



Semi-Annual Evaluation Update

GEF Council meeting 62

June 2022



Presentations in this Council

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IEO Work Program and Budget

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Evaluation of GEF Support
to Sustainable Forest Management

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Study on Climate Risk, Adaptation,
and Resilience in the GEF Trust Fund

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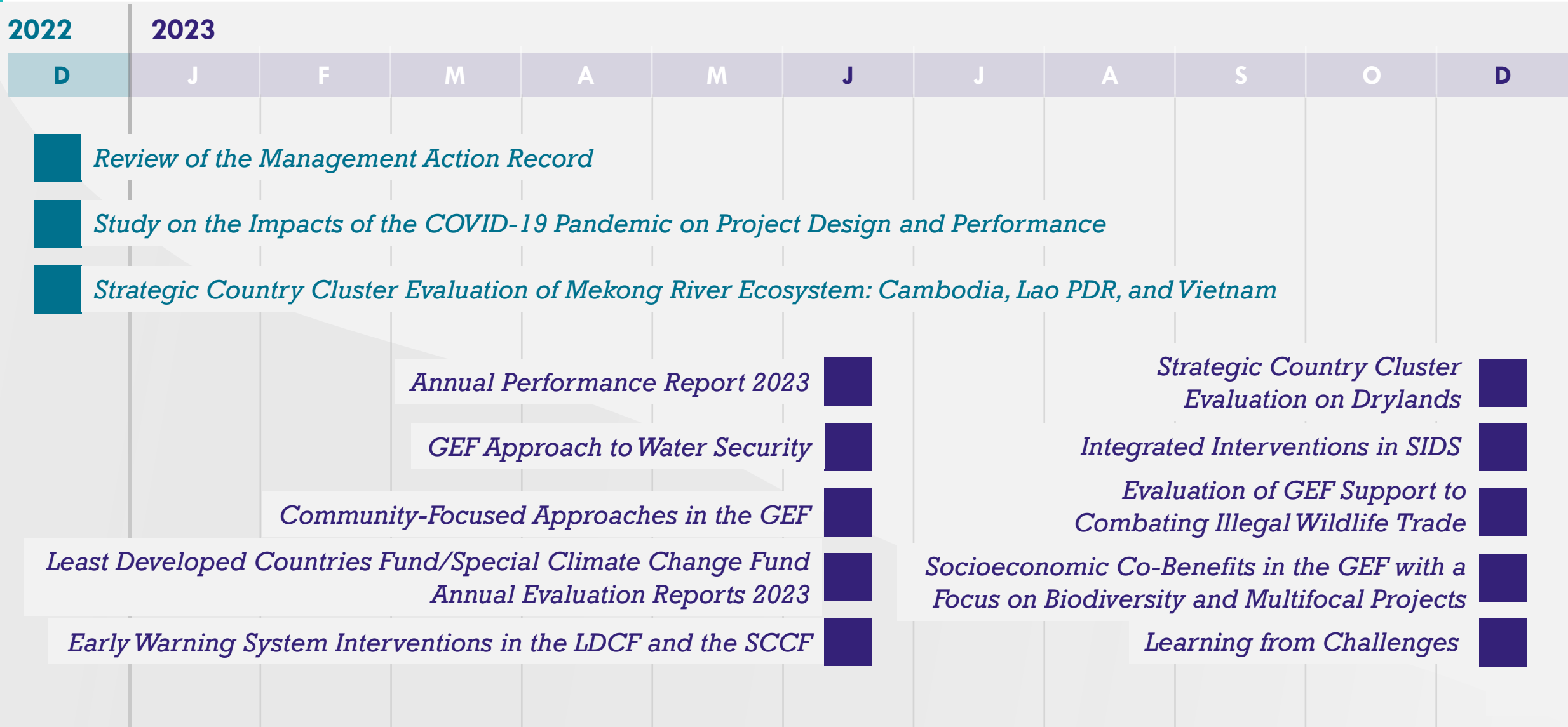
Information Documents



GEF IEO Work Program and Budget

June 2022

Evaluation work in progress

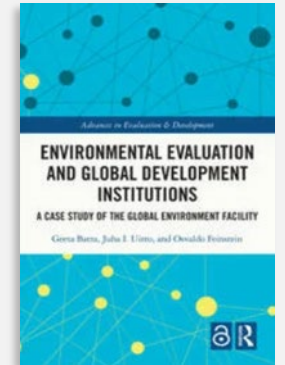
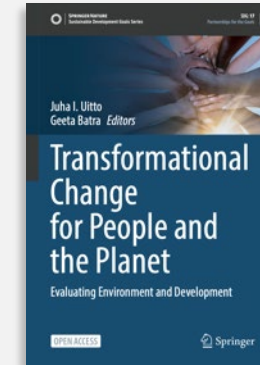


Knowledge Management



Books Published

- *Transformational Change for People and the Planet*
(GEF IEO Director and Deputy Director. Springer, January 2022)
- *Environmental Evaluation and Global Development Institutions: A Case Study of the Global Environment Facility*
(Geeta Batra, Juha Uitto, Osvaldo Feinstein. Taylor & Francis Group, October 2021)
- *Dissemination of OPS7-Exec summaries in French, Spanish.*



Conferences Presentations

- 2nd International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding
(Environmental Peacebuilding Association)
- Organized and participated in European Evaluation Society and Asia Pacific Evaluation Meetings
- Seminar: *Challenges and Opportunities of Evaluation for Transformational Change*
(Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank)

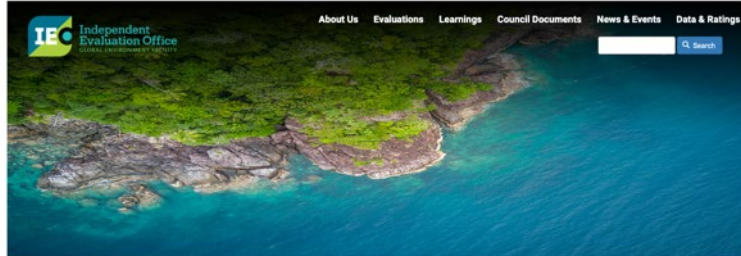


Training

- Training module on evaluation at the nexus of the environment and development for the International Program for Development Evaluation Training
- Online training on environmental evaluation



Website, Social Media



What's New



Website Enhancements

- Data & Ratings section: **new menu with filters**
- Terminal evaluations and reviews for 1806 projects **available for download**
- Evaluation reports: **new section**
- **New articles and blogs** added
- Content **re-indexed**
- **177 evaluations** currently available.



