



Evaluation Update

GEF Council meeting 61

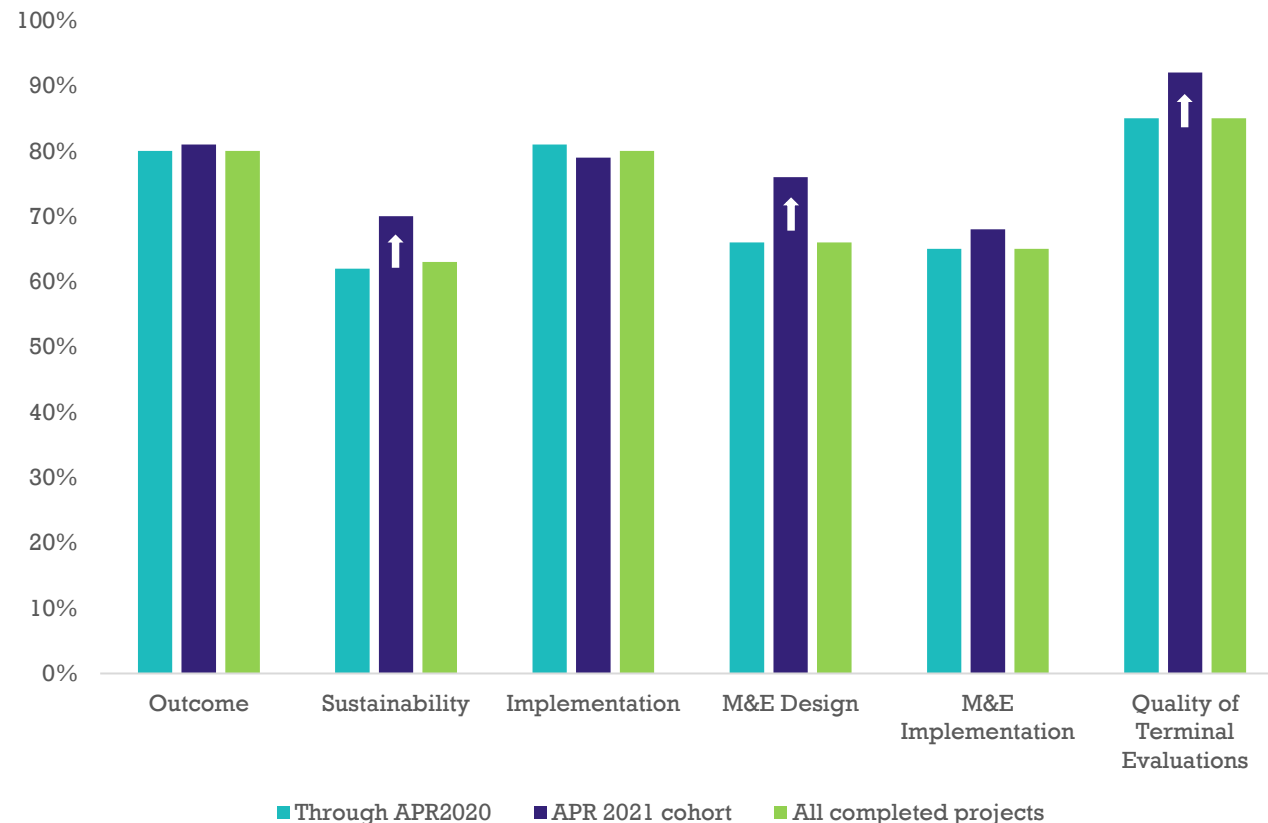
December 2021





Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF OPS7

Annual Performance Report 2021



APR2021 cohort **has higher ratings for**

- **Sustainability**
- **M&E design**
- **quality of terminal evaluations.**

Performance is similar to other closed projects on other performance criteria.

