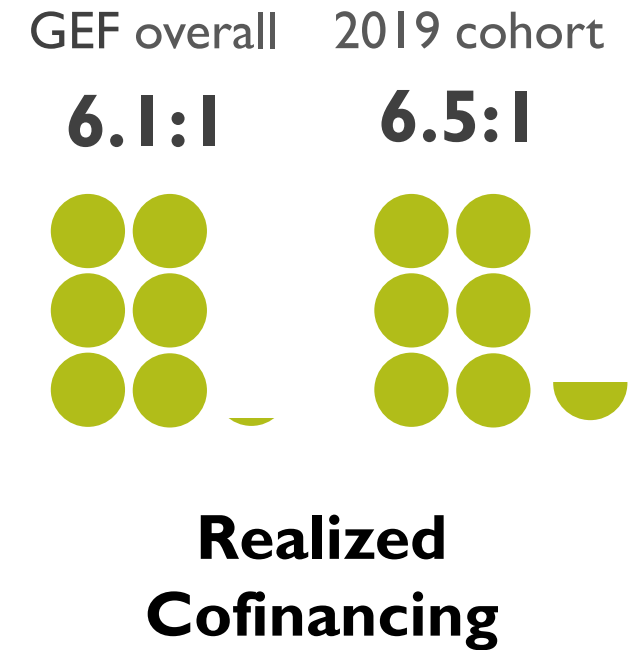
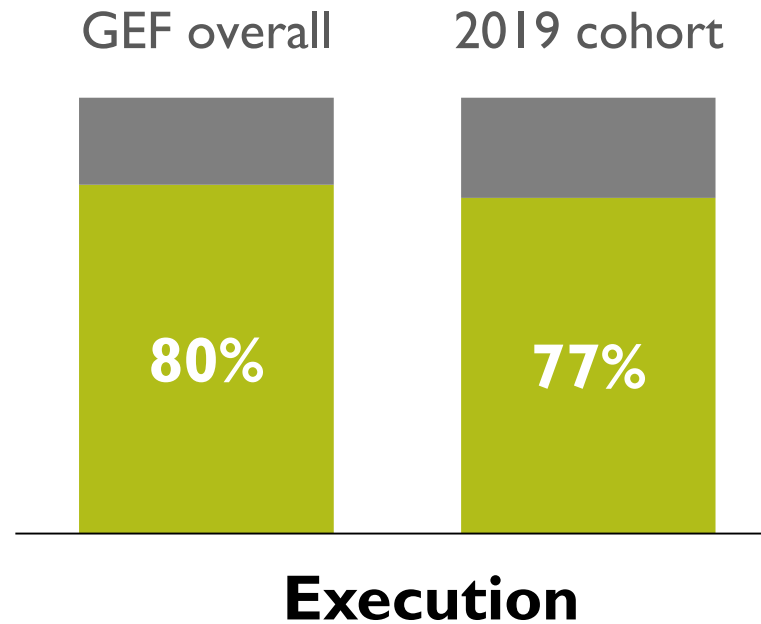
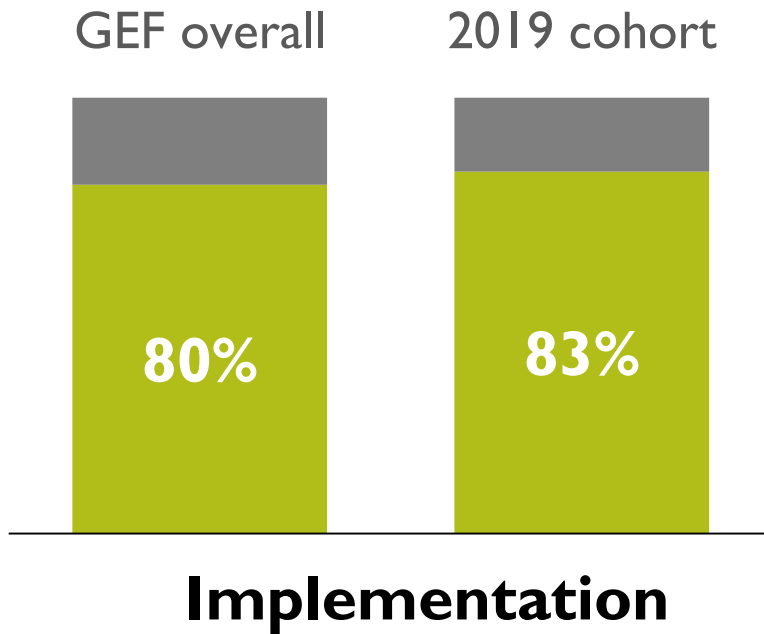
Outcomes



GEF overall **80%** (n=1546)

2019 cohort **78%** (n=187)

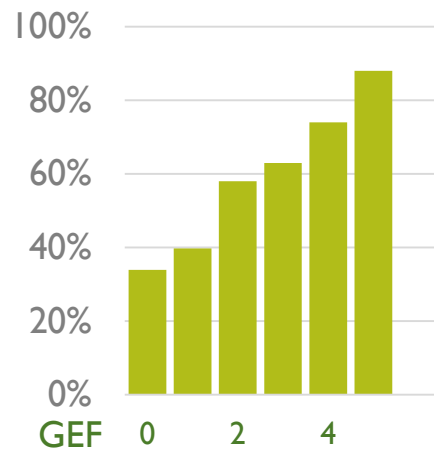
Projects with satisfactory outcomes



Monitoring and Evaluation

GEF overall 65%

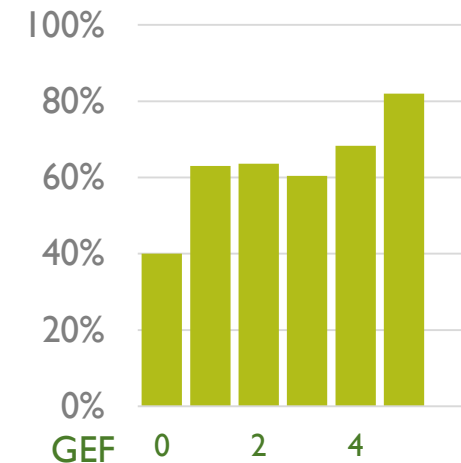
2019 cohort 80%



**Continued improvement in
M&E design**

GEF overall 65%

2019 cohort 70%



**Modest improvement in
M&E implementation**

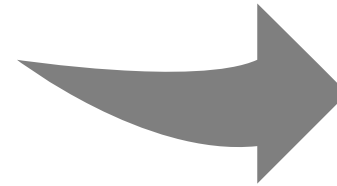
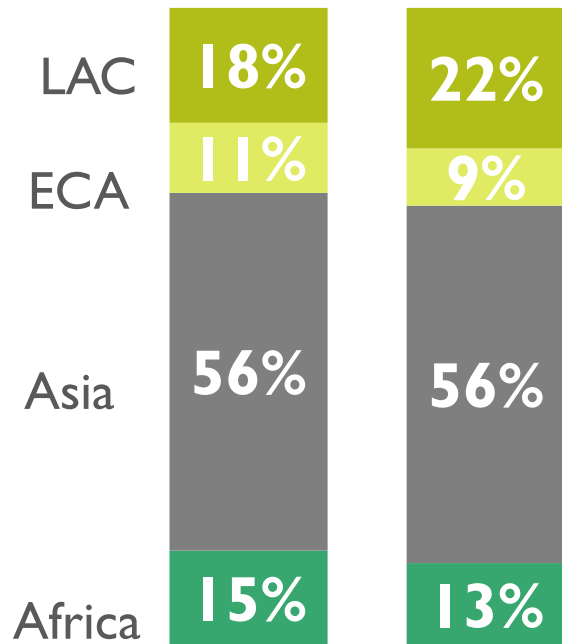


SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Portfolio (\$500 million in GEF funds, 80 projects)

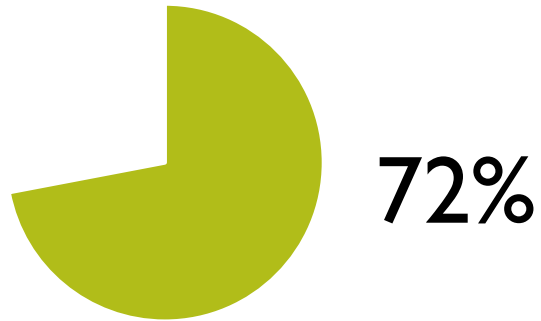
Relevant to countries' needs and SDG 11

Share in urban population GEF transport portfolio

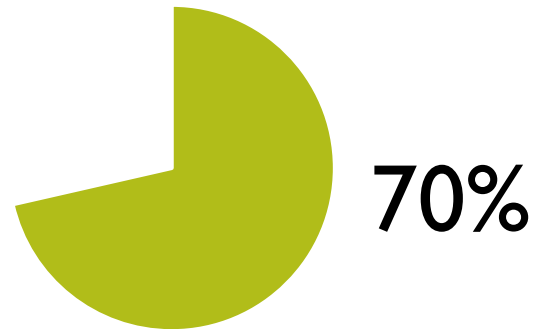


Evolved from low carbon technologies to integrated approaches

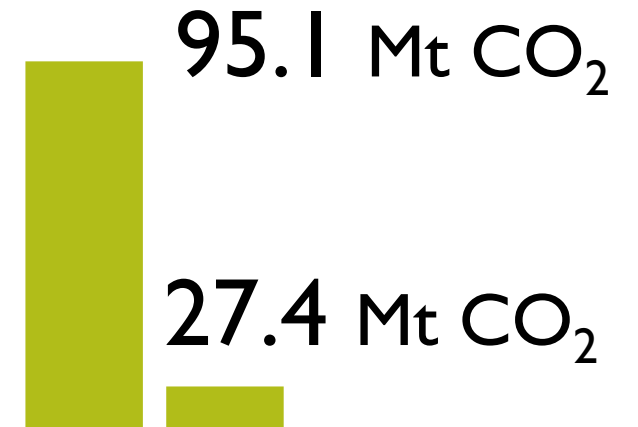
Performance



Satisfactory outcomes
(n=32)



Likely sustainable
(n=30)



GHG emissions abatement
lower than expected at project
start (n=20)

Outcomes



Transformed markets
in China, Malaysia, South Asia



Contributed to establishing BRT
in cities in Mexico and Tanzania



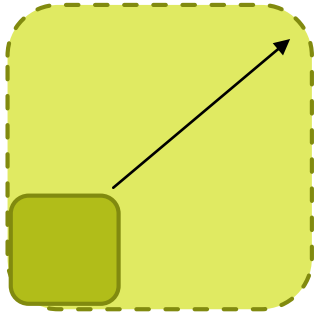
Promoted
non-motorized transit



Promoted TOD when efforts aligned
with the vision of the local leadership

Value added by GEF projects (n=80)

Increasing scale



10%
of projects

Increasing viability



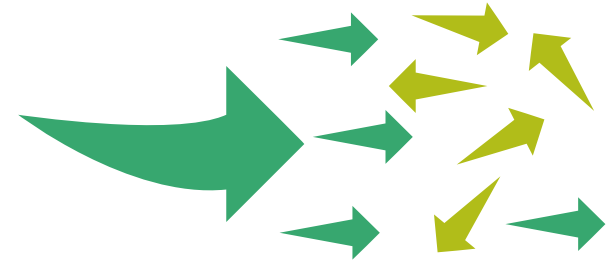
20%
of projects

Speeding up
implementation



24%
of projects

Mainstreaming sustainable
transport approaches



73%
of projects

GEF's Comparative Advantage and Future Considerations

CONTEXT

1. Increasing demand for sustainable transport
2. Need for integrated approaches and specific transport sector approaches

RELEVANT AND VALUED SUPPORT

3. Urban and transport planning
4. Legal, policy, regulatory measures
5. Capacity development

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

5. Autonomous vehicles and ride share
6. Technical solutions for transit efficiency

Recommendations

1. M&E design should be consistent with the project's theory of change



Methodology to assess GHG emissions abatement

Process, behavioral change, policy reform indicators

Track the incremental GHG benefits from GEF funding

2. GEF should continue to prioritize funding for capacity development, urban and transport planning, and policy and regulatory development



