



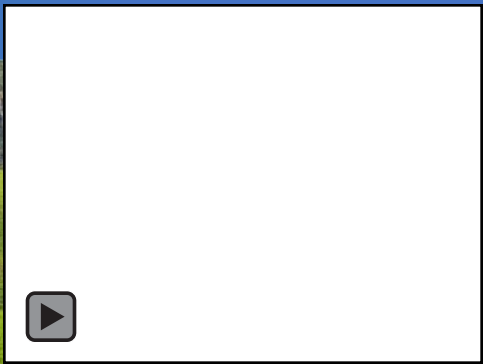
Independent
Evaluation Office
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

**34th International
GEOGRAPHICAL
Congress**
16-20 AUGUST, 2021
GEOGRAPHY: Bridging the **CONTINENTS**
 **VIRTUAL**



Geographical Approaches to Evaluating Global Environmental Programs in the Age of Sustainability

Juha I. Uitto



Introduction



Poverty remains and
inequality grows



A hazardous planet:
pandemic, climate change,
hurricanes, wildfires...



Everything is interrelated



Introduction

What I'm going to talk about:

- Why we need evaluation
- The Anthropocene context
- International responses
- The Global Environment Facility
- Evaluation at the GEF
- Geographical approaches to evaluation
- Closing remarks

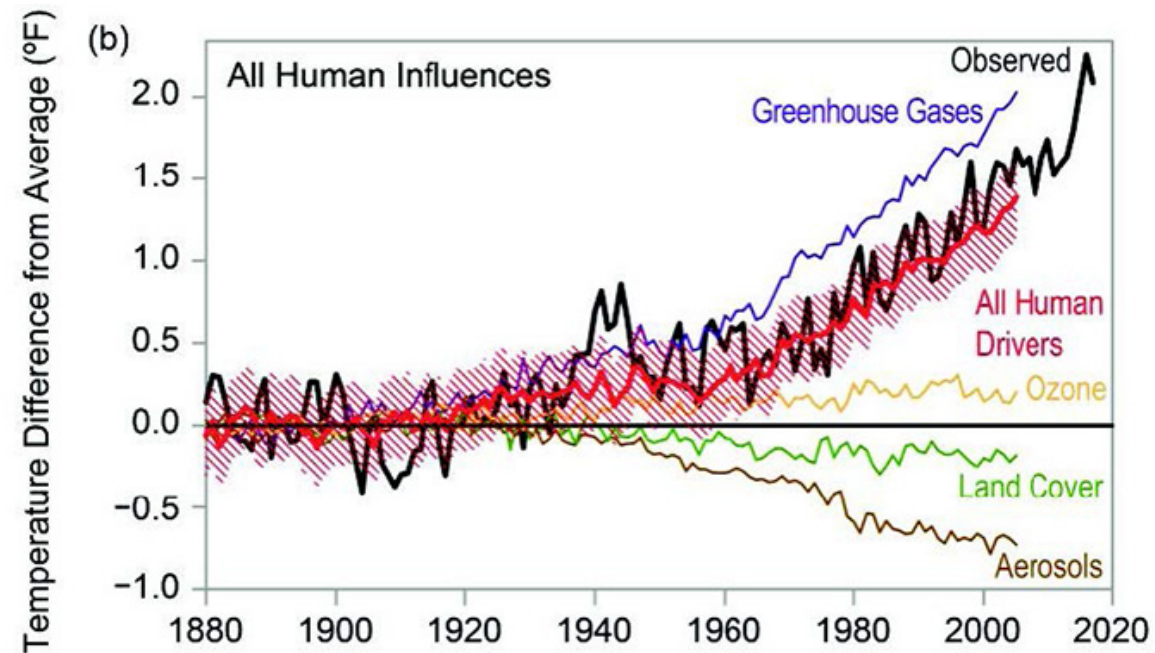
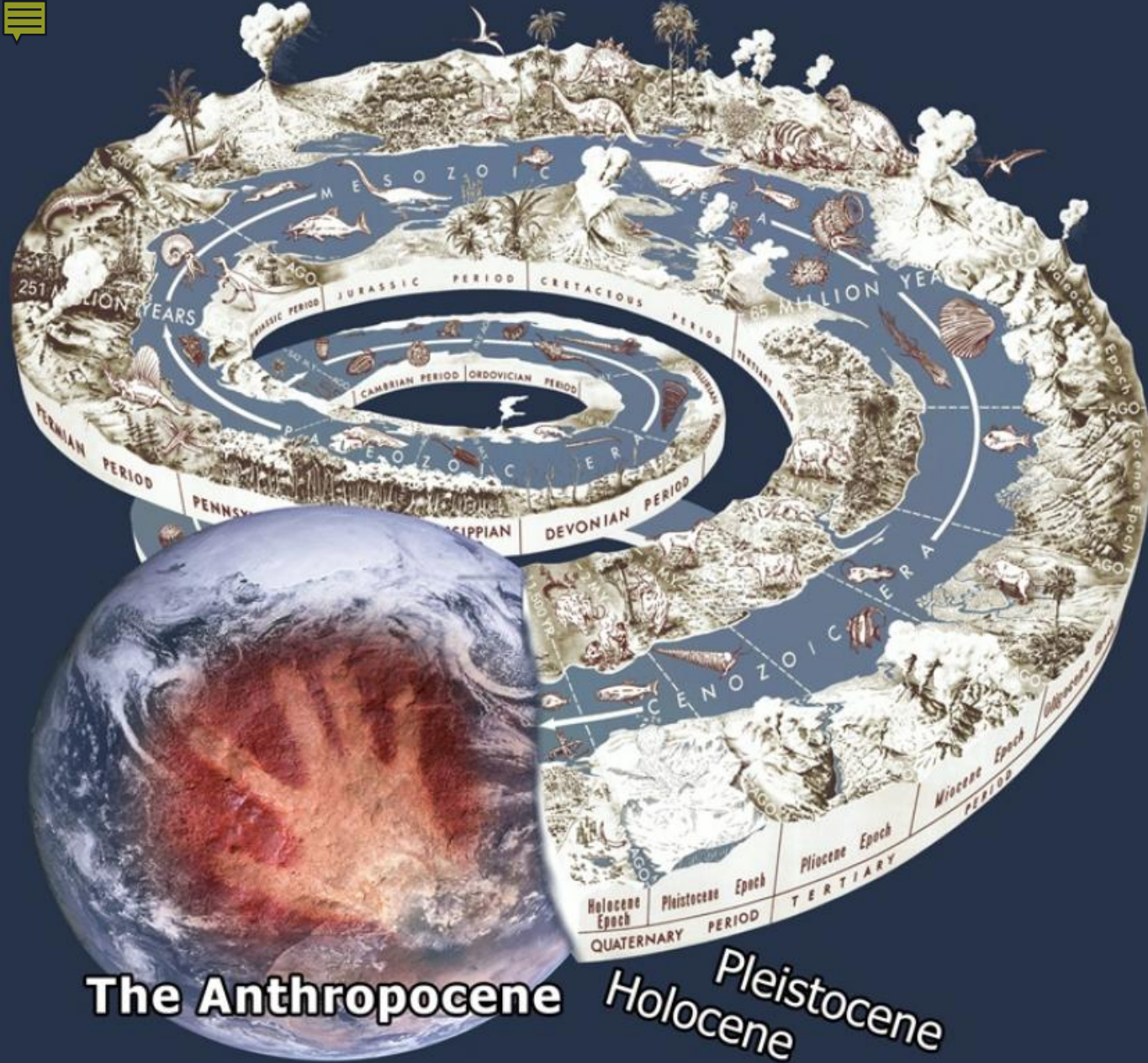