Social Media

- Number of Twitter followers **increased by 13% since 2022**
- Number of impressions **has doubled.**
- The IEO has **distributed its content** through partner communication channels and platforms.

As of May 30, the website had a total of 49,665 views in FY22.

Budget Request FY23



(\$millions)

\$5.259

Fixed Cost

\$0.105

Variable Cost

\$0.243

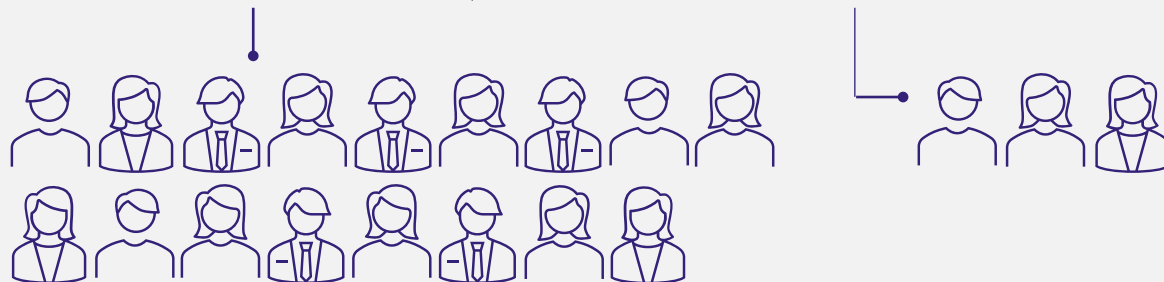
Evaluations

\$5.607

Total Budget

Human Resources:

17 staff, will recruit **3** ETC in FY23

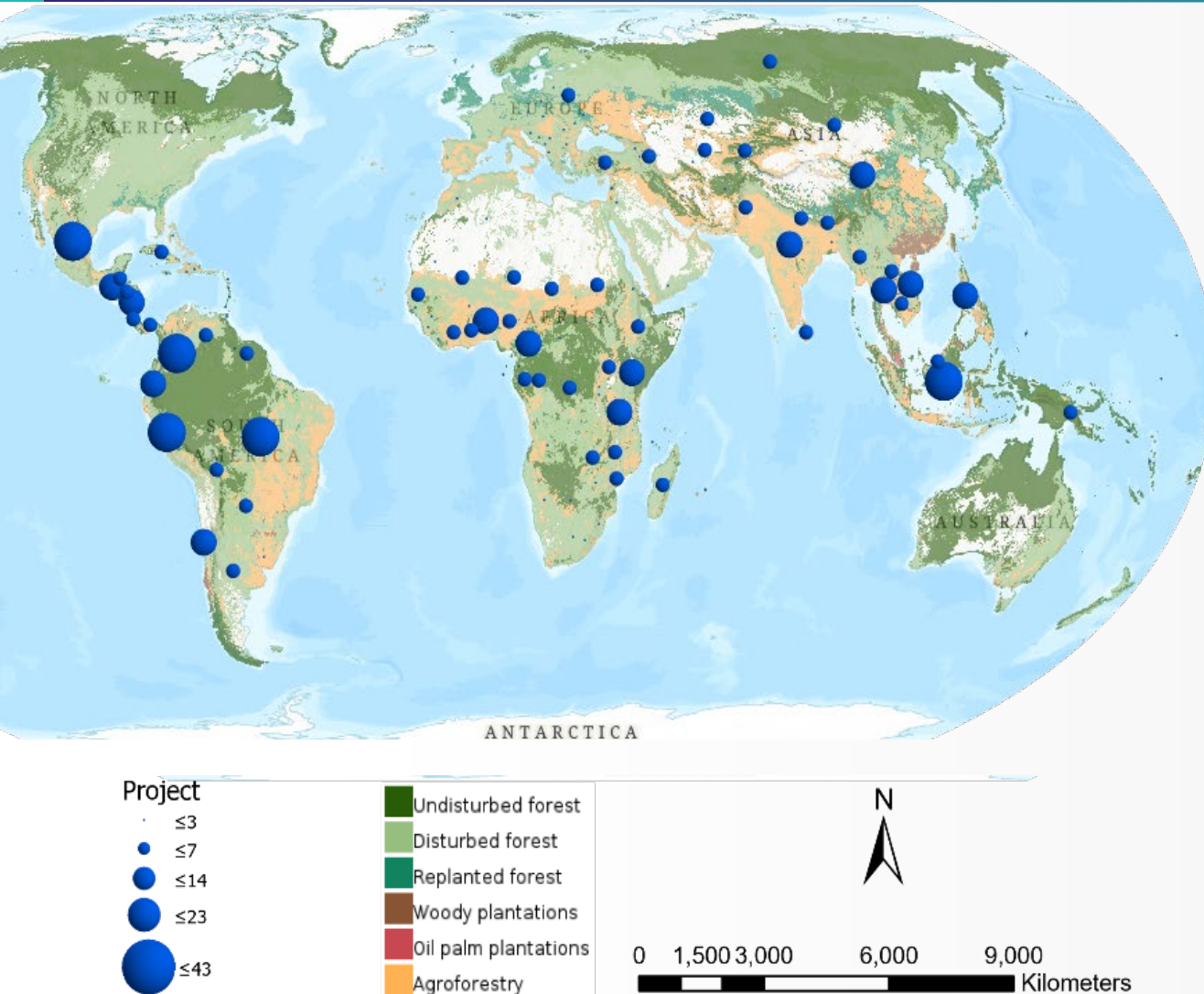




Evaluation of GEF Support to Sustainable Forest Management

June 2022

Background



Forests are **central to the GEF's work**. Enabled an **integration agenda** to evolve within and between conventions.