GEF should restrict support for civil works to pilot / demonstration activities

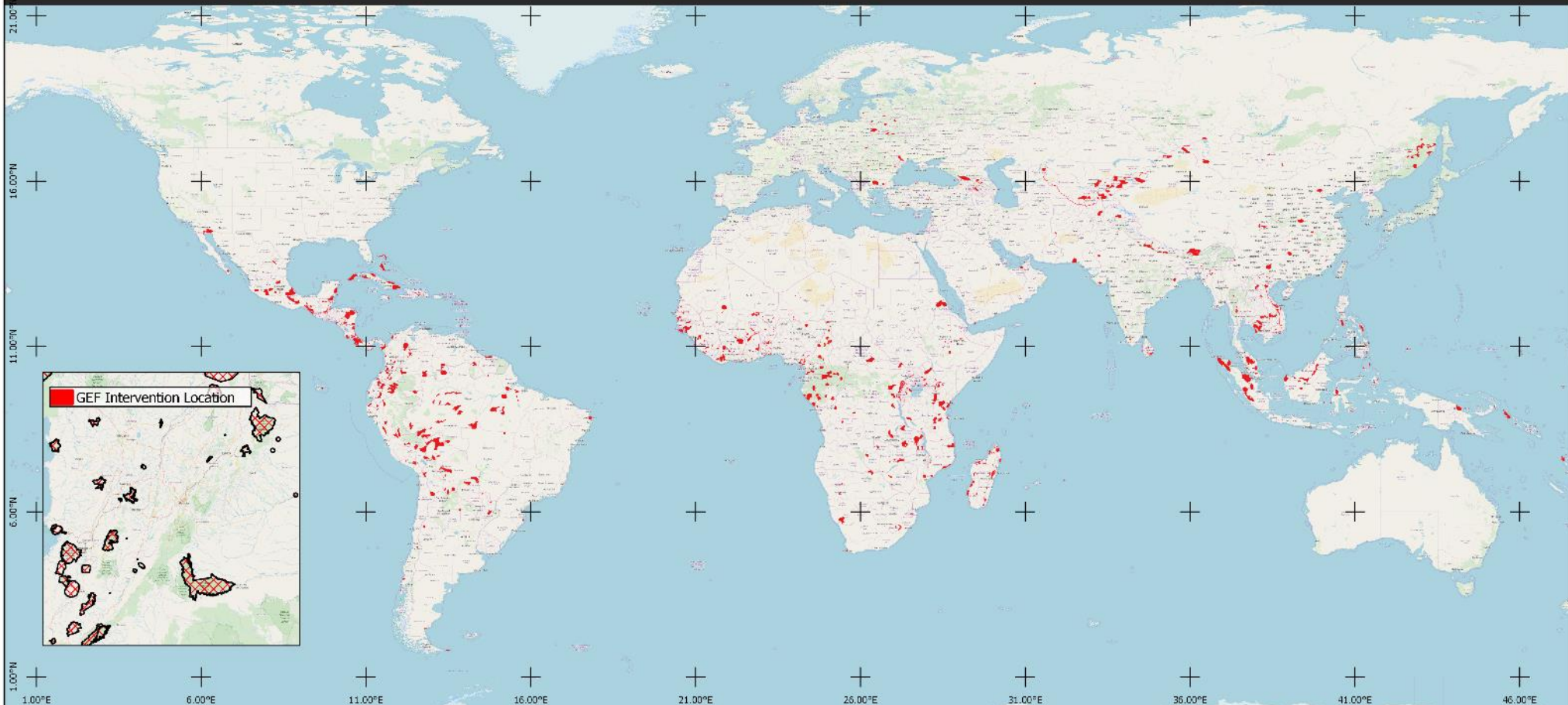


VALUE FOR MONEY ANALYSIS OF GEF INTERVENTIONS IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

GEF SFM projects

GEF Project Implementation Sites

Geographic location of GEF projects known to a relatively high degree of spatial precision. Inset map 1 illustrates a zoomed-in representation of Uganda, Inset map 2 show sthe global distribution of GEF SFM Projects.



Base Map Data by OpenStreetMap (in OpenStreetMap contributors), under ODbL. The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this map do not necessarily reflect the views of the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility or the governments they represent.