Evaluation

We need evaluation to know what works, for whom, why and where

Evaluation is a *systematic and impartial* assessment of an activity (program, strategy, etc.) that assesses *relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability*.



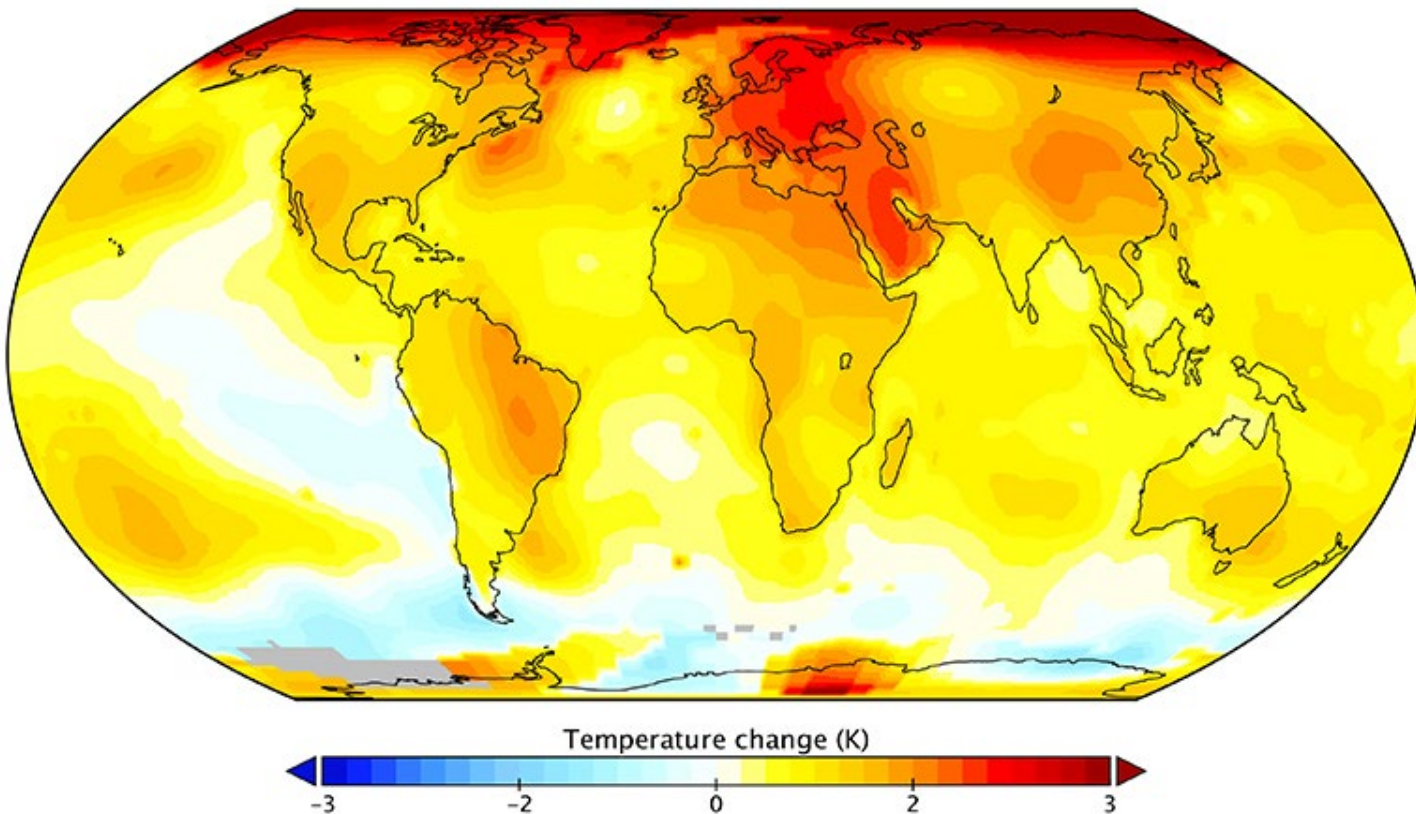


U.S. Global Change Research Program, 2018, Figure 2.1. By National Climate Assessment.



The Anthropocene Context: Climate Change

Global surface temperature change (1979–2019)

