



Independent
Evaluation Office
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Enhancing global environmental benefits
through excellence in evaluation



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Update on the Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS6)

OPS6 Update

- 1 Context
- 2 Performance and Impact
- 3 Policies and Institutional Issues
- 4 Financing, Governance and Partnership

SECTION 1

Context

Completed (17/29)

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

Focal Area Studies

International waters

Chemicals and waste

- Land degradation
 - Climate change
 - Biodiversity

Mainstreaming / Cross cutting

Joint GEF-UNDP

Evaluation of the Small
Grants Programme

- The GEF Non-grant Instrument
- GEF Engagement with the Private Sector
- Evaluation of the Gender Mainstreaming Policy
- Review of the GEF Agency Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards
 - Review of the Indigenous Peoples Policy
 - Review of the Resource Allocation System STAR

Completed (17/29)

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

Performance and Impacts

Trends in Performance (replacing APR 2017)

A Value for Money Analysis of GEF Interventions in Land Degradation and Biodiversity

Measuring Environmental Outcomes Using Remote Sensing and Geospatial Methods

Program Evaluation of the Least Developed Countries Fund

Impact Evaluation of GEF Support to Protected Areas and Protected Area Systems

Impact of GEF Support on National Environmental Laws and Policies in Selected Countries

● Transformational Engagements

● Program Evaluation of the Special Climate Change Fund

● Evaluation of Programmatic Approaches in the GEF

● Project-Level Accomplishments/
Progress toward Impact

● Evaluation of Integrated Approach Pilots

● Evaluation of the Illegal Wildlife Trade Program Study

● Evaluation of the Multiple Benefits of GEF Support through Its Multifocal Area Portfolio

Completed (17/29)

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

Institutional Issues

Evaluation of the
Expansion of the GEF
Partnership

● Review of the GEF Approach to Results-Based Management

● GEF6 Strategy, Global Relevance

Evaluation of the GEF
CSO Network

● Evaluation of the Knowledge Management System

● Review of the Comparative
Advantage, Financing, and
Governance of the GEF Partnership

OPS6

● Early findings

● Full OPS6 report

OPS6 Evaluation Briefs



Evaluation of Programmatic Approaches in the GEF - Brief



Climate Change Focal Area Study - Brief



Impact Evaluation of GEF Support to Protected Areas and Protected Area Systems - Brief



Review of the GEF Approach to Results-Based Management - Brief



Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF: Update and Synthesis - Brief



Review of the Comparative Advantage, Financing, and Governance of the GEF Partnership - Brief



Evaluation of the GEF - Civil Society Organization (CSO) Network - Brief



Joint GEF-UNDP Evaluation of the Small Grants Programme (SGP) - Brief



Evaluation of the Multiple Benefits of GEF Support - Brief



The GEF Nongrant Instrument - Brief



A Value for Money Analysis of GEF Interventions in Land Degradation and Biodiversity - Brief



Land Degradation Focal Area (LDFA) Study - Brief



GEF Engagement with the Private Sector - Brief



Measuring Environmental Outcomes Using Remote Sensing and Geospatial Methods - Brief



Project-Level Accomplishments - Brief



Program Evaluation of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) - Brief



International Waters Focal Area Study 2016 - Brief



Program Evaluation of the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) - Brief



Review of the GEF Agency Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards - Brief



Chemicals and Waste (CW) Focal Area Study - Brief



Evaluation of the Expansion of the GEF Partnership - Brief



Transformational Engagements - Brief



Impact of GEF Support on National Environmental Laws and Policies in Selected Countries - Brief

GEF IEO website
23 briefs

Terminal evaluations for all GEF countries

Site visits to 41 countries



GEF relevance



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



**Evolution of the focal
areas strategies**



**Commitment to the
mandate alongside
innovation**



**Spread across
countries and
sectors**



**Responsiveness to
convention
secretariats**

SURVEY RESULTS

Comparative advantages of the GEF



Broad coverage of
environmental issues



Alignment with MEAs
and conventions



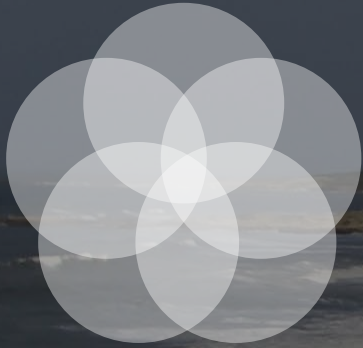
SURVEY RESULTS

Comparative advantages of the GEF



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Toward an integrated approach