Methodology

- Analysis both at portfolio level, and case study at country level



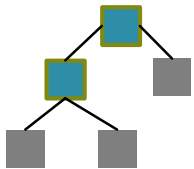
Precise geolocation



Satellite data



Integration with socio-economic data



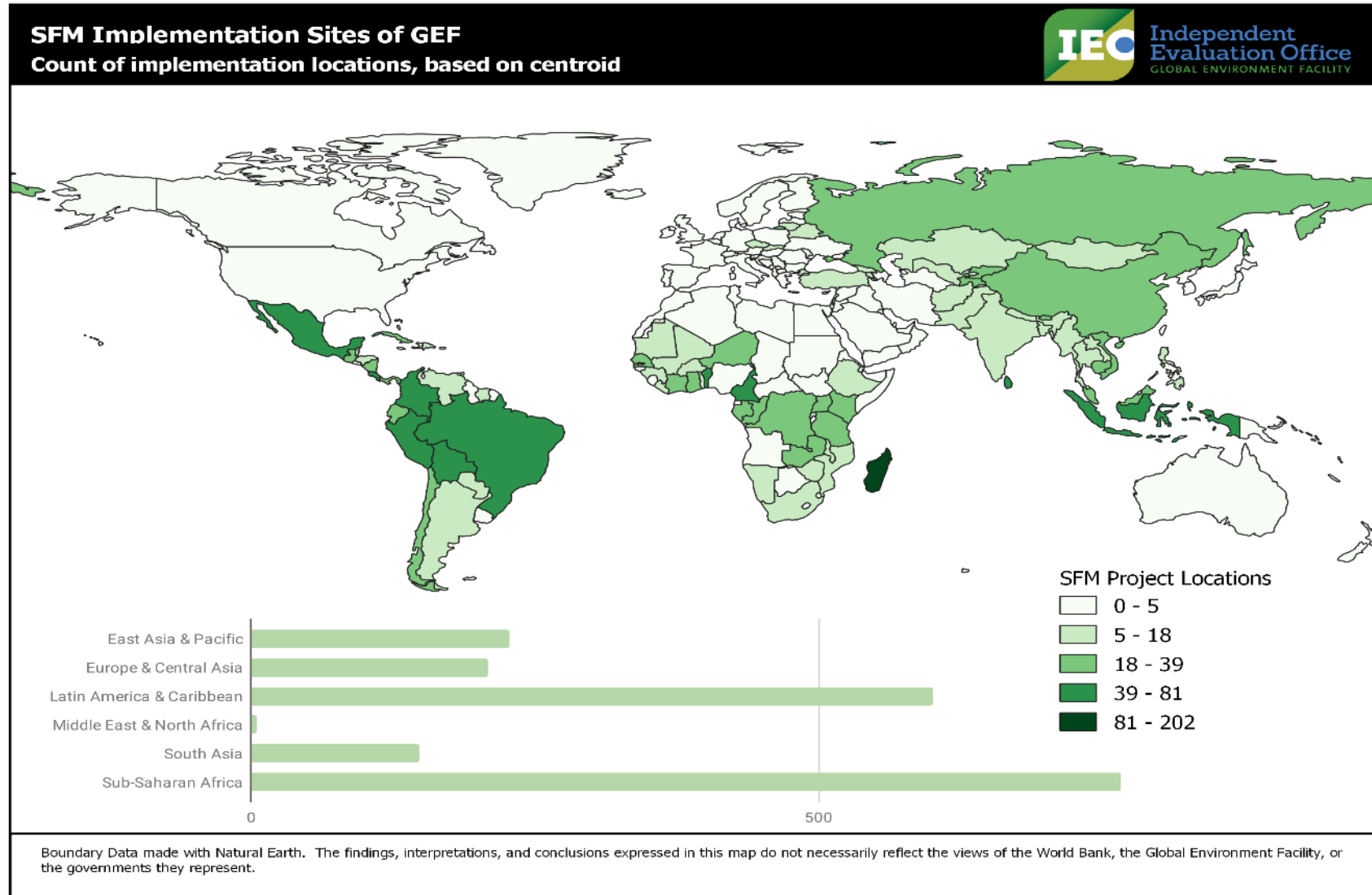
Causal trees machine learning



Estimation of carbon sequestered

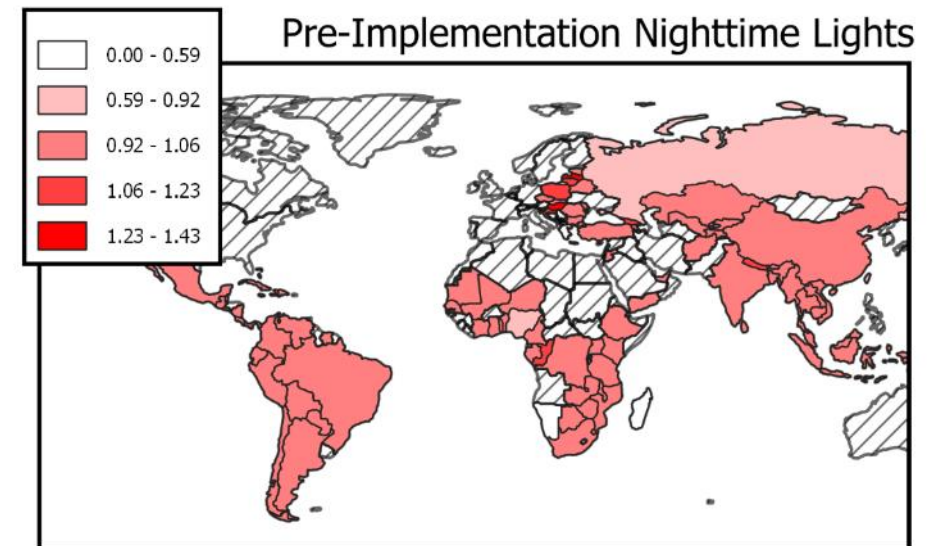
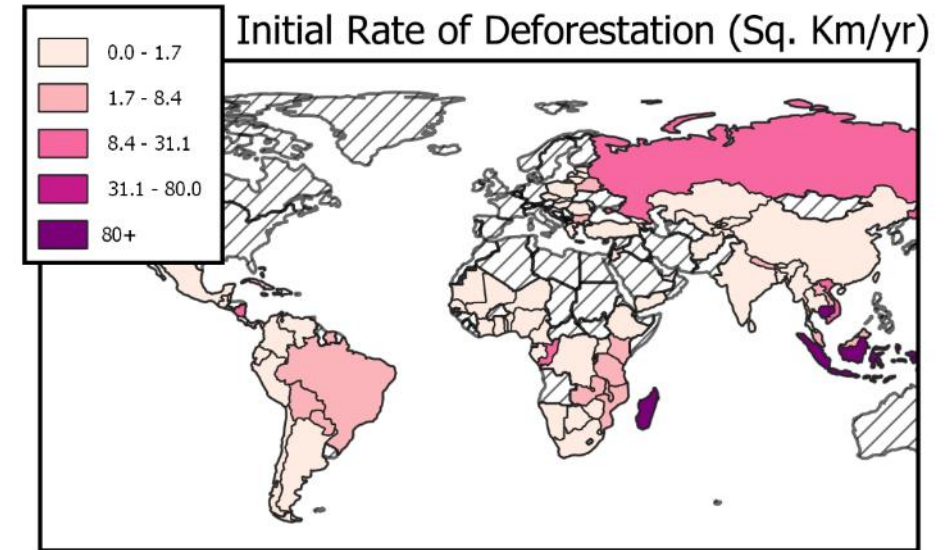
- Novel approach to address data gaps through integration of satellite data with local survey data (Uganda)

Key Findings : Regional Focus



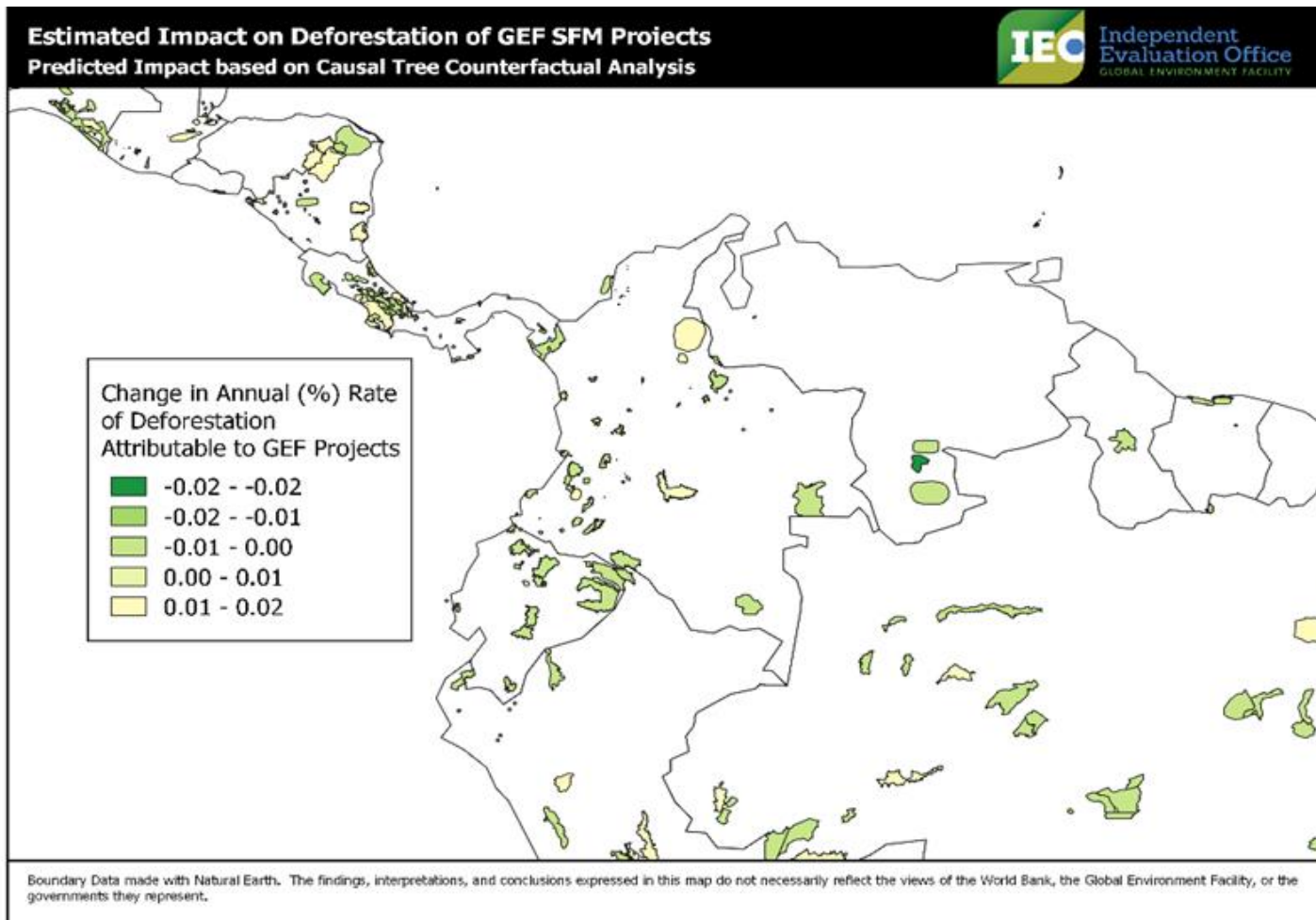
Key Findings : Relevance

- GEF SFM projects were implemented in geographic locations with very high initial conditions of deforestation.
- GEF projects were appropriately more focused on areas with environmental degradation as compared to areas with poor socio-economic conditions (proxied by night lights).