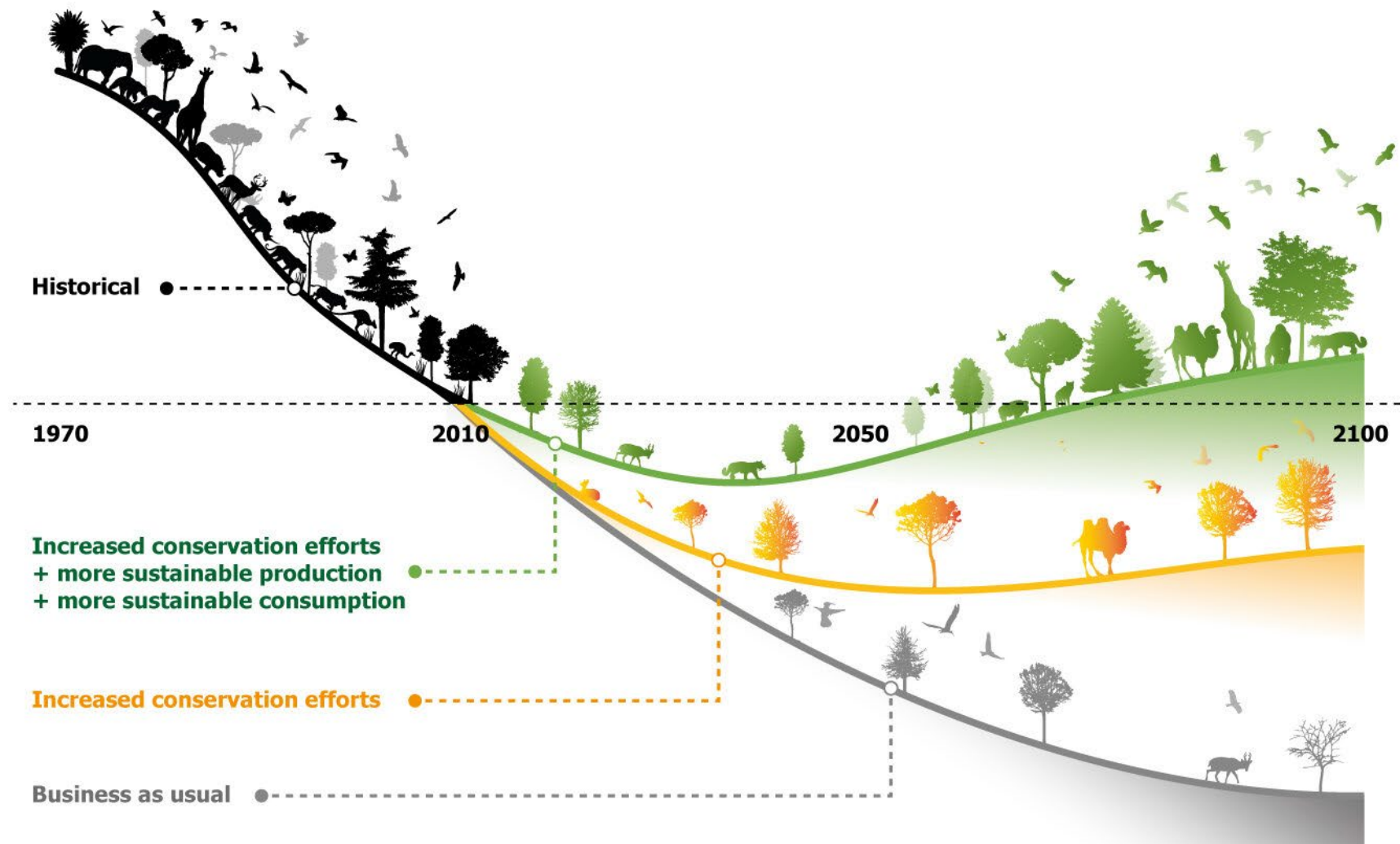


Countries have to get ready to adapt to climate change

Vulnerable people are disproportionately affected by climate change and the pandemic



The Anthropocene Context: Nature and Biodiversity





The Anthropocene Context: Pollution and Waste



The Anthropocene Context: Root Causes



population, consumption, resource extraction, food
production, deforestation, urbanization



International responses



UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement



Sendai Framework on Disaster Reduction



Global Commission on Adaptation



The SDGs





**Established
in 1991**

US\$ 21.5 billion
US\$ 117 billion leverage

Innovator and catalyst
5,000 projects and programs

Unique partnership

184 member governments
18 implementing agencies

International , private sector, civil society organizations

**Financial
mechanism**

5 major environmental
conventions



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



Stockholm Convention
on **persistent organic
pollutants (POPs)**



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



**MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY**



Thematic areas

International
waters



Land
degradation



Biodiversity



Chemical
and waste



Climate
change



Thematic areas (contd.)

		<i>Focal areas</i>				
		Biodiversity	Climate change mitigation	Land degradation	International waters	Chemicals & waste
<i>Impact programs</i>	Food, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR)					
	Sustainable Cities					
	Sustainable Forest Management					



Objectives of Independent Evaluation

- Promote **accountability** for the achievement of GEF objectives through the assessment of *results, effectiveness, processes, and performance* of the partners involved in GEF activities
- Promote **learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing** on results and lessons learned among the GEF and its partners as a basis for decision making on policies, strategies, program management, programs, and projects; and to improve **performance**



Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF

A

Provide
evidence
for GEF
replenishment

B

Assess to what
extent the GEF
is achieving its
objectives of
enhancing **global
environmental
benefits**

C

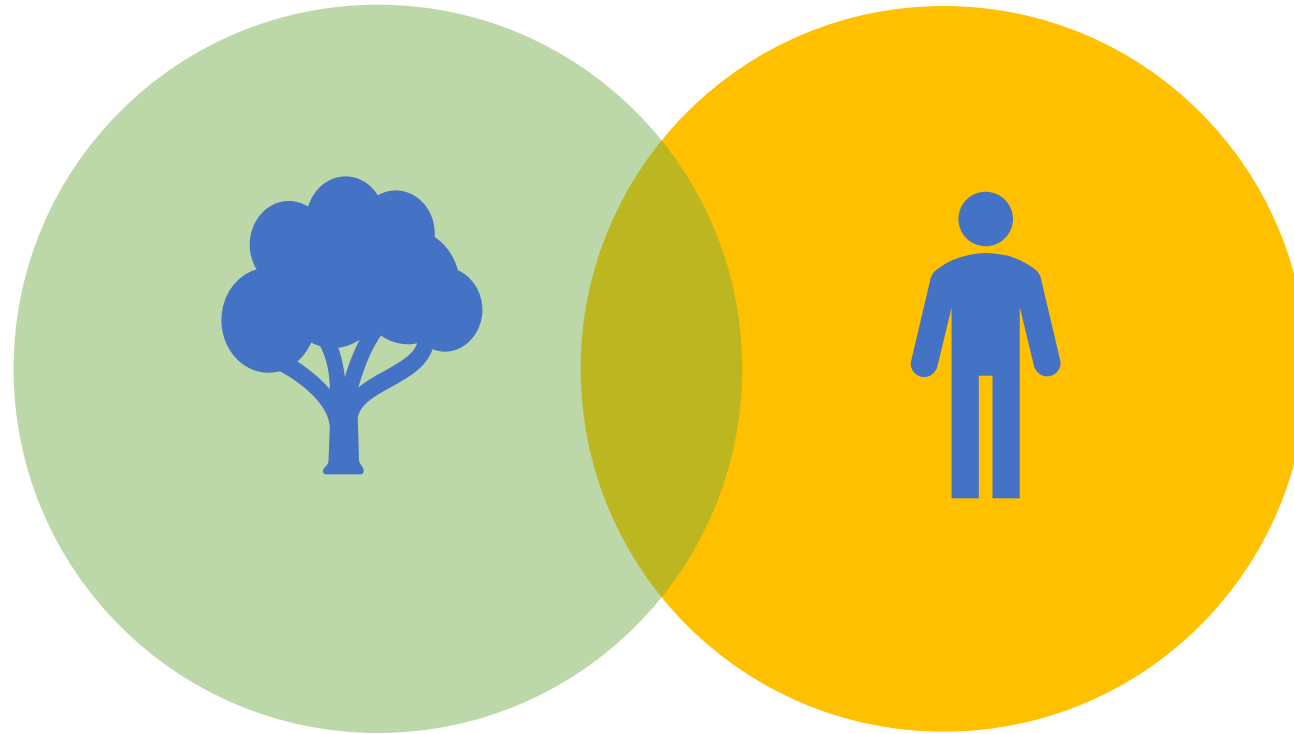
Identify
potential areas
for
improvement