Multifocal projects
Programmatic approach



Addressing the drivers of
environmental degradation

... while meeting Convention requirements



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SECTION 2

Performance and Impact



Continued good performance



of the 581 completed projects have **satisfactory** outcome and implementation ratings



sustainability ratings of moderately likely or above

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

International waters



Highly relevant

Challenging
transboundary
conditions require
cooperation

A catalyst for integration

74% satisfactory outcomes



Limited funding

Portfolio imbalance

Challenge in engaging the private
sector

Missed opportunities in linking
regional priorities with STAR



FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Chemicals and waste

78% satisfactory outcomes



Highly relevant

An improved partnership

Good private sector
engagement



Scaling up results need improvement

Challenges in sector-wide approaches
and regulatory reform focus

Need for better results tracking

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Land degradation



Highly relevant

Effective in producing global environmental benefits

Greater scope leads to greater benefits

78% satisfactory outcomes



Inadequate attention to socioeconomic drivers

Need to integrate land degradation neutrality

M&E tools could be strengthened

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Climate change

77% satisfactory outcomes



Integrated approaches
Multifocal area approaches
Strengthening the
enabling environment
Private sector engagement



Identification of synergies
with other funds

Multifocal area

77% satisfactory outcomes



Designed to produce multiple benefits



Emphasis on integration

BD+LD+CC

Most common combination



Challenges from complexity

Multifocal area



86%

Achieved positive **environmental outcomes** consistent with the combination of focal areas



88%

Achieved positive **socioeconomic outcomes** (primarily increased income or access to capital)



86%

Reported some form of **broader adoption** (mainly through mainstreaming and sustaining)

Programmatic approaches



Addresses
environmental drivers



Perform better than
standalone projects,
except in complex
programs



Improved
program
coherence



Efficiency declines
with increased
complexity

ISSUES

Programmatic approaches



Managing
complexity



Managing coordination
effectively



Measuring program
performance



Program design

Small grants program



Success in securing Global Environmental Benefits



Attention to community level benefits, poverty and livelihoods



More successful at mainstreaming gender than other GEF projects



Differing views on the extent to which SGP should address socio-economic priorities