Key Findings : Impacts on Deforestation and Carbon Sequestered

Areas with GEF SFM interventions have approximately 0.27% less deforestation each year than similar areas without the GEF



1.33 tons

of carbon sequestered **per hectare/ year**

\$727,900

Average value of above-ground carbon sequestered **annually by each project**

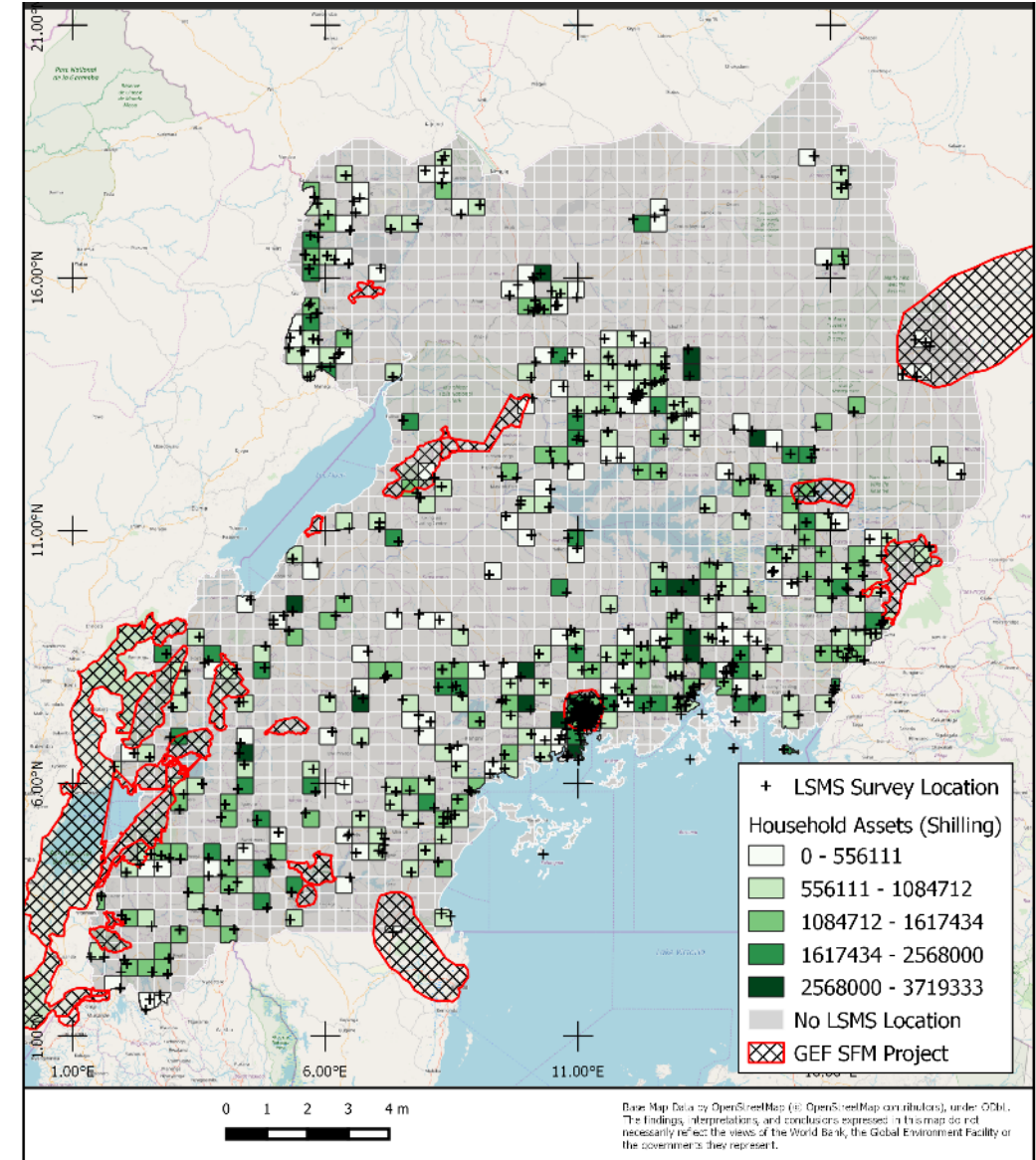
\$1.17/\$1.00 per year

Key Findings : Socioeconomic Co-benefits

- Neutral to slightly positive impact of GEF interventions at the portfolio level on socioeconomic benefits as proxied by nighttime lights
- In Uganda households in proximity to GEF SFM interventions have approximately **\$310 USD** more in **Household Assets** as compared to households further away.



Positive Correlation with GEF, not causation



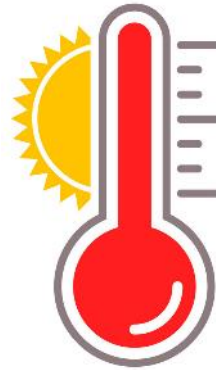
Factors affecting outcomes of GEF Interventions

Avoiding Deforestation



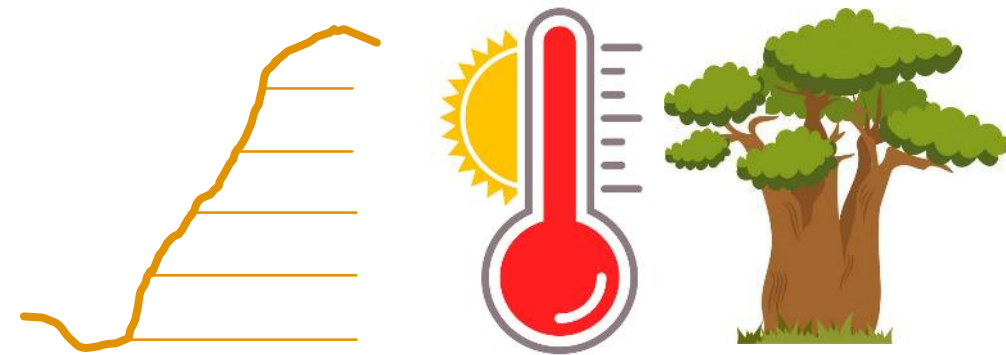
Low Population density, low urbanization
(GEF more effective)

Vegetation Density



Lower temperature
(GEF more effective)

Carbon Sequestration



Steep slope, high temperatures
(GEF less effective)
High initial tree cover
(GEF more effective)

Recommendations



Improve geographic precision in recording and reporting



Capture socioeconomic co-benefits of interventions



Select projects or programs to **improve the evidence base**

EVALUATION OF GEF SUPPORT TO SCALING UP IMPACT



A series on how the GEF achieves impact



**TRANSFORMATIONAL
CHANGE**

2017



SUSTAINABILITY

2018



SCALING-UP

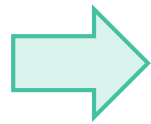
2019



INNOVATION

2020

Why study scaling-up?