D

Assess the GEF's
progress in
implementation
and
achievement of
the GEF Strategy



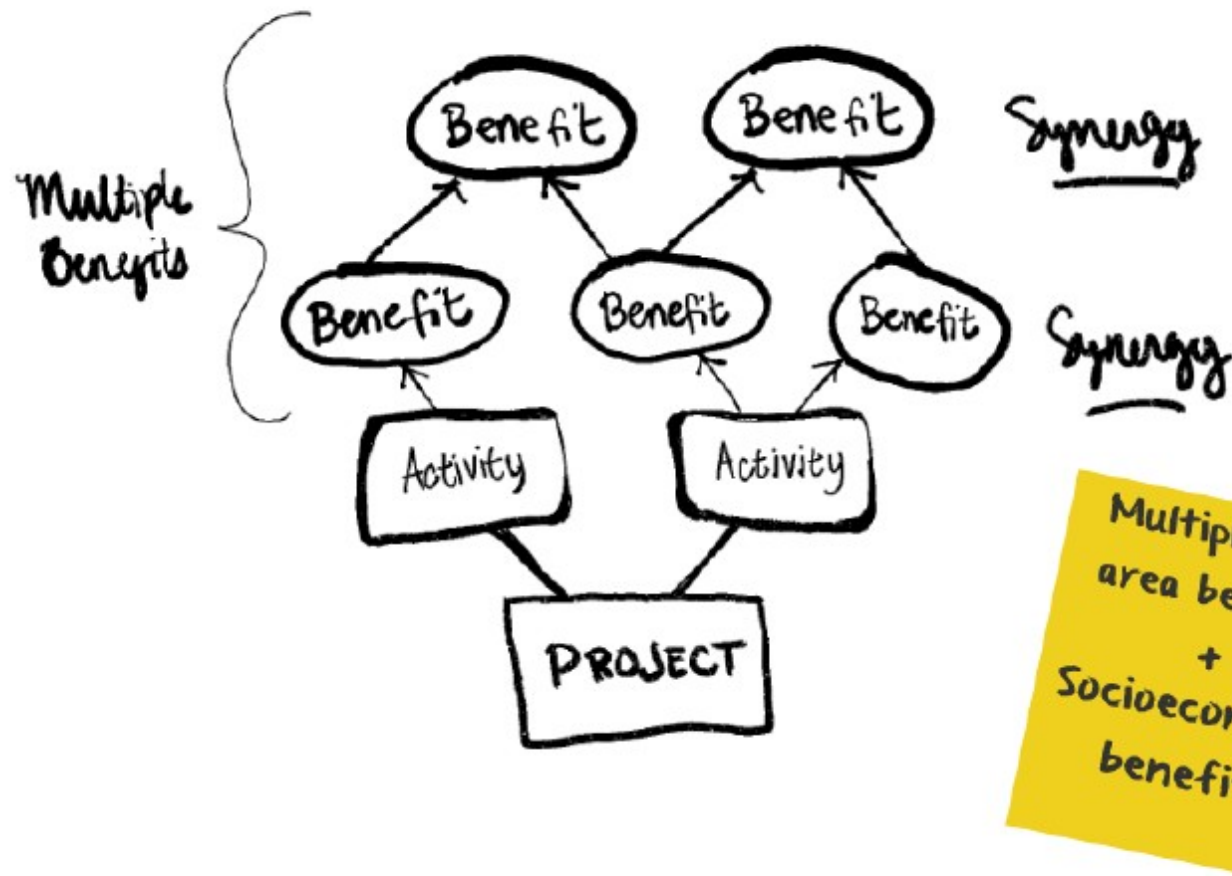
Geographical Approaches to evaluation: Integrating Human and Natural Systems



Integration between natural and human
systems: *environmental, social, economic*



Both synergies and trade-offs can occur within the same intervention



TRADE-OFF

A reduction in one benefit in the process of maximizing or increasing another benefit



Common types of trade-offs



🔍 Environmental vs Socioeconomic Objectives



🔍 Short term vs Long term



🔍 Across Focal Areas



🔍 Between Scales



How trade-offs can be mitigated

Compensation

direct payment or replacement of income to address the loss of socioeconomic benefits

Compromise

when the benefit to one focal area is decreased to reduce the anticipated loss to another focal area or socioeconomic aspect

Value Addition

when an intervention not only addresses the trade-off, but also creates benefits beyond the status quo



TRADE-OFF

Short-term agricultural income vs
Long-term ecosystem services



COMPENSATION

In Brazil, the temporal trade-off in converting part of farms to private nature reserves is offset through tax benefits established by national law.

Biodiversity protection in forests vs
Community access to resources



COMPROMISE

In Senegal, the creation of Community Nature Reserves was a compromise between benefits to biodiversity and the local economy. These reserves increase community access to natural resources, but reduce the maximum benefits to biodiversity that could have been obtained through complete protection.



TRADE-OFF

Grassland protection to reduce erosion vs Grassland as livestock fodder

VALUE ADDITION



In China, to mitigate the loss of using indigenous grass as forage and bedding for sheep, the project provided warm sheep sheds and alfalfa as substitute fodder. This had the added value of providing permanent shelter for sheep, which improved their survival in harsh climates. Alfalfa as fodder was found to improve the quality of the sheep, which farmers could then sell for a higher price.