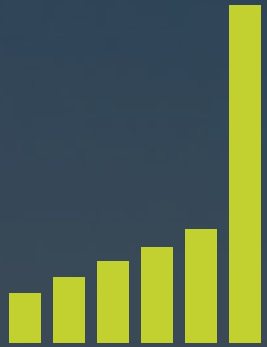


The upgrading policy brought challenges



M&E remains too complex

4 NECESSARY CONDITIONS for successful transformational change



Ambitious
objectives



High-quality
implementation



Self-sustaining
mechanism



Financially
sustainable

STRONG POINTS

Legal and regulatory reform



**GEF has
contributed to
enactment of
environmental laws**



**Many factors
influence reform**



**Often overly optimistic
about the likelihood and
pace of legal reform**

ISSUES

Legal and regulatory reform



**Capacity
building and
enabling
activities**



**Institutional
capacity and
political will**



**Stability of
government**



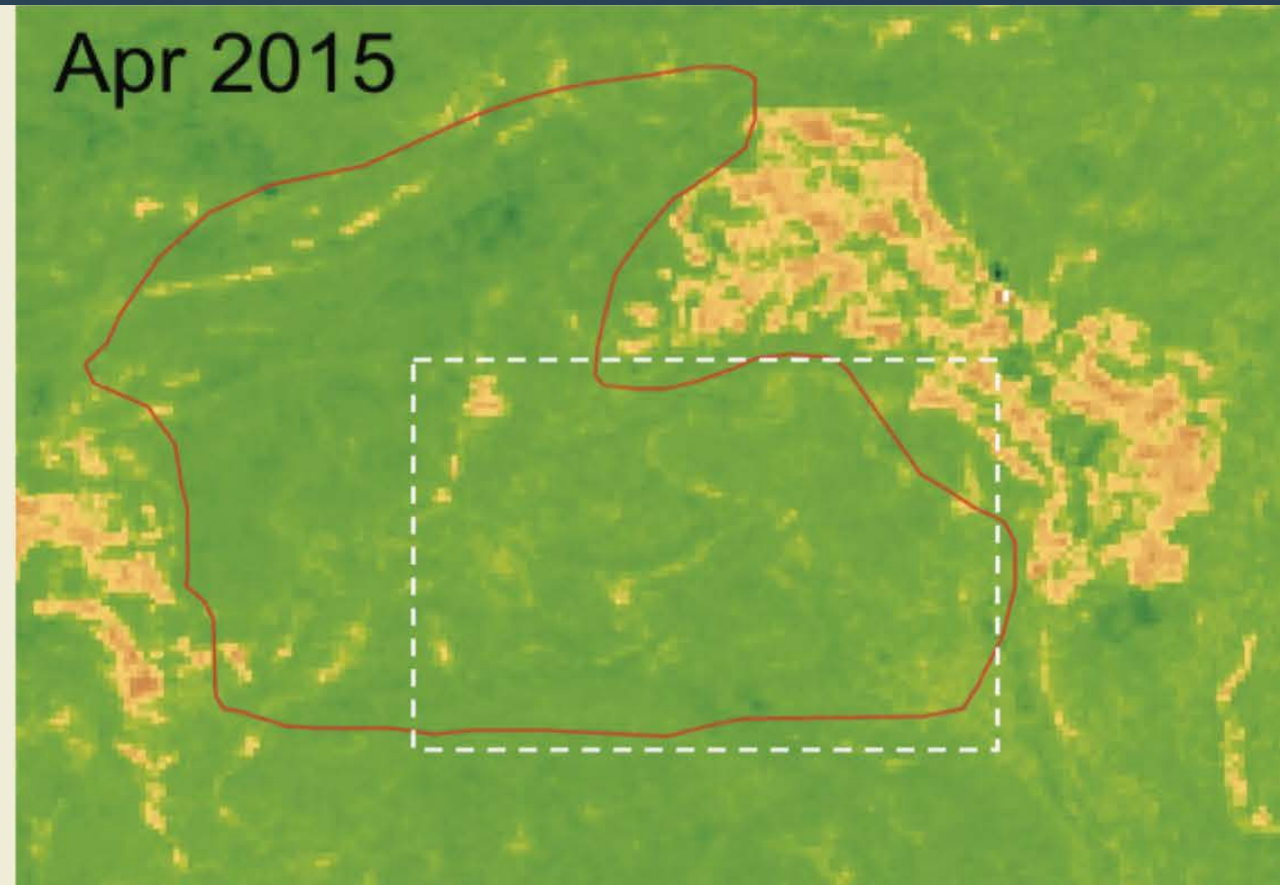
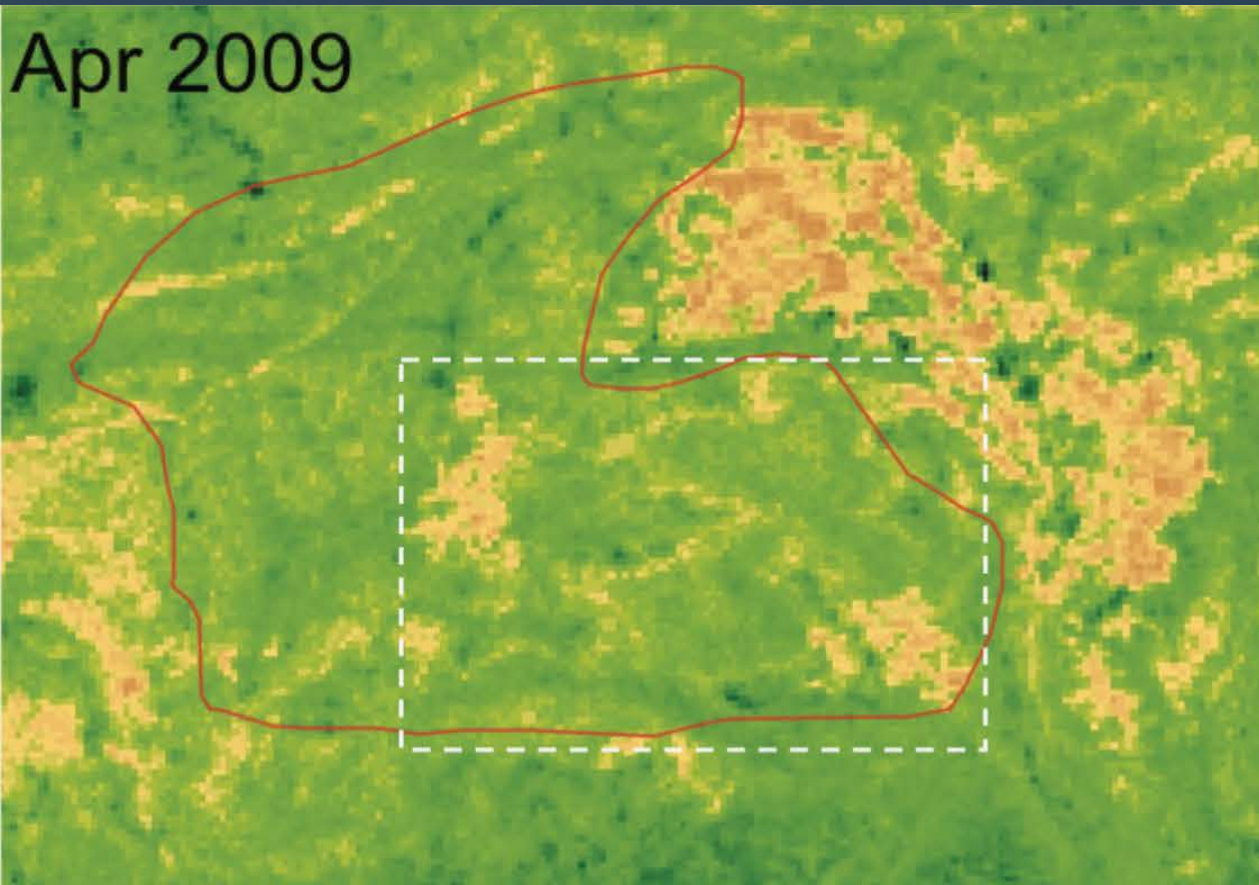
**Technical
capacity**