Support grouped into:

- Forest protection
- Restoration
- Regional and local co-operation
- Management & sustainable use

Supported through three GEF focal areas and programs:

- Multifocal projects
- Integrated approach pilots (IAPs)
- Impact programs (IPs)

Key Findings: Portfolio

640

Projects from Pilot phase
to GEF-7 using UNFF
criteria for SFM

Results based on

243

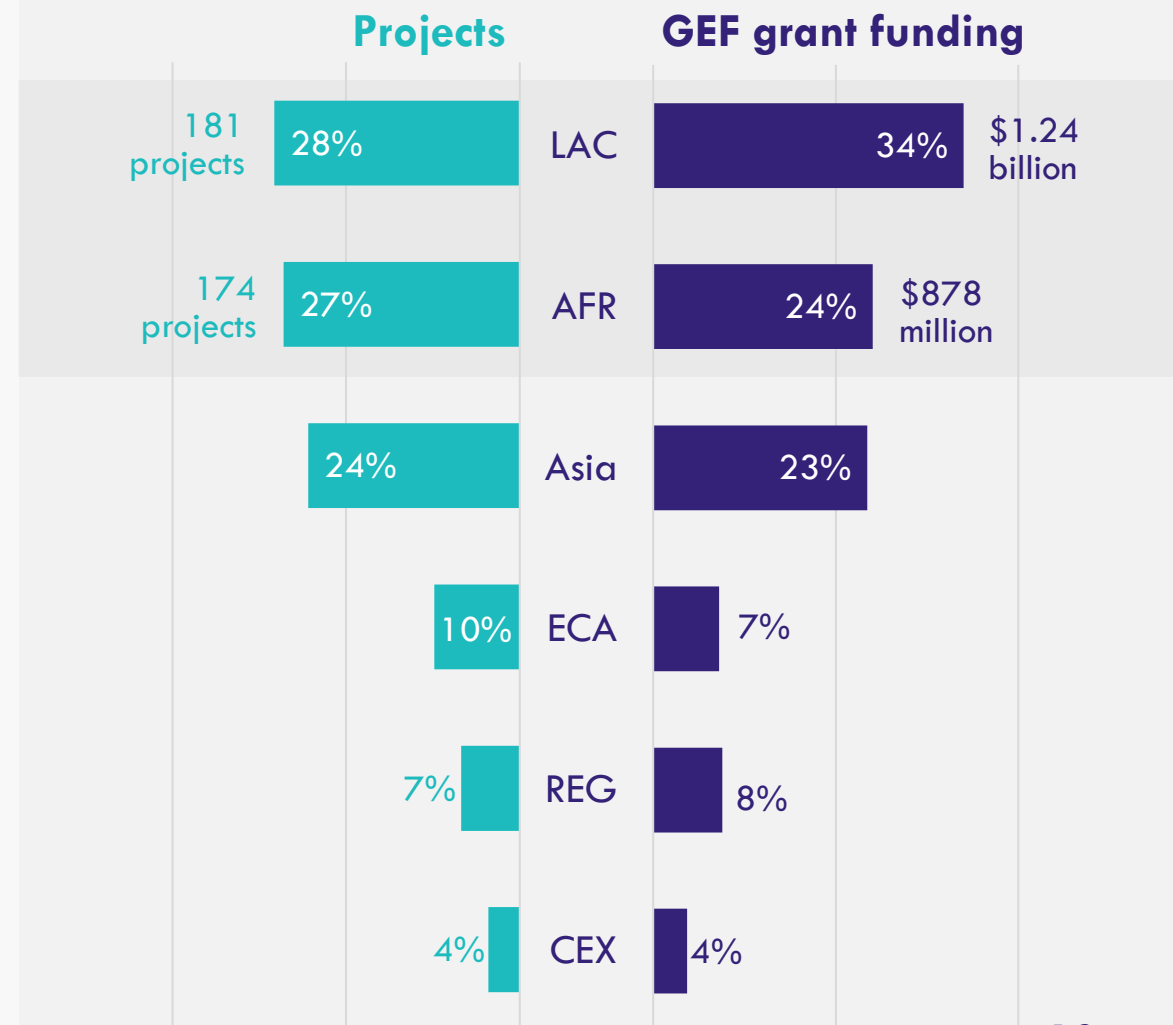
Terminal
evaluations

\$3.654 billion

is the total value of
GEF investment in SFM
to date

The World Bank, UNDP, and
FAO account for the **highest
proportions** of funds

Steady increase in cofinancing
over the seven replenishment
periods



Key Findings: Portfolio

Outcomes of

81.2%

of SFM projects rated in the satisfactory range, with

57.6%

of projects likely to sustain their outcomes



GEF SFM projects have helped protect almost

78 million ha

of forest

At least

1.9 million ha

of forests restored with the help of the GEF, about

1.6 million

of this in Africa

11

main social and economic **outcomes** were identifiable in the terminal evaluations

139,336

jobs created



Key Findings: Performance

RELEVANCE

Portfolio focused on the **major forest assets** and **main threats with some gaps in coverage**.

Reduced where: **lengthy delays** between project design and implementation.

COHERENCE

Where GEF support has given **strong emphasis** to “best fit” with, and steady support for, government capacity.

Where it **has continually improved** in integrating MEA aims with locally valued socioeconomic benefits.