Geographical Approaches to evaluation: Teleconnections and vertical scale

Commodity chains - from local to global



Wildlife trade – need to deal with supply and demand



Deforestation – happens locally, but causes are global



Wildlife trade is a transmission pathway to zoonotic diseases

*Relevant lessons from the GEF
Global Wildlife Program evaluation:*



Importance of a globally coordinated approach



Species coverage needs to be strategically expanded



Appropriate focus on demand countries



Explicitly addressing political will and corruption



Attention to livelihoods security



Geographical approaches to evaluation: Place and Context Matter

FCV, LDCs, SIDS—There are no such thing as global best practices

Fragility, Conflict, and
Violence affected states



Least Developed Countries



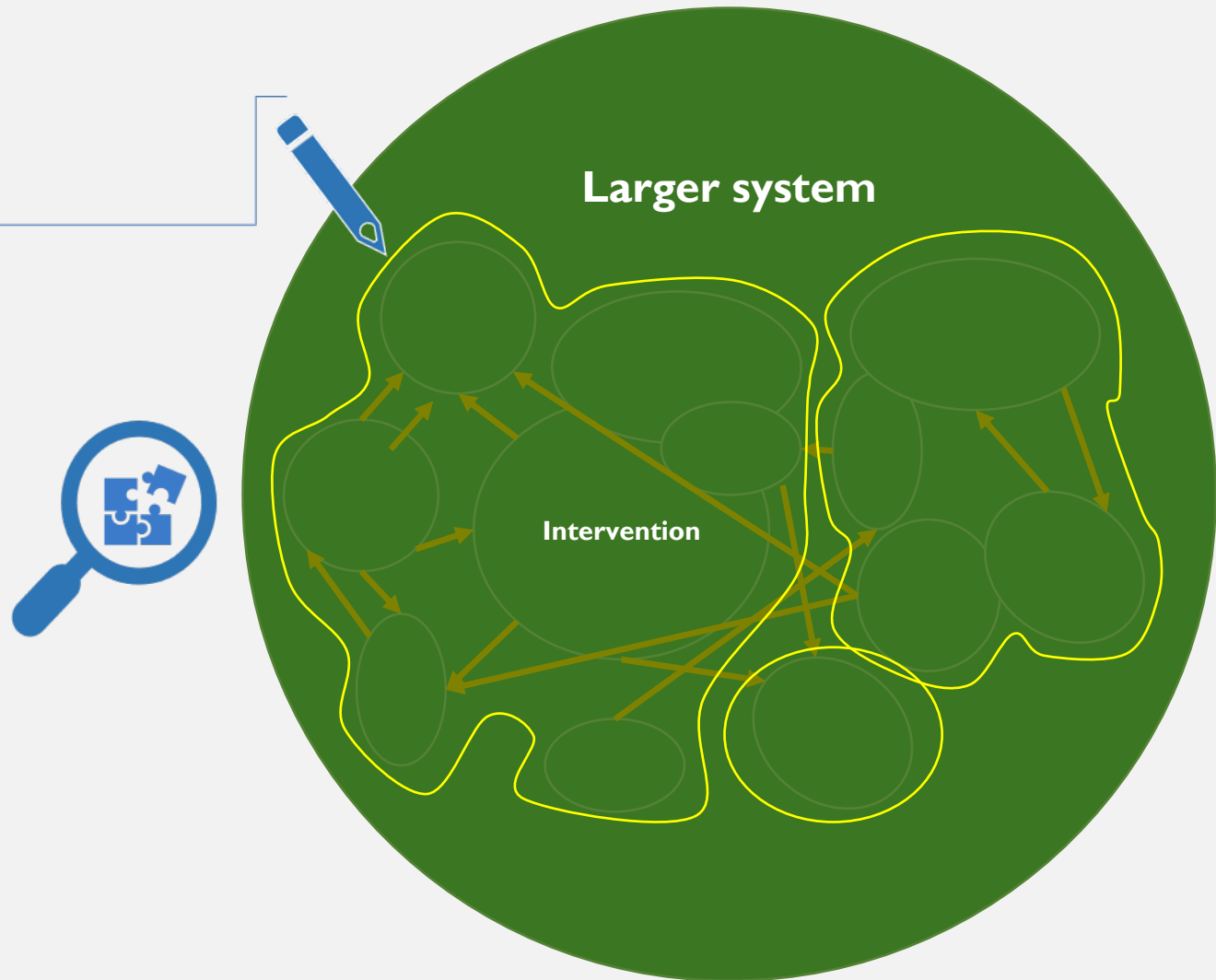
Small Islands
Developing States

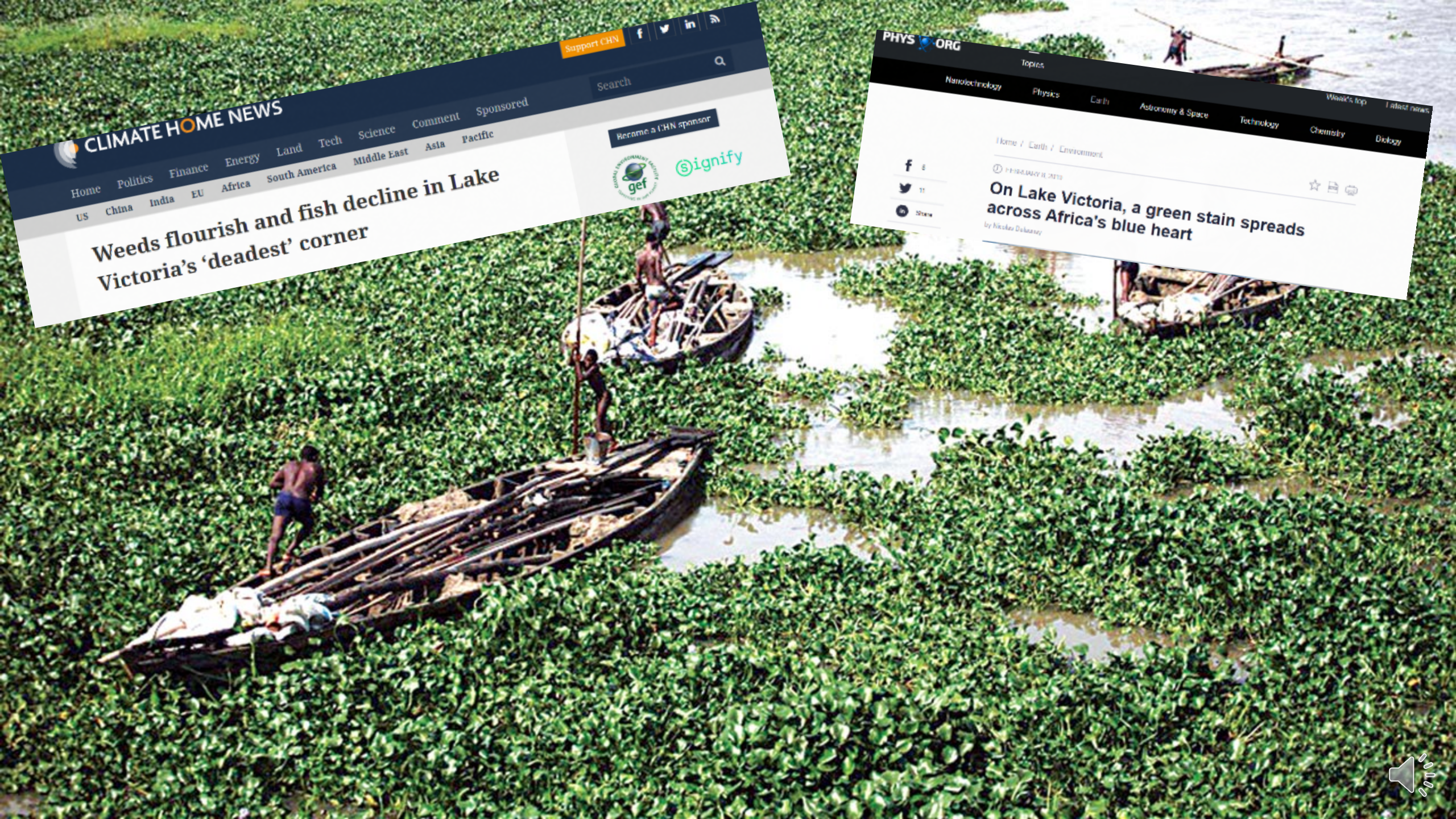


Geographical approaches to evaluation: drawing geographical boundaries

Need to draw system
boundaries

Can't see a project in
isolation





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Weeds flourish and fish decline in Lake Victoria's 'deadest' corner

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1 FEBRUARY 11, 2010

On Lake Victoria, a green stain spreads across Africa's blue heart

by Nicolas Delany

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Lake Victoria:Vegetation presence

Projects became effective once they considered infestation that came from upstream waters



2000

2003

2005

2007

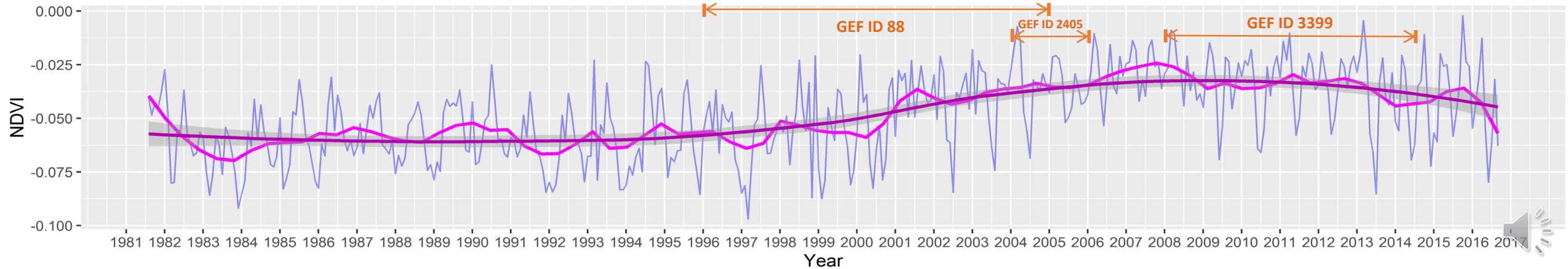
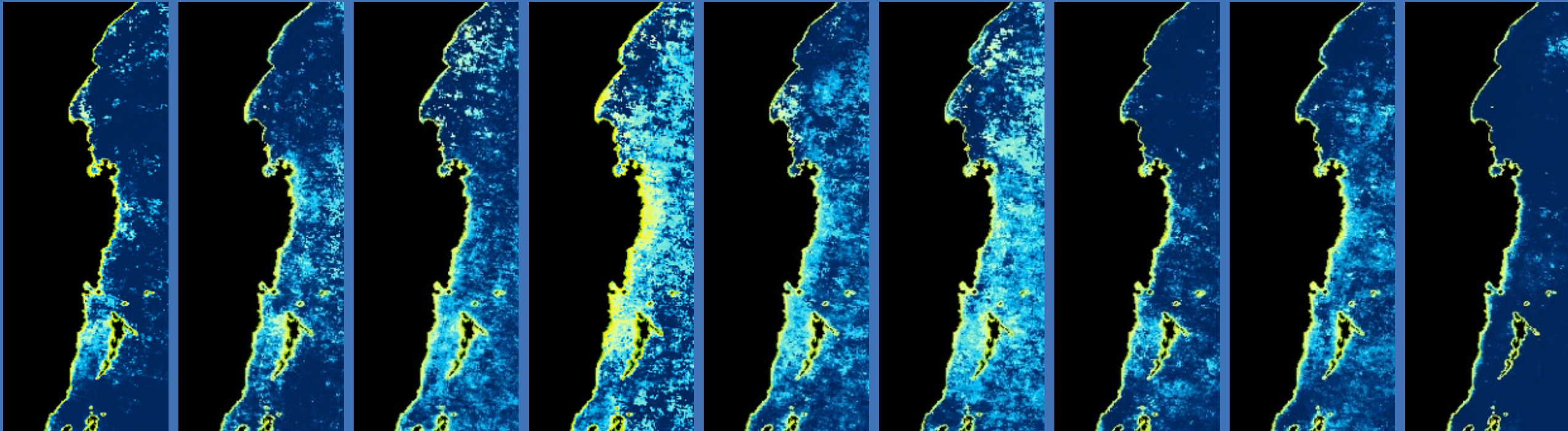
2009