**IAPs
Impact
Programs**

GEF VISION & PROGRAMMING

MORE
Doing
LESS
with

DONOR DEMAND



GEF IEO INDICATOR OF
PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPACT



HISTORICAL SHIFT IN THE GEF

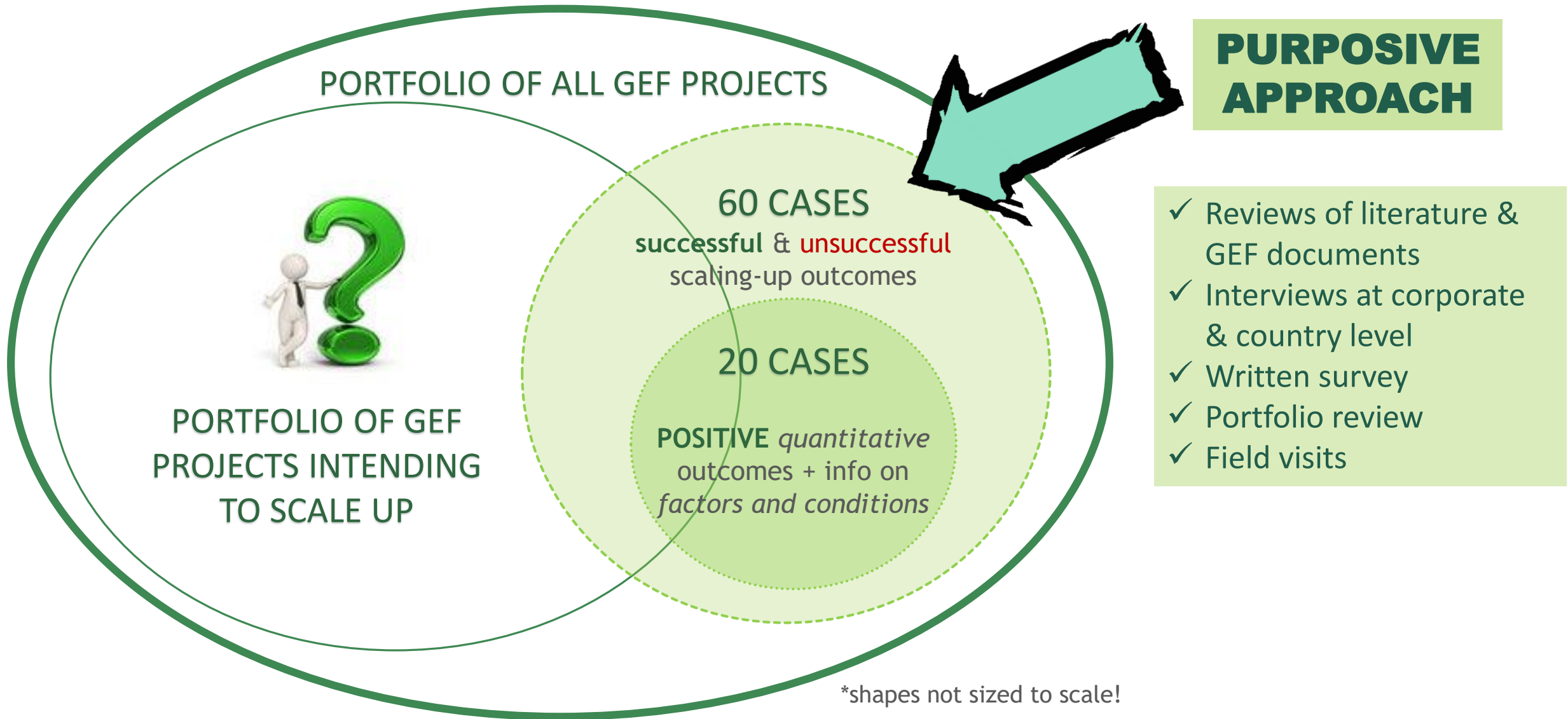
This is the first evaluation to look at scaling-up in the GEF in-depth

Objective



To draw lessons from past GEF experience and the experience of Agencies and other sectors that can help the GEF more systematically achieve its scaling-up vision

Method



How we define scaling-up



Increasing Magnitude



Expanding Geographical or
Sectoral Areas

of Global Environmental Benefits to cover a defined

ECOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, or GOVERNANCE

unit

A PROCESS!

What successful scaling-up cases looked like

> 5 YEARS

(or at least two projects)