EFFECTIVENESS

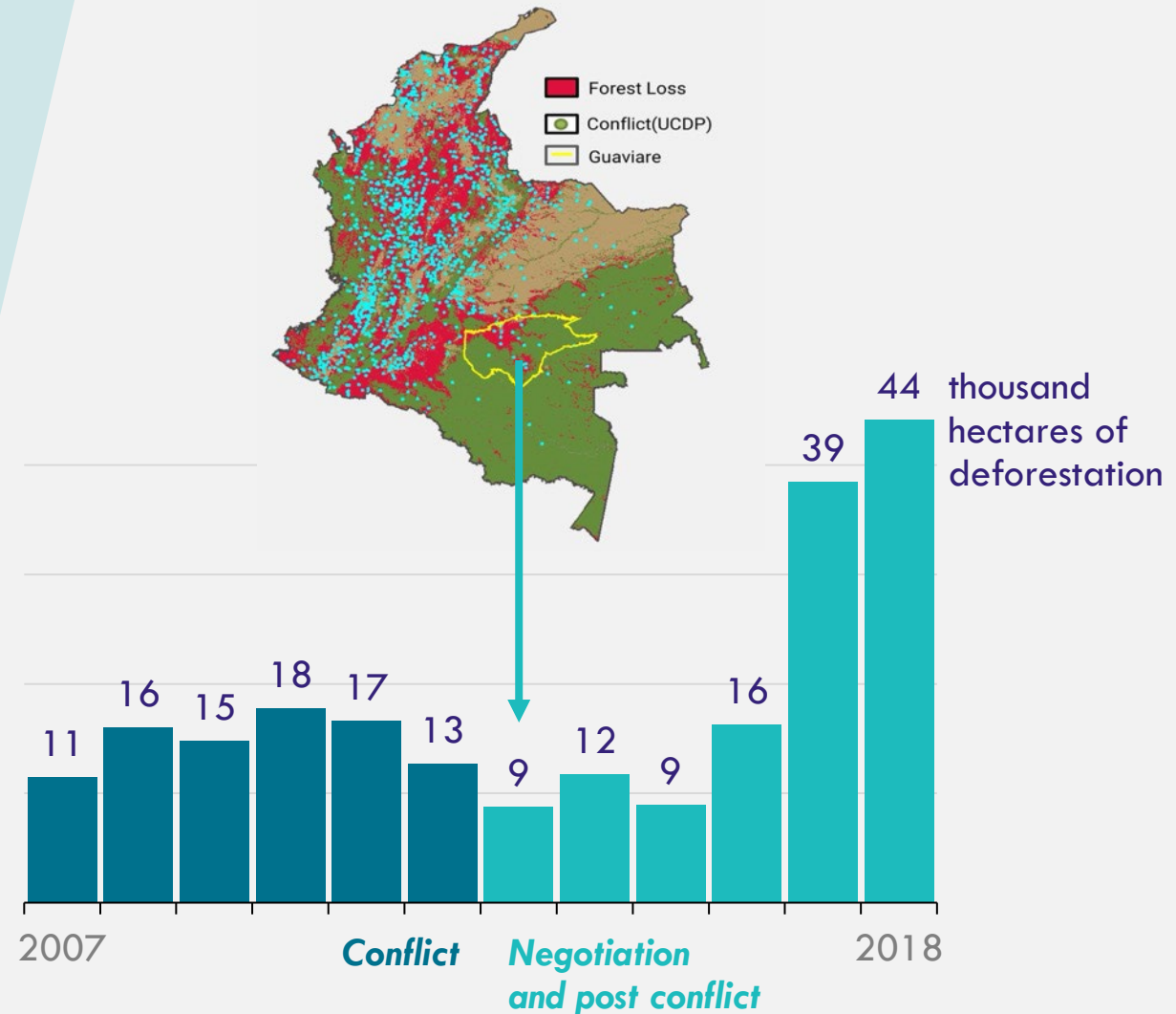
Environmental and socioeconomic outcomes, such as improved forest protection and management (63%), or increased income (55%).

EFFICIENCY

All project funding sizes exhibit **good value for money**.

GEF SFM projects and conflict

- Forests can both **fuel conflicts** and provide opportunities for **peacebuilding**
- Conflict-sensitive design and implementation** are essential to foster good natural resource governance and achieve lasting impacts
- Several GEF projects have innovated and employed **project-specific, conflict-sensitive approaches**
- Colombian protected areas** (PAs) overlap with the conflict zones and forest loss in and around these protected areas increased in the post-conflict period
- GEF support **strengthened PA management and landscape connectivity**, reducing deforestation, and promoting land restoration



Key Findings: Performance

IMPACT

Contributed to **institutional and governance, financial, socioeconomic, innovation, and environmental** additionalities.

SUSTAINABILITY

Only half of the GEF SFM project TEs indicated creation of conditions for sustainability.

Contribution of **national institutions** and **policy frameworks**, and **knowledge creation**.

Sustainability **compromised** where stakeholder empowerment and capacity have been **neglected**.