2011

2013

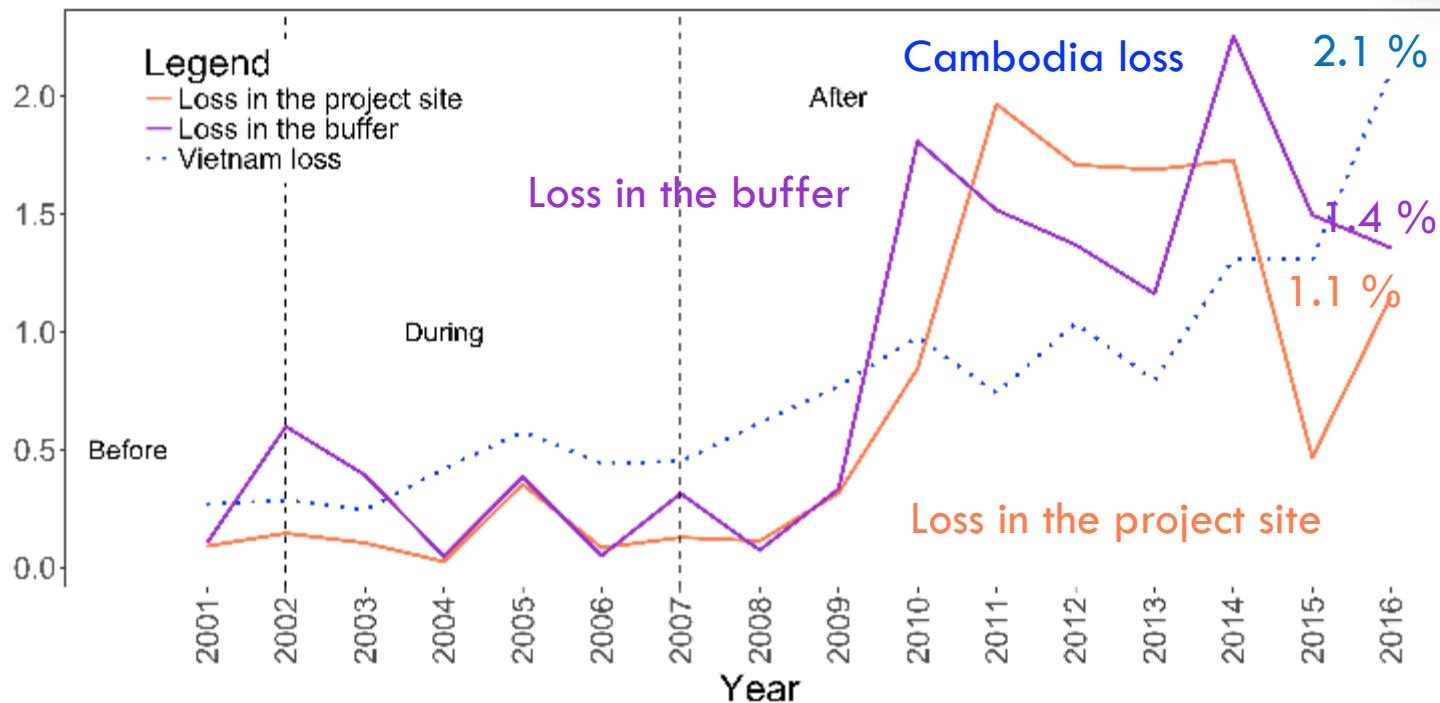
2015

2016

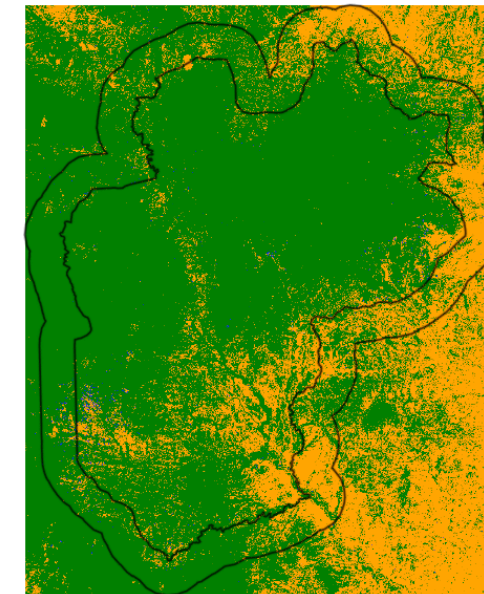


Geographical approaches to evaluation: Using Geospatial methods

Cardamom Mountains
Integrated Protected Area System, Cambodia



2000



Cover
Forest
Non-forest
Forest gain
Forest loss
Water
No data

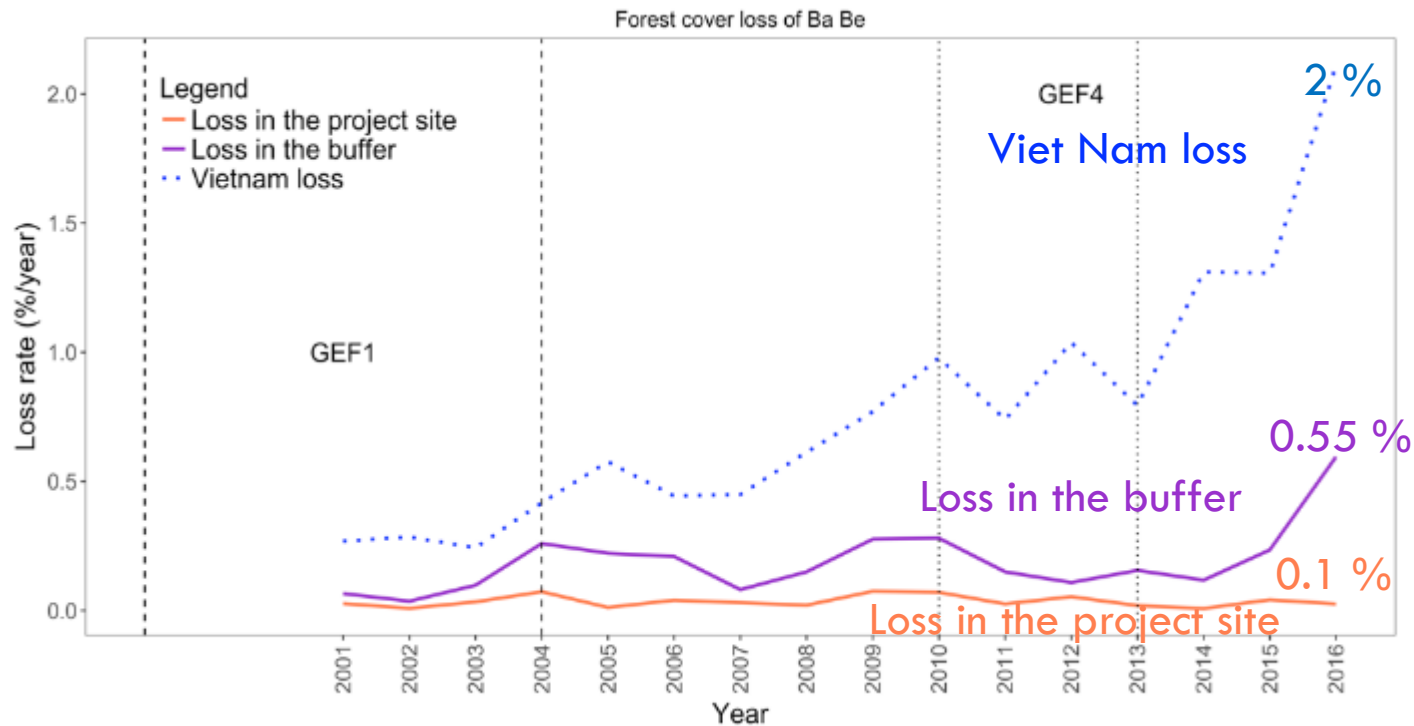
Region
— GEF2_1086_Phnom Aural

Was this intervention sustainable?