Impact of COVID-19

Projects impacted

(846 projects under implementation in FY 2020)

88%

Delays in implementation

69%

Suspension of activities

34%

Cancellation of activities

9%

Measures adopted by projects:

Shift to virtual implementation

51%

Extension requests

33%

Contingency planning

21%

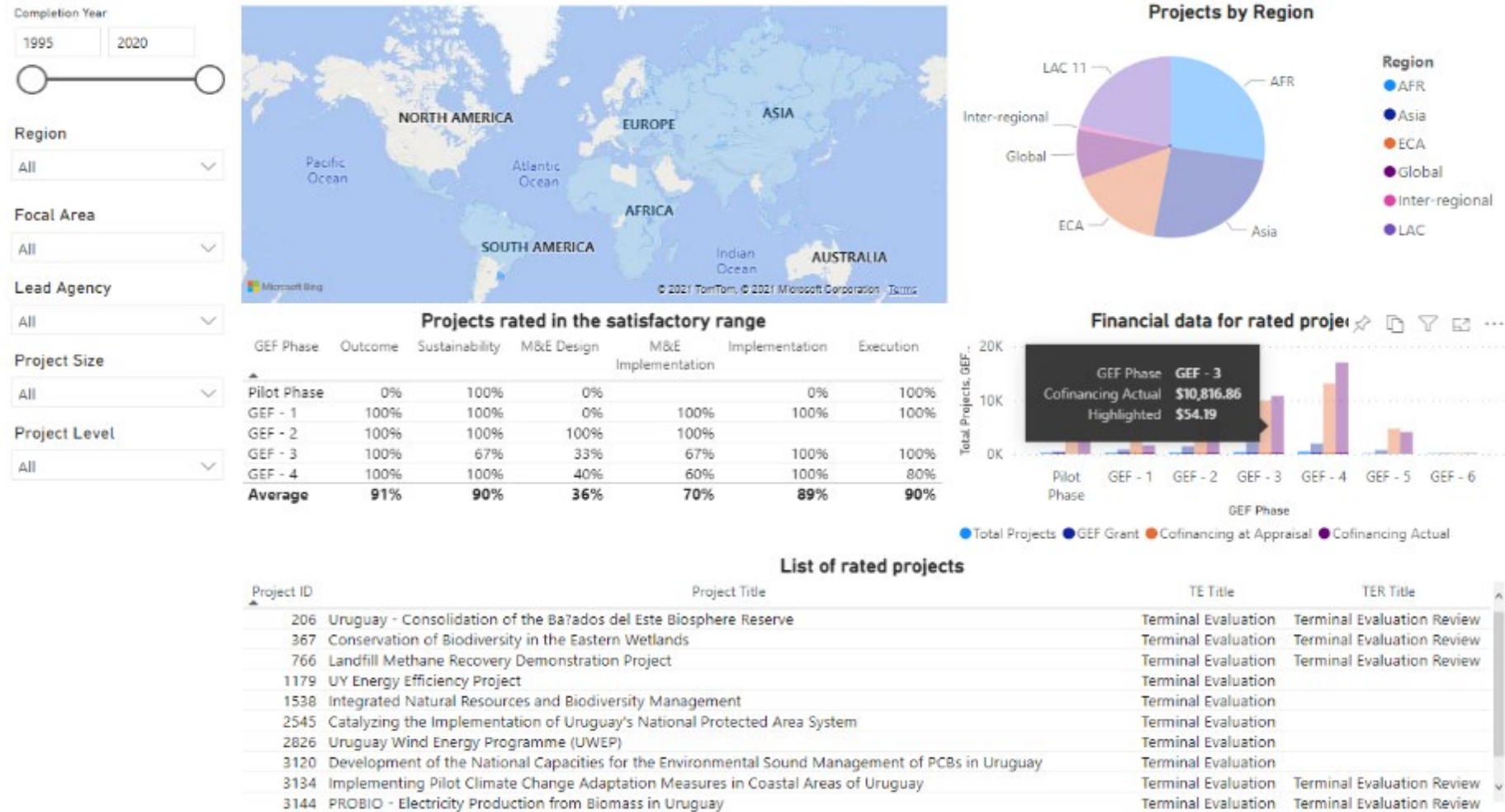




Performance data and ratings
on the website

PERFORMANCE DATA AND RATINGS

Website Demonstration



OPS7 Coverage

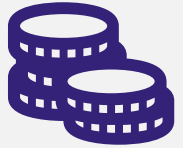
1992



Portfolio Coverage



2022



\$21.1 billion in grants
\$117 billion mobilized
in cofinancing



+ 5000
projects



170
countries

Evaluation Coverage



34 separate
evaluations



1806
completed
projects



4786 approved
projects (through
June 15, 2021)