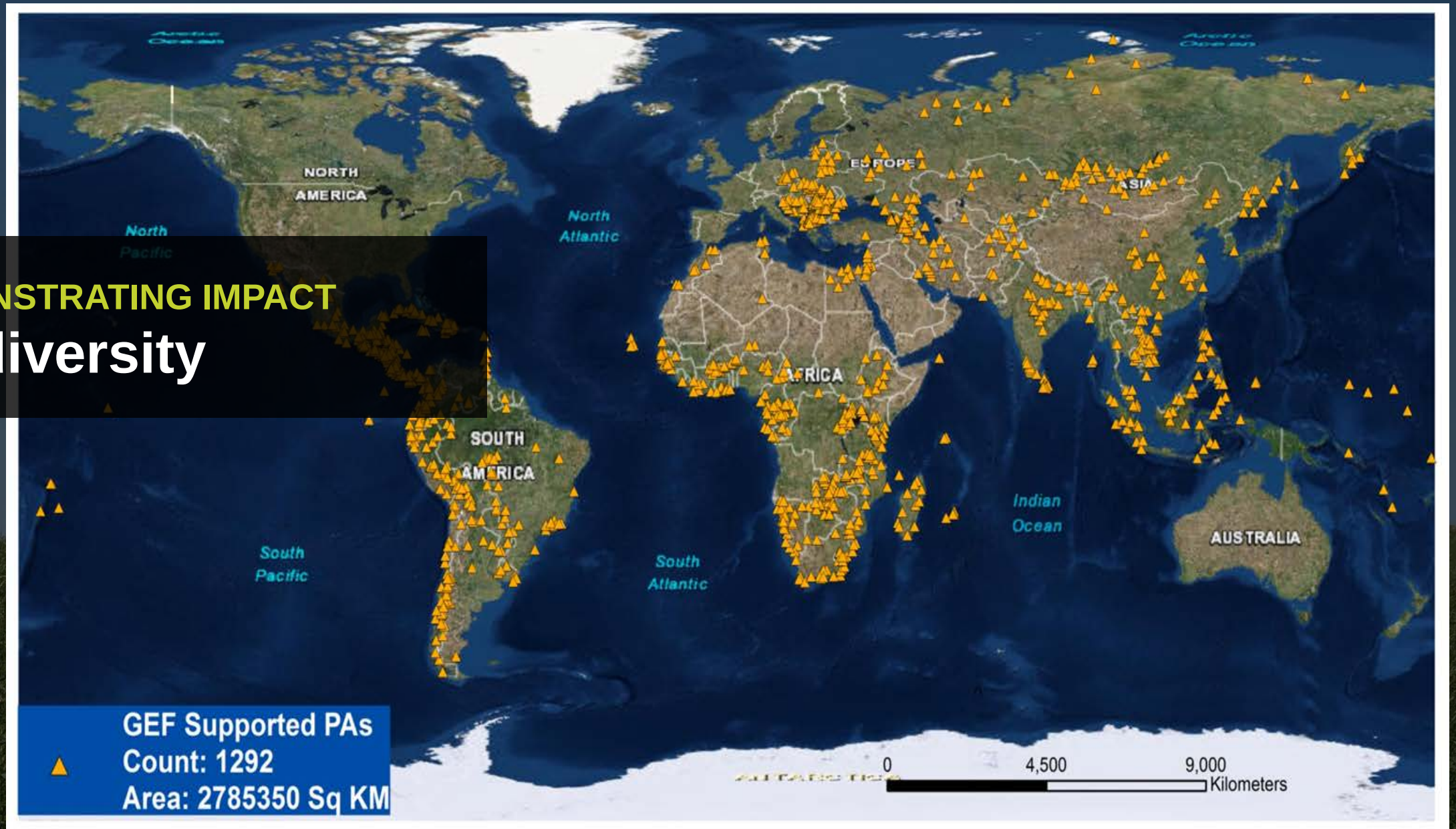
Ownership

DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

Land Degradation (multifocal): Madhya Pradesh, India



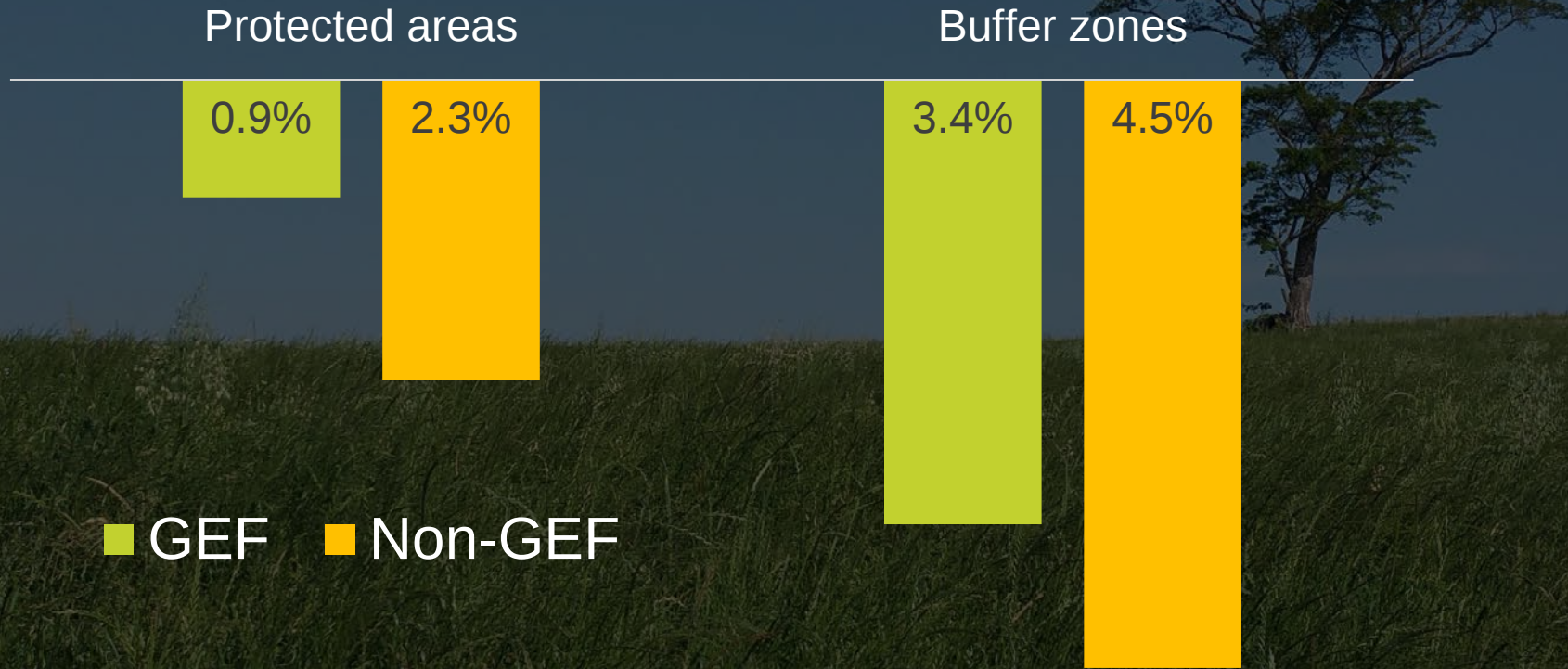