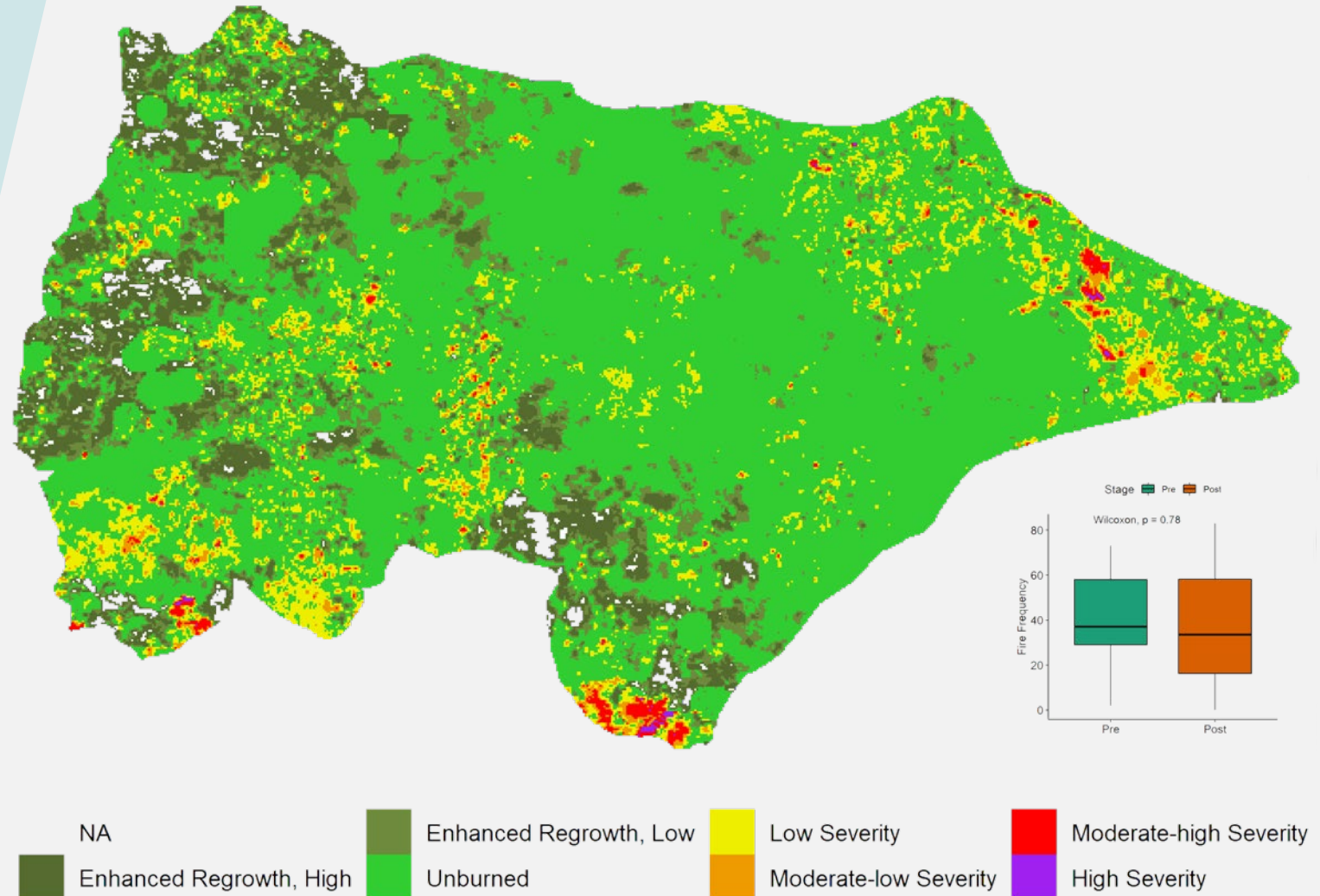
EQUITY

GEF's goals, guidelines, and procedures for equity are **robust** and, distributional outcomes **have been equitable**.

Marginalization of key IPLC forest stakeholders, lack of financial support for IPLC organizations, small enterprises **not taken to scale**.

Community based SFM approach

- Forest fire management activities part of **the broader objective of sustainable forest and catchment management** in a GEF SFM project in Thailand.
- Project adopted an integrated **community-based approach for fire prevention and management** with success.
- However, terminal evaluation rated project as **moderately successful**; project ambition, capacity, and logistical challenges impacted the outcome.



Key Findings: Performance

STRATEGY

SFM activities are **diverse and well developed** but tend to become more **complex** and **ambitious** in scale.

Practical, evidence-based SFM frameworks and guidance are missing for the key tasks of engaging drivers of deforestation beyond the forest sector, and for making practical forestry trade-offs and synergies

SFM M&E

Good provisions for MEL is a **positive factor** in achieving SFM outcomes.

inconsistent monitoring & reporting.

Guidance and indicators for SFM is inadequate to capture socio-economic elements;

Methodological and science innovations of SFM deserves **to be widely distributed.**

SFM evolution over GEF replenishment periods



Conclusions



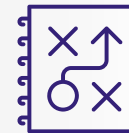
The GEF is well positioned as **a natural and effective integrator** of many goals concerning forests.



There have been new developments in design but scope for **improving M&E and learning remains**.



Continued support, a substantial and diverse portfolio, and extensive scope of SFM activities calls for articulating **a clear long-term vision and theory of change for SFM**.



Managing trade-offs and maintaining benefits of SFM interventions in the longer term **remains a challenge**.

Recommendations

- **Enhance GEF's SFM strategy** to include all elements necessary for a comprehensive, clearly articulated and visible long-term vision and strategy for SFM.
- **Strengthen monitoring** of socio-economic co-benefits and **promote learning**.
- **Support specific national and local priorities** to manage trade-offs and maintain benefits.



Study on resilience,
climate change adaptation
and climate risks
in the GEF Trust Fund

June 2022

Related but not the same:

Resilience, adaptation and climate risks

Addressing the
**impacts of
climate change**

→ Address impacts
to the project

Climate risk screening

*Risks to project outcomes
and sustainability*

→ Address impacts
through the project

Adaptation

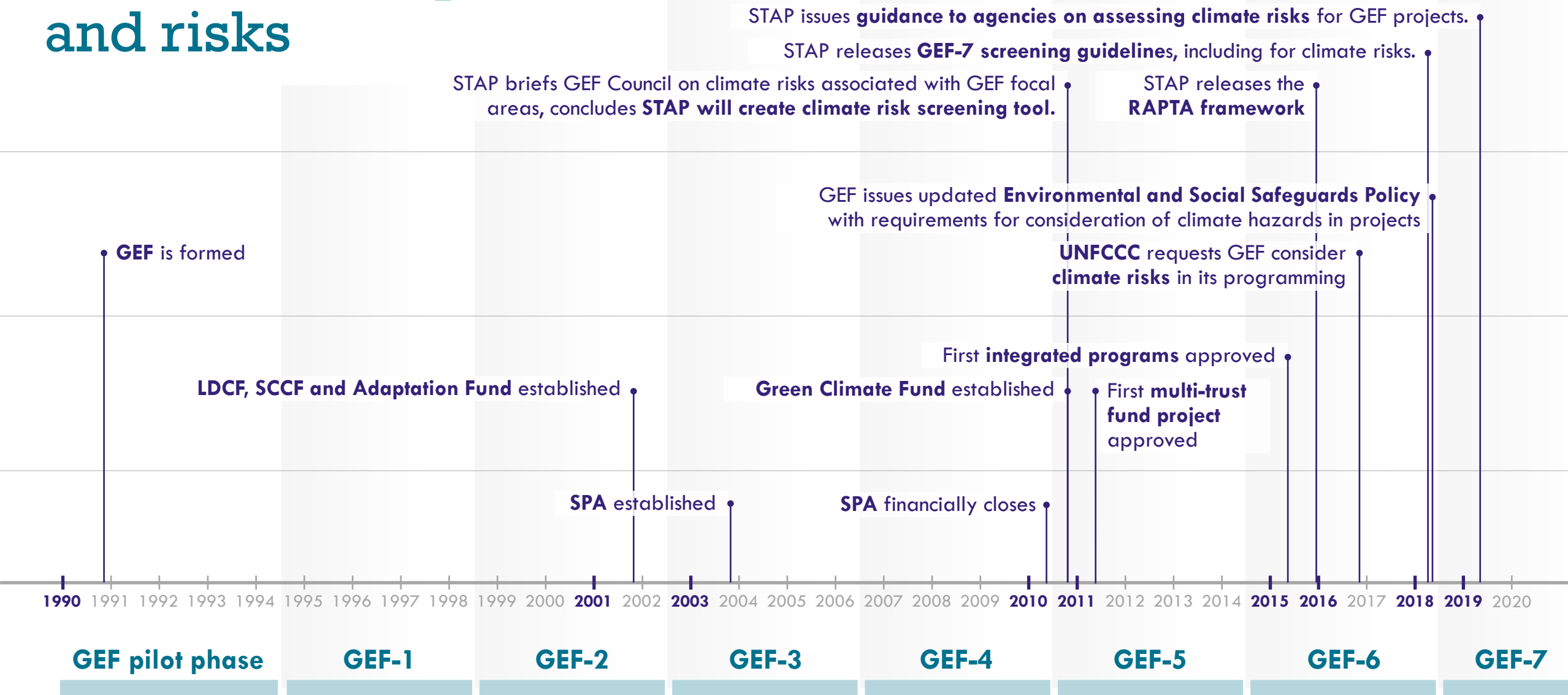
*Targeted actions that help systems
adjust to climate change's effects
through an intervention*