OPS7

Conclusions and Recommendations

CONCLUSION 1

A relevant financing mechanism that advances integrated programming and systemic transformation

Relevance



Consistent with
**convention
priorities** while
pursuing
integration



Consistent with
country strategies
with scope for
integrated
programs to be
more inclusive



Responsiveness
to contemporary
**environmental
challenges**



Commitment to the
mandate alongside
**innovation and
systemic
transformation**



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



Convention on
Biological Diversity



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



CONCLUSION 2

Strong performance record

Continued good performance

GLOBAL

Strong continued performance

80%



satisfactory
outcomes

Improvement over earlier GEF periods

68%



Sustainable outcomes

FOCAL AREAS

Mixed picture

7 out
of 13



GEF 5 targets on
track to **be achieved**

GEF Performance

IN COUNTRIES

Heterogeneity

within country groups contribute to

differences in outcomes and sustainability

Importance of

context

Fragile and
conflicted
countries

- No clear guidance
- Innovative strategies to manage risks and fragility

High-recipient
countries

- Prominently featured in integrated programs

LDCs
SIDS
FCS

- Increased support between GEF-5 and GEF-7
- Few SIDS participate in integrated programs



GEF Performance

IN COUNTRIES

Country Support Program (CSP)

Helps

Communication of
GEF requirements
and policies

Dialogue between
stakeholder

Countries **access**
GEF resources

Needs to

Enhance **country
ownership and
includes more
OFPs**

Optimize the timing
of **the National
Dialogues**



Integrated programs



IMPROVEMENTS
in design, process,
and results of
GEF-7 programs
over GEF-6

- Clearer theories of change
- Earlier and substantive input from lead Agencies
- Improved transparency and more inclusive roll out
- Knowledge platforms better tailored for country needs
- More emphasis on cross-cutting issues

Integrated programs



CHALLENGES
remain in design,
implementation,
and measurement

- Coordination among ministries
- Cooperation among GEF Agencies
- Aggregate program-level reporting requirements
- Demonstration of additionality
- Greater country diversification and inclusion of countries

CONCLUSION 2: GEF PERFORMANCE IN FOCAL AREAS

GEF support has
enabled successful

Biodiversity mainstreaming

Additionalities going beyond incremental cost benefits

Facilitating features include

- **alignment** with national development objectives
- **engagement** with key stakeholder groups
- **good governance**, political will and, champions
- Test for **policy coherence** with multiple sectors

Majority of projects received **lower ratings** for M&E and sustainability

The existing M&E framework is **not sufficient**

Capturing additionalities is a **challenge**



Climate change: sustainable transport



73% of projects mainstreamed sustainable transport approaches



Transformed markets
in China, Malaysia, South Asia



Promoted
non-motorized transit



Contributed to establishing
BRT in cities in Mexico
and Tanzania



Promoted **transit-oriented
development** when efforts aligned
with the vision of the local leadership

Challenges in procurement, co-ordination and M&E

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining

Highly relevant to
Minamata Convention
targets major mercury
using countries

GOLD program learned
lessons from past,
increasing focus on
access to finance,
markets for miners and
private sector partners

GEF-5 projects
**sustained mercury
use reductions** in
many cases, but
common replacement
is cyanidation

Global “hub” project
**increases communication
and learning** between
child projects

The GOLD program
targets mercury
reductions but not
**other environmental
or health monitoring**
issues related to ASGM

2/3 of mercury
reductions to come from
knowledge dissemination
which will be **difficult to
monitor**