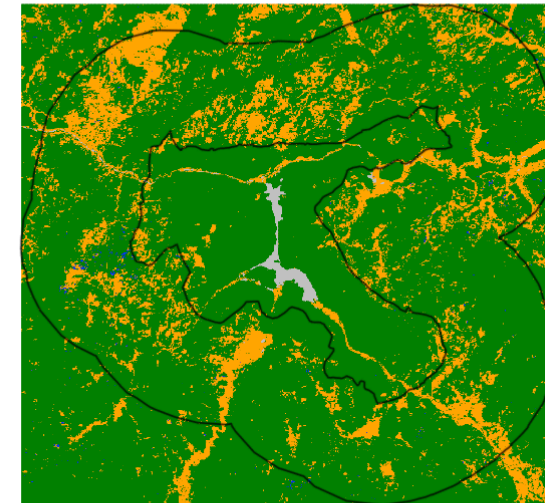


Geographical approaches to evaluation: Using Geospatial methods

Ba Be: Sustainable Forest
Management, Viet Nam



2000



SUSTAINABLE OUTCOME

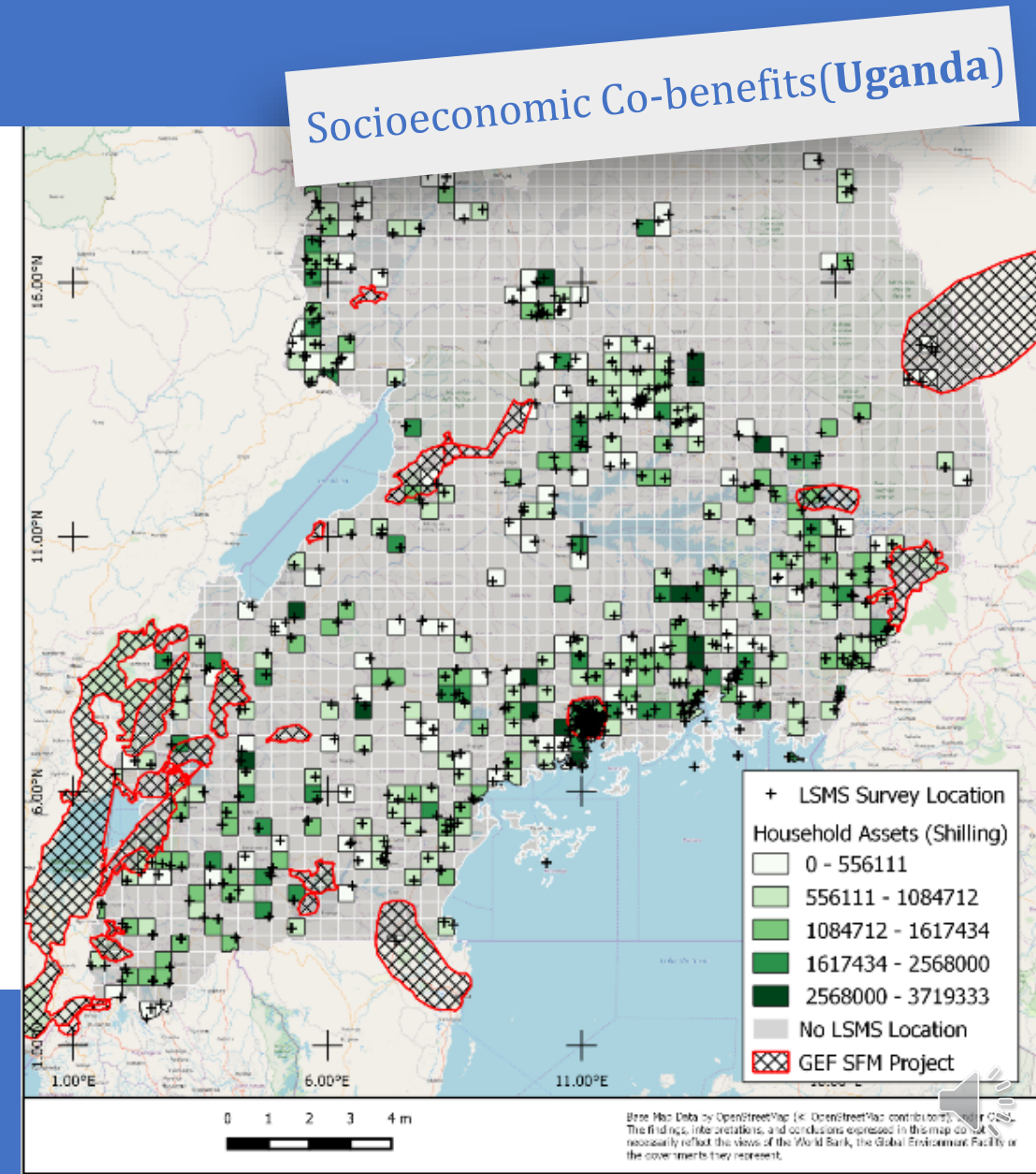
Forest loss did not increase despite unprecedented increase in the buffer and at country level

Geographical approaches to evaluation: Using Geospatial methods

Sustainable Forest Management(SFM): VALUE FOR MONEY

Households in proximity to GEF SFM interventions have more in **Household Assets** as compared to households further away.

Positive Correlation with GEF,
not causation



Geographical approaches to evaluation: addressing drivers

Transformational change is deep, systemic, sustainable change with large-scale impact in an area of global environmental concern*



4 criteria:

- ✓ Relevance
- ✓ Depth of Change
- ✓ Scale of Change
- ✓ Sustainability

*Adopted from IEG. 2016. Supporting Transformational Change for Poverty Reduction and Shared Prosperity.



Relevance

- Climate Change
- Biodiversity
- Land Degradation
- Chemicals and Waste
- International Waters
- Sustainable Forest Management

Internal Factors

- Quality of implementation
- Quality of execution
- Pre-intervention analytical and advisory activities
- Partnerships with donors

Outcome

- Depth of change
- Scale of change

Transformational Mechanism

A mechanism to expand and sustain the impact of the intervention (through mainstreaming, demonstration, replication, or catalytic effects)

Contextual Conditions

- Government ownership and support
- Implementation capacity
- Policy environment
- NGO & community participation
- Private sector participation
- Economic and market conditions

Sustainability

- Financial
- Economic
- Environmental
- Social
- Political

Ambition Level and Focus (of intervention objectives)

- Depth of change (market and system focus)
- Scale of change



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)





SUCCESS FACTORS FOR

Transformational change

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



Closing remarks

- Must deal with global environmental issues for people, planet and prosperity
- Interventions take place in place: natural conditions, politics, economics, culture matter
- Evaluation to ensure that limited resources are used wisely and that we learn from past experiences



Thank you!
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