Typically Long-term

FSP SGP
MSP EA

Multiple Modalities
and Sequence Types

< \$1 MILLION

to

> \$100 MILLION

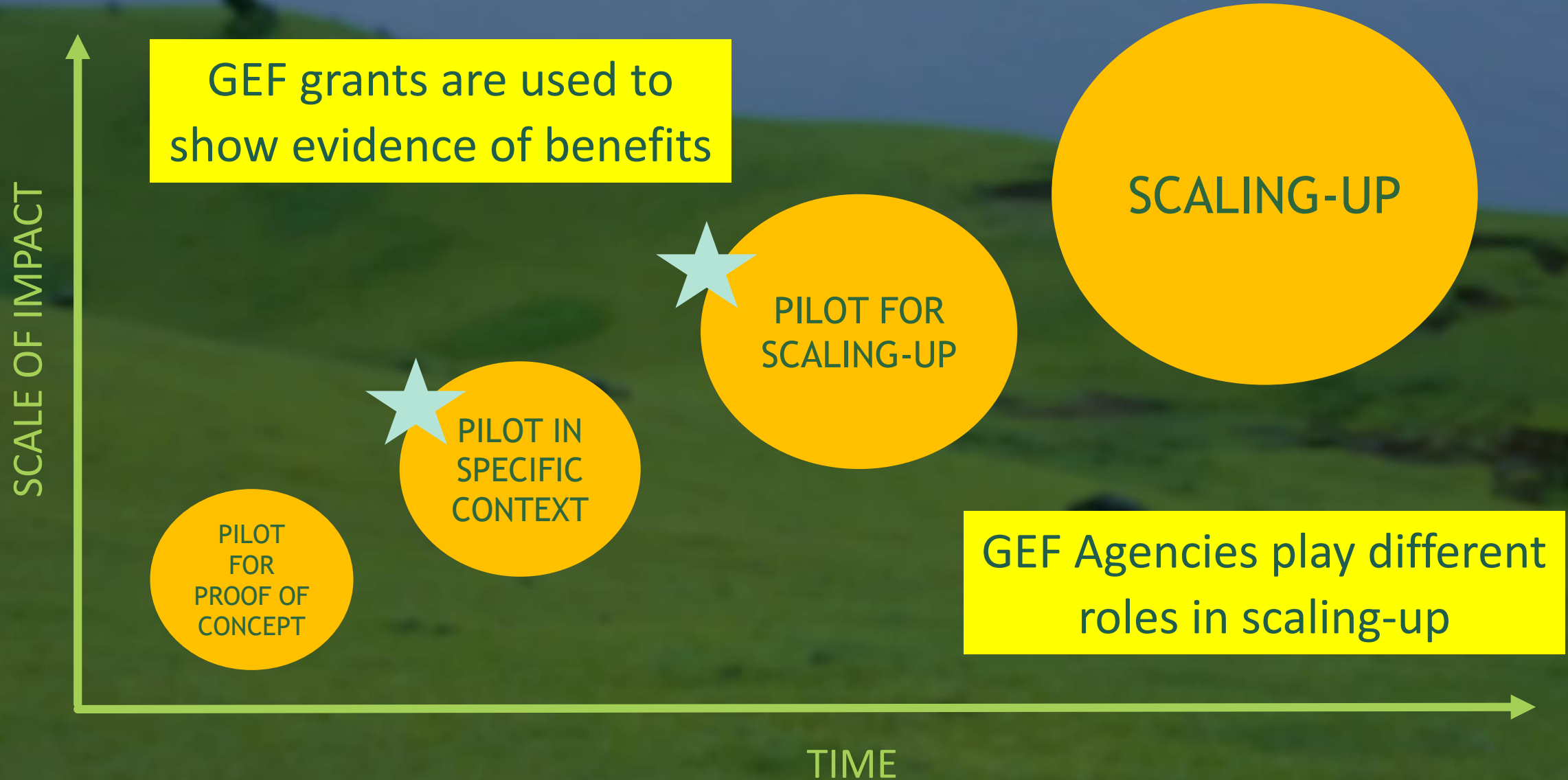
Wide Range of GEF Grant Amount

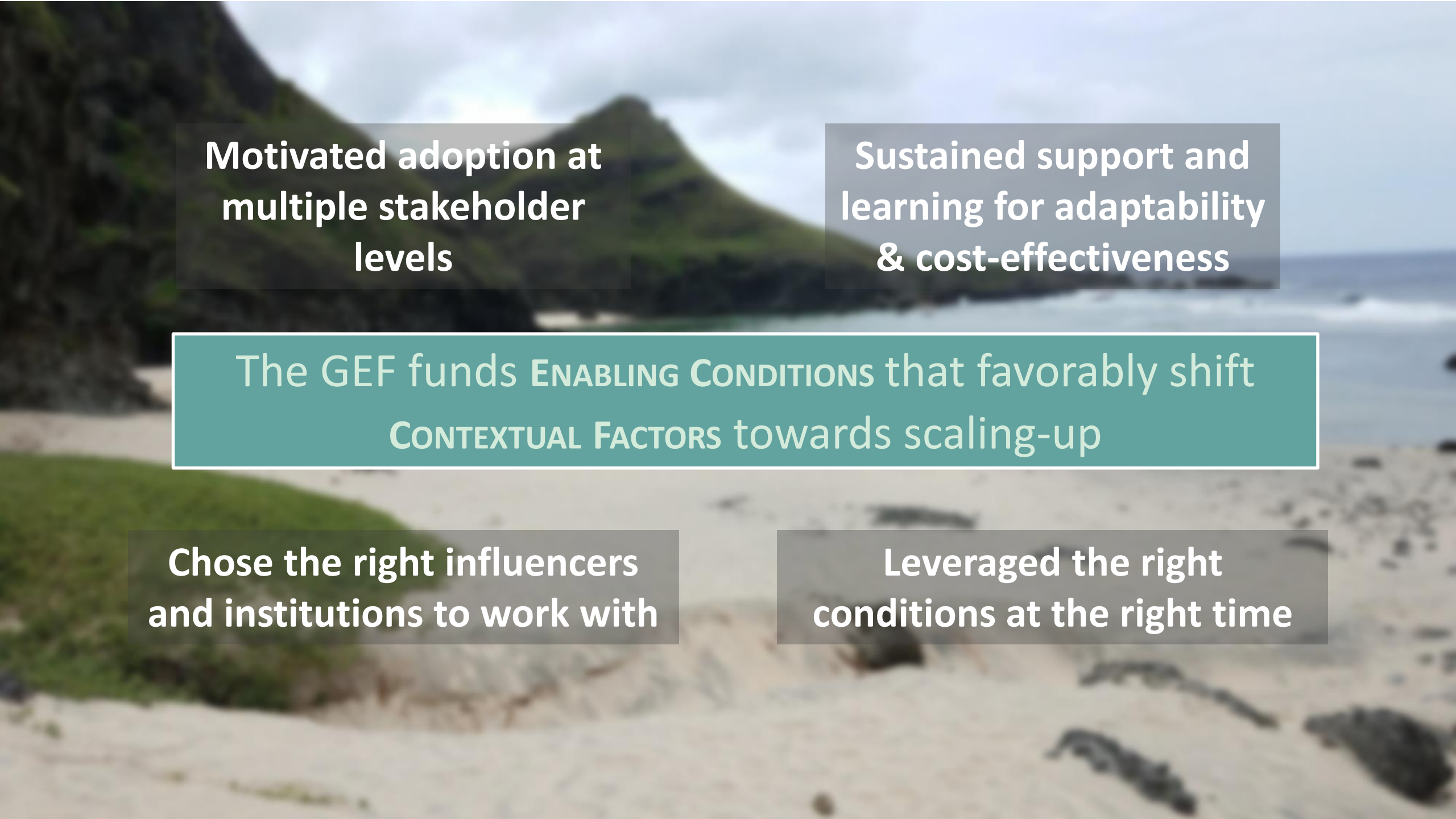
1.1x to 74.5x

Higher Environmental Outcomes

Scaling-up Stage > Pilot Stage

The GEF's niche in the scaling-up process





**Motivated adoption at
multiple stakeholder
levels**

**Sustained support and
learning for adaptability
& cost-effectiveness**

**The GEF funds ENABLING CONDITIONS that favorably shift
CONTEXTUAL FACTORS towards scaling-up**

**Chose the right influencers
and institutions to work with**

**Leveraged the right
conditions at the right time**

How the GEF helps **sustain** the scaling-up process

COSTA RICA



- ❖ Strengthened PES agency
- ❖ Capitalized BD trust fund
- ❖ Now 100% funded by government

MACEDONIA



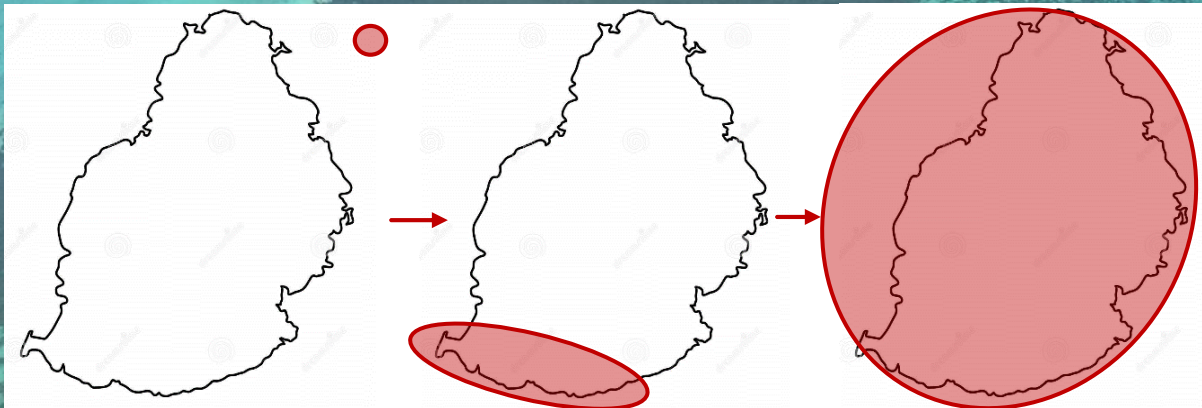
- ❖ Provided PCB treatment technology and training
- ❖ Now 100% run by private sector