Resilience

*Help inter-connected systems cope with a broad
range of disturbances, broader than adaptation
Term used in many ways in GEF*



Increasing integration of resilience, adaptation and risks



Positive perceptions of GEF risk screening guidance

A

Broad STAP guidance allows **customization by high-expertise Agencies**

B

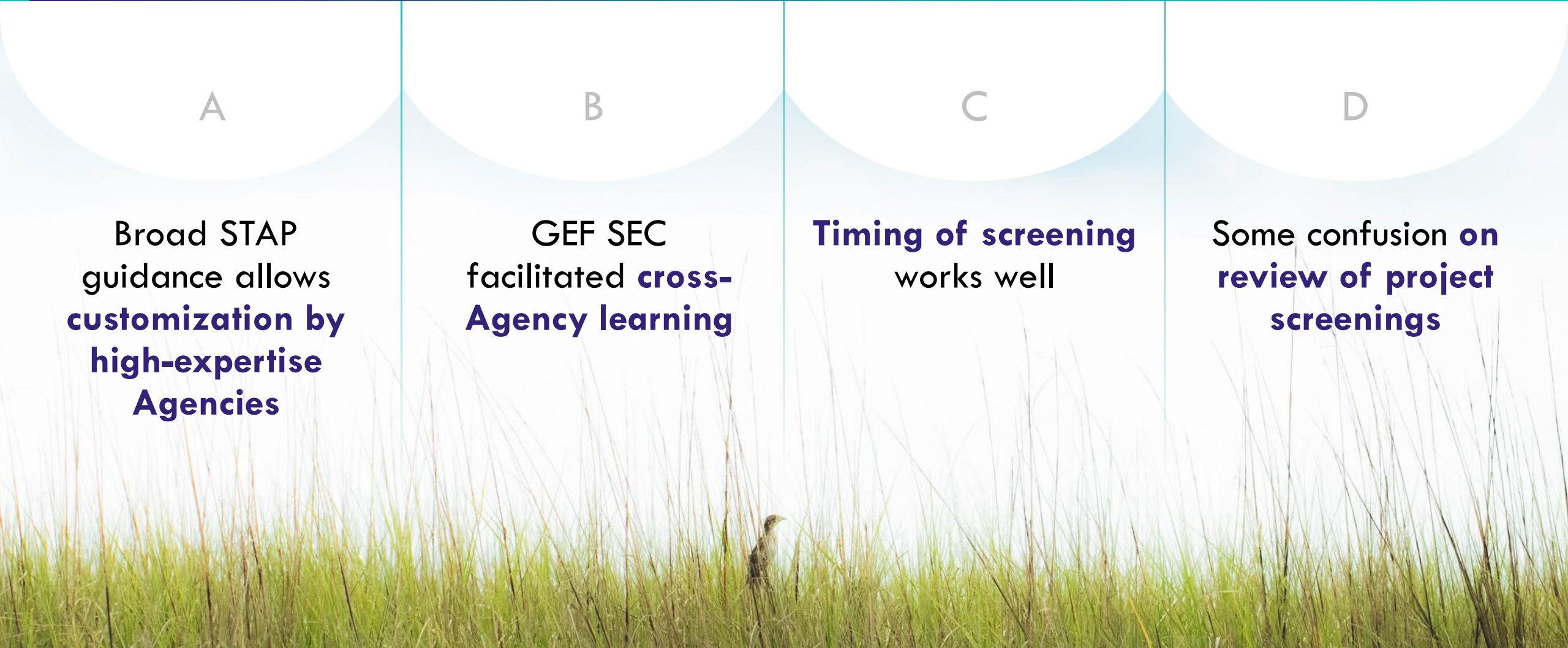
GEF SEC facilitated **cross-Agency learning**

C

Timing of screening works well

D

Some confusion **on review of project screenings**



RAPTA: well regarded but not widely adopted



Integrating resilience in design requires **intense stakeholder engagement**, deep systems understanding and designing for flexibility.