CONCLUSION 2: GEF PERFORMANCE IN FOCAL AREAS

Sustainable forest management

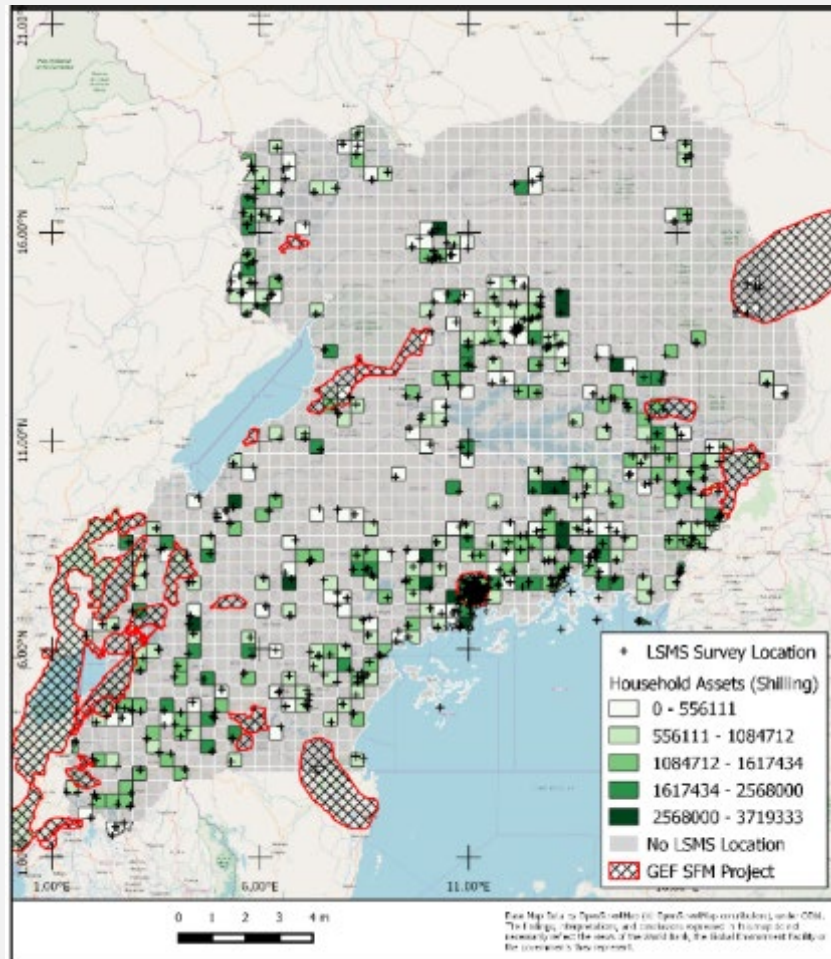
Neutral to slightly positive impact at the portfolio level on **socioeconomic benefits** as proxied by **nighttime lights**

In Uganda households in proximity to GEF SFM interventions have approximately

USD 310 more
in household assets

compared to households further away.

Correlation
≠ causation



0.27%
less deforestation
each year than
similar areas

1.33 tons
of carbon
sequestered per
hectare/ year

\$727,900
Average value of
above-ground
carbon
sequestered
annually/project

\$1.17/\$1.00
per year

International Waters: Fisheries



Responds to **overexploitation** of marine fishery resources; funding has been limited in freshwater fisheries.



Achieved **benefits** include stress reduction on fishery resources, improved management of marine habitats.



Fisheries projects have resulted in **increased** income, food security, and women's empowerment.



GEF's additionality is in promoting **transboundary** ecosystem-based governance.



The **private sector** is engaged through sustainable fisheries supply chains and sustainable financing arrangements.



Discrepancies between GEB targets at program and child project level in GEF-6 need to be reconcile.

CONCLUSION 3

*A robust and adaptive partnership
that convenes multistakeholder
programs and projects*

Partnership



Good
Governance

The GEF Agencies **are leading**
finance, development, and
environmental organizations

Important
convening role



Unhealthy competition
among Agencies

Lack of coherent approach to
engagement at the country level

Cumbersome
administrative processes

Private sector

STRENGTHS

- **Long history** of private sector engagement
- Well-positioned to **build partnerships**

CHALLENGES

- **Discouraging** processes
- **Lack of mutual understanding**
- Need for a **differentiated approach**

TOOLS

Non-grant instruments (NGI)

- + **Promote innovation and risk-taking**
- **Limited available expertise**
- **Cumbersome procedures**



for successful engagement : support for policy reform, institutional strengthening