Institutional capacity-building + sustainable financing

How the GEF helps sustain the scaling-up process

MAURITIUS

- ❖ Studies and awareness campaigns funded through multiple SGP projects with major partners over 16 years
- ❖ Now 100% funded by government



Local Official Tells Story of Scaled-up Octopus Ban

HOW SGP HELPS SCALE UP IMPACT

Recommendations for **more systematic** scaling-up



The GEF partnership needs to ensure that factors influencing scaling up are identified and taken into account, as appropriate, in project design and implementation, and their impact assessed at midterm and in terminal evaluations

 Clear articulation of how project/program will achieve or contribute to scaling up

 Projects or programs related by design should have common indicators to facilitate aggregation

Evaluations Underway

Fall 2019

Strategic Country Cluster Evaluations:

- African Biomes
- LDCs
- SIDS

Spring 2020

Evaluation of GEF Engagement in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations

Evaluation of GEF Support to Sustainable Forest Management

Evaluation of GEF Medium-Sized Projects

GEF Support for Innovation: Findings and Lessons from GEF Interventions

Knowledge Management

Evaluative lessons



Expanded Constituency Workshops – focus on sustainability

Knowledge sharing

Evaluation in Difficult Contexts and Hard-to-Reach Areas



Evaluation networks

Third International Conference on Evaluating Environment and Development



MAR

Management action record

**SUBSTANTIAL
ADOPTION**

**Evaluation of the
GEF CSO Network**

**Review of GEF's
Engagement with
Indigenous Peoples**

**Annual Performance
Report 2015**

**Program Evaluations of LDCF
and SCCF**

**Review of GEF Policy on Minimum
Standards on Environmental and
Social Safeguards**

**MEDIUM
ADOPTION**

**Joint GEF-UNDP Small Grants
Program Evaluation**



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PROFESSIONAL PEER REVIEW OF THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION FUNCTION OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Purpose and use

To enhance IEO's impact and strengthen its role as an independent evaluator

Scope and criteria

Scope of the Review

Independence
Relevance
Policy
IEO Role and Contribution
Efficiency and Effectiveness

Core Assessment Criteria

Independence
Credibility
Utility

Panel



Ms. Saraswathi Menon,
former Director of UNDP
Independent Evaluation
Office and past-Chair of
UNEG (Panel Chair)



Mr. Michael Spilsbury,
Director of Evaluation,
UNEP



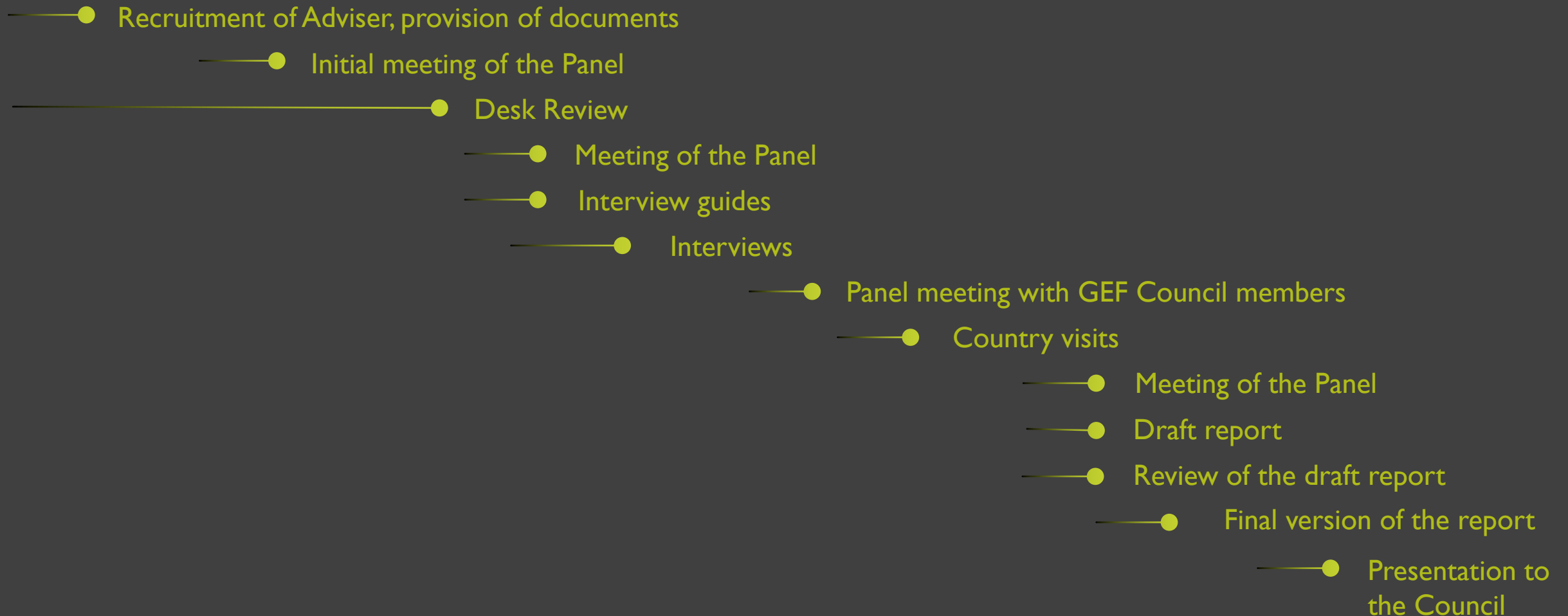
Mr. Marvin Taylor-Dormond,
Director General,
Independent Evaluation,
Asian Development Bank



Ms. Tullia Aiazzi,
Lead Adviser to the
Panel

Process and Schedule

Apr'19 May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan'20 Feb Mar Apr May Jun





SEMI-ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT

June 2019



RECOMMENDED COUNCIL DECISION

The Council, having reviewed the "Semi-Annual Evaluation Report of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office: June 2019", endorses the recommendations of the Annual Performance Report 2019: Special Thematic Focus on Sustainable Transport and the Value for Money Analysis of GEF Interventions in Support of Sustainable Forest Management and approves the Terms of Reference for the Professional Peer Review of the Independent Evaluation Office.

With respect to the Evaluation of GEF Support to Scaling up Impact, the Council notes with appreciation the analysis presented and endorses the following recommendation:

The GEF partnership needs to ensure that factors influencing scaling up are identified and taken into account in project and program design and implementation, and their impact assessed at midterm and in terminal evaluations.