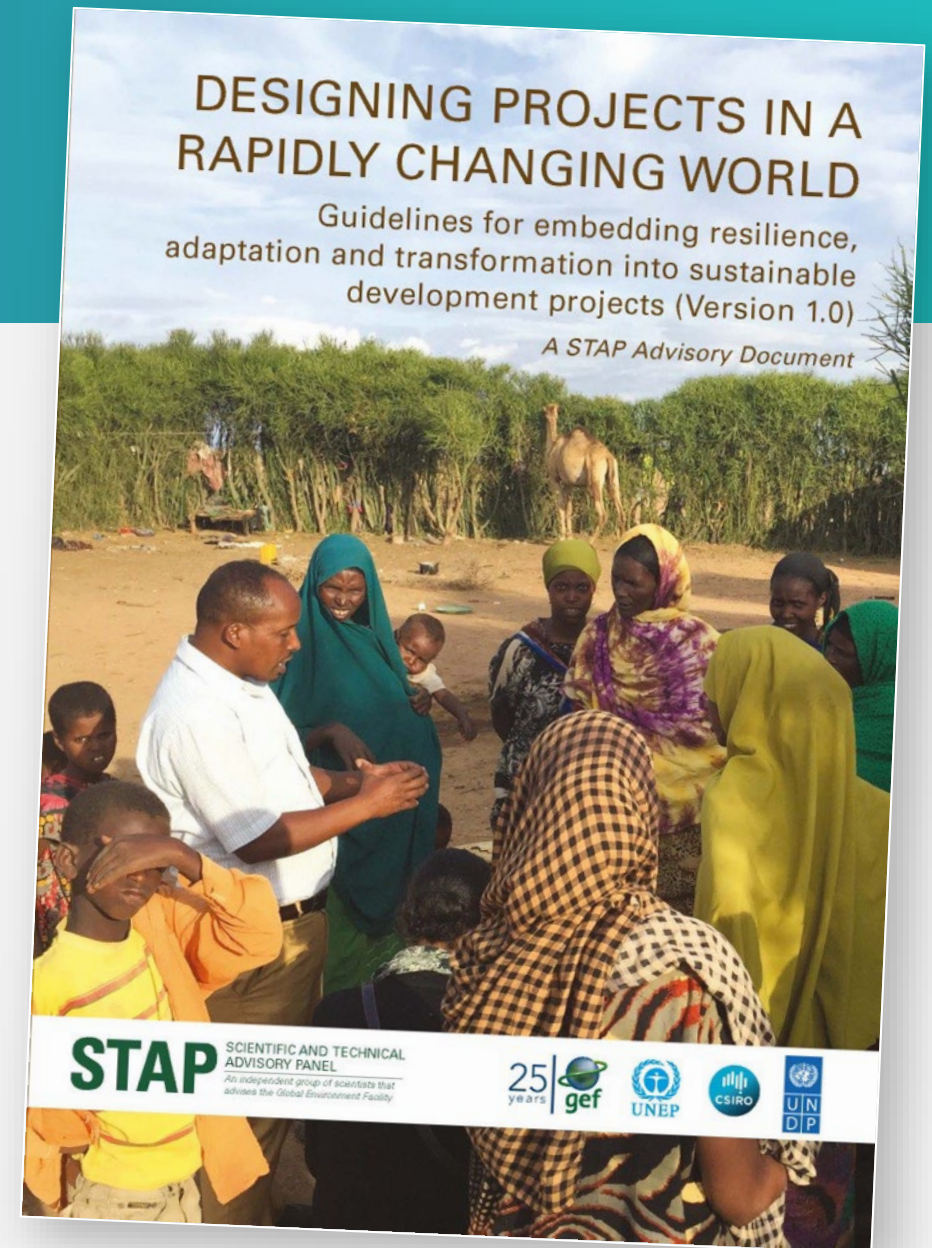
GEF developed RAPTA guidelines – **successful piloting** in Ethiopia food security project.



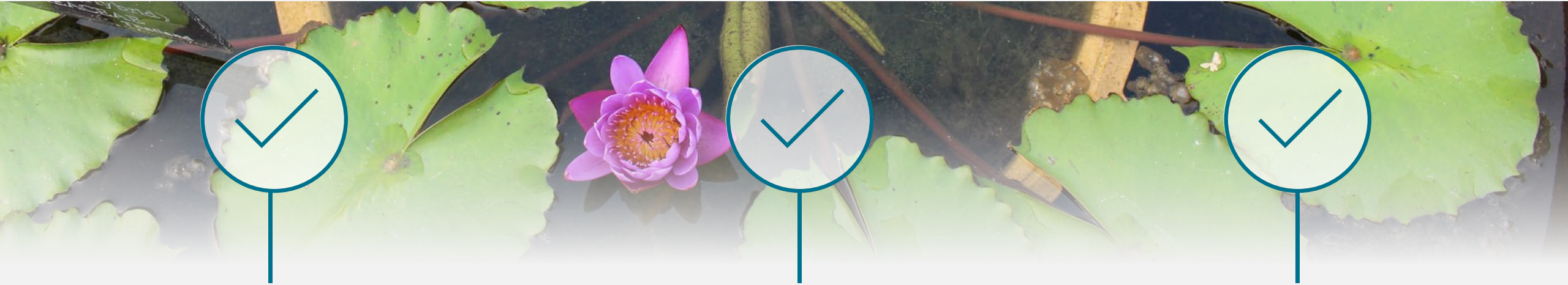
Good stakeholder involvement in design led to **integration** of **non-environmental activities**: alternative livelihoods, conflict resolution.



However, RAPTA has **not been mainstreamed**. Implementation needed special expertise, increased time and funding.



Correlation with positive outcomes



Strategic Priority on Adaptation (SPA) projects had **higher outcome ratings** than other GEF-3 and 4 projects.

Projects with resilience integration were found to **be more likely to have satisfactory outcomes.**

More significant correlation with **higher levels of integration.**

GEF's unique position

GEF's limited focus on adaptation and resilience is a **unique opportunity**



**Mainstreaming
adaptation and
resilience** across
diverse focal areas



Building adaptation and
resilience capacity and
raising awareness in **sectors
not historically associated
with climate change**