CONCLUSION 4

A source of predictable environmental finance that enables mobilization of co-financing and scaling up

Predictable environmental finance



STAR provides predictable environmental finance to countries

GEF resources have mobilized up to nearly **10 times** in cofinancing



Need for mobilizing **additional resources** in strategic and complementary ways

CONCLUSION 5

*Supports policy reforms.
Advancing policy coherence will
require substantial efforts*

Policy reforms and upstream work



+

The GEF is valued for its focus on upstream and creating **enabling environment for policy reforms**

The GEF is well suited to support **national capacity and institutional development**

—

Many countries find it difficult to attain coherence between sectoral economic plans and environmental objectives

The capacity strengthening has been mostly focused **on the environmental sector**

CONCLUSION 6

*Implementation mechanisms
(EA, MSP, SGP) are effective;
Scope for increasing effectiveness*

Implementation mechanisms

Enabling Activities (EA)

- + Support countries in convention reporting
- Disbursement and implementation inefficiencies



Medium-Sized Projects (MSP)

- + Encouraging innovation
- + Good entry points
- Disproportionate administrative requirements



Small Grants Programme (SGP)

- + Relevant to the GEF and local partners
- + The only window for small-scale, local partners
- + Social and environmental benefits
- Need of clarity on strategic vision, simplification of governance, upgrading process

CONCLUSION 7

*Supports innovation;
Prepares the groundwork for
other donors to scale up*

Innovation and scaling up



Increasing trend in innovative projects over GEF phases



Scaling up takes > 5 years **efficiency gains** versus the pilot stage

DO

Add value and help generate **transformational change**

Increase **sustainability and scaling up**

NEED

Greater clarity on acceptable level of risk

Systemic M&E, adaptive management, and knowledge sharing

CONCLUSION 8

Policies and systems are consistent with good practice; provide opportunities to strengthen inclusion

CONCLUSION 8

Institutional policies and engagement

*Policies consistent with each other **but** insufficient monitoring to assess their effectiveness*

Gender

Significant progress

GEF Gender Partnership:
strong knowledge sharing
forum



Stakeholder inclusion

Reinforced by policies

Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group gained credibility

GEF CSO Network: position weakened.



Safeguards

Enhanced coverage

Would benefit from
knowledge sharing



CONCLUSION 8

Systems

Results-based Management

- ▶ Improved in GEF-7
- ▶ GEF Portal: Improved reporting, data quality
- ▶ Agency self-evaluation systems support accountability and reporting



Capture results of integrated programs

Develop indicators on socioeconomic co-benefits



Knowledge Management

- ▶ Progress during GEF-7
- ▶ Key role in sustainability and scaling up
- ▶ Knowledge platforms effective in facilitating knowledge exchange

Incentivize learning

Strengthened guidance on KM

Design technical solution

Enhance use of knowledge platforms

Recommendations



Strategy

Demonstrate additionality of integrated programs

SGP: **reappraise vision, expand** its purpose and impact potential



Process

Review processes to **speed up the move** to implementation and execution

Establish clear rules for Agency interaction



Engagement

Strategic approach to country engagement

Increase support to LDCs and SIDS



Innovation

Continue supporting innovation to advance transformational change

Articulate the acceptable risk

Consider a window for **financing innovation**



Policies & Systems

Monitor policy implementation to assess effectiveness

Enable aggregated reporting on programs

Develop indicators for socioeconomic co-benefits

Incentivize learning across the partnership



What's coming next?

Early thoughts on IEO work program

Strategic country cluster evaluations on wetlands, drylands, river basins

Evaluating health and socio-economic co-benefits along with environmental outcomes

Methodologies on measuring additionality of impact programs, policy influence

Mainstreaming evaluation of ongoing interventions and quality at entry analysis in all thematic evaluations

Separate evaluations of all integrated programs

Evaluation of GEF's Fiduciary policy and implementation

Learning from the less successful projects

Knowledge Sharing

EES Goes Virtual
Evaluation in an Uncertain World:
Complexity, Legitimacy and Ethics

6-7 Sept. 2021: Professional Development Workshops
8-10 Sept. 2021: Online Conference