Recommendations

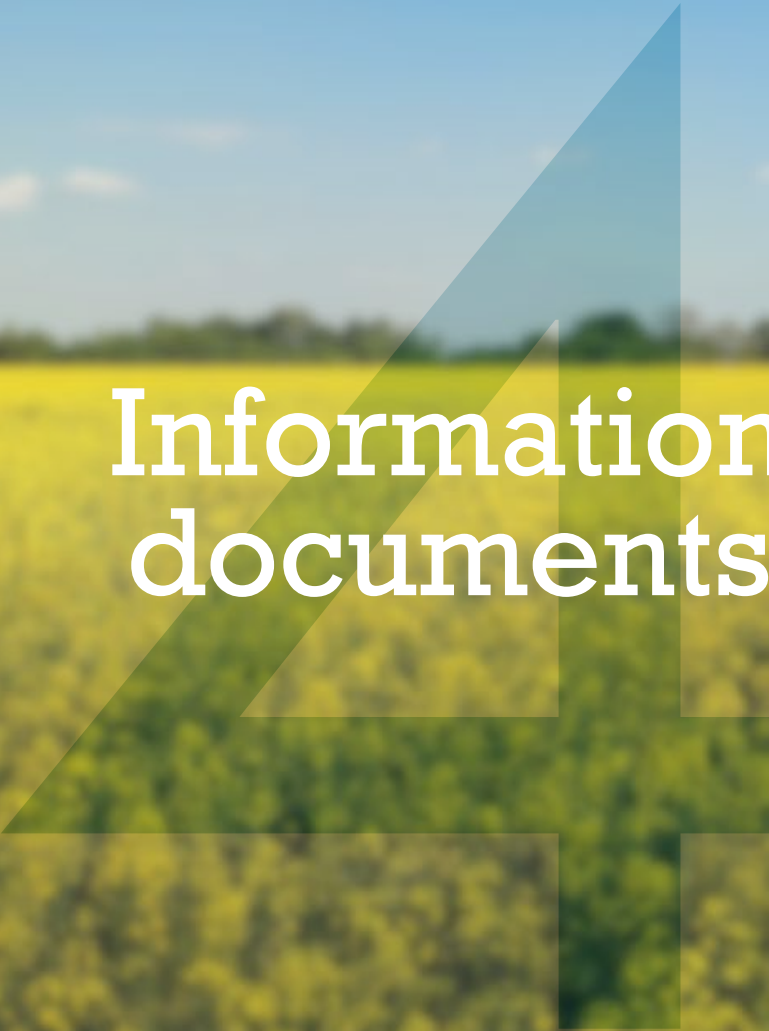
1

**Develop
guidance**
on climate risk
mitigation measures.

2

**Improve the
monitoring of resilience**
in GEF projects, with attention to
the context of each focal area.





Information documents

June 2022

Evaluation of GEF Enabling Activities

Tool for supporting countries in reporting to the Conventions

Original purpose of enabling activities **fulfilled**, focus is **shifting**.

Approval process **efficient**, but concerns about **disbursement and implementation**.

Processing and management perceived to be **not agile enough**.

Identification of needs; development of **enabling environments** for future projects; development of **accurate data and baseline information**.

Burdens on GEF Agencies too high.

Addressing the inefficiencies at project approval, disbursement, and implementation are carried out **would help to strengthen this instrument**.



Suggestions For Improvement



Develop a **strategic and systemic approach** for enabling activities.



Explore possible efficiency gains in **the preparation, implementation, and execution** of enabling activities.



Consider a wider range of **enabling activities implementors**.

Guidelines for Program Evaluation

Provide a **comprehensive and systematic account** of a program's performance



- Evaluation Coverage
- Program Information and Description
- Theory of Change
- Program Performance Additionality
- Relevance and Internal and External Coherence
- Integration
- Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability
- Implementation



- Alignment with GEF Policies
- M&E
- Knowledge Management





Tentative Work Program and Budget for GEF-8

June 2022

Proposed Work Program for GEF-8 period

FY23

- COVID-19
- Water Security
- Annual Performance Report 2023
- Report GEF IEO MAR
- Community-focused approaches
- Climate warning and information systems
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Behavioral Change
- Evaluation of policy influence interventions
- LDCF/SCCF: Annual Evaluation Report 2023
- Updated Guidance Document:
Evaluation in the LDCF/SCCF

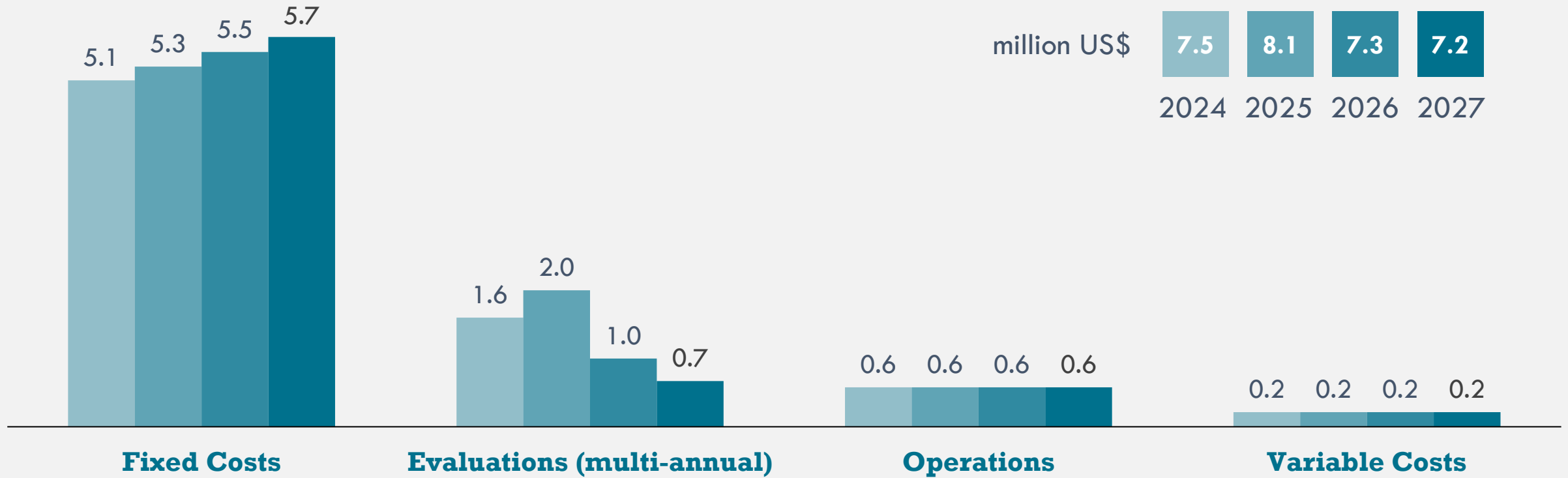
FY24

- Socio Economic Co Benefits
- SCCE on Drylands
- Sustainable Cities program
- Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade
- Integrated interventions in SIDS
- LDCF/SCCF: 2024 LDCF program evaluation
- Learning from Challenges
- Project efficiency in GEF interventions
- The Capacity-building Initiative
for Transparency (CBIT)
- GEF Support to
Nature Based Solutions (NbS)
- LDCF/SCCF: Annual Evaluation Report 2024

FY25

- Country Engagement Strategy
- Small Grants Program
- Food Security & Commodities IAP
- Annual Performance Report 2024
- Implementation
of the Private sector Strategy
- Focal area assessments
- Formative Evaluation of the GEF-7
and GEF-8 Impact Programs
- Governance of the GEF
- Eighth Comprehensive Evaluation
of the GEF (2022-2025)
- Final report to council (FY 2026)
- GEF Results Based
Management
- Implementation of GEF Policies
- Knowledge
Management in the GEF
- LDCF/SCCF AER2025

Budget for GEF-8



TOTAL **\$30 million** over four years



Semi-Annual Evaluation Update

GEF Council meeting 62

June 2022



Recommended Council Decision



The Council, having reviewed the “*Work Program and Budget Report of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office: June 2022*,” acknowledges the progress made by the Independent Evaluation Office in the reporting period, and **approves the IEO budget for FY23.**