Evaluation, International Journal of Theory, Research, Practice
IPDET
IEC Independent Evaluation Office
INFP
AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

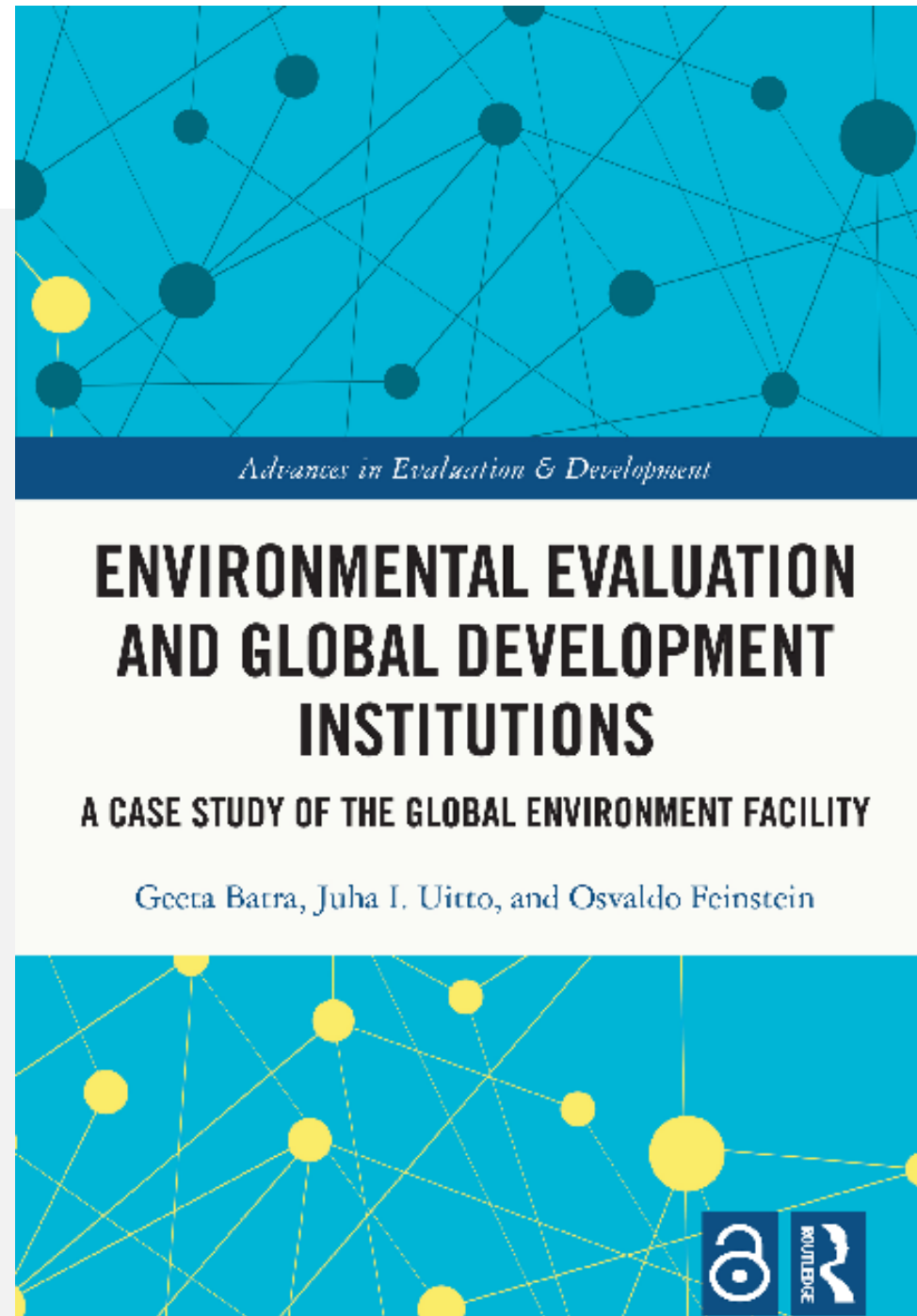
EES



Wilton Park



OPS 6 Book





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