DEMONSTRATING IMPACT Biodiversity



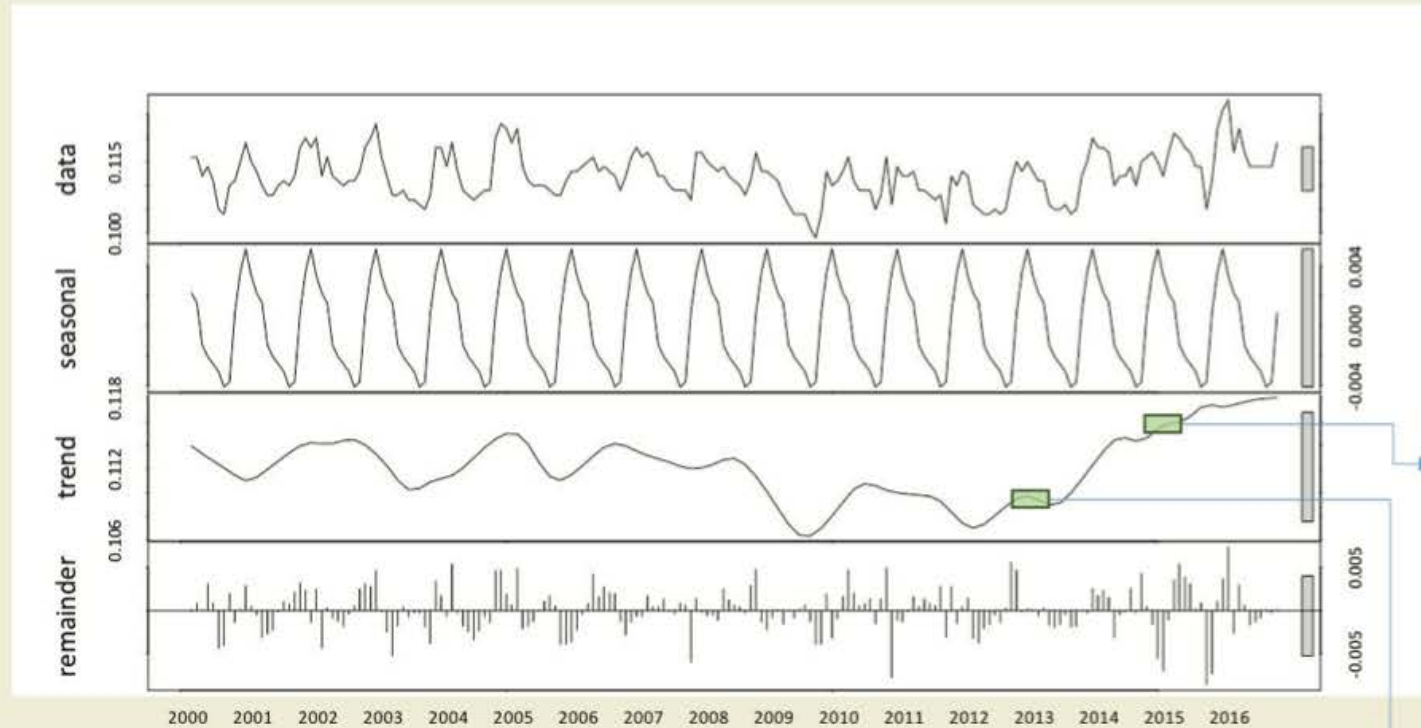
DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

Biodiversity: Global

Forest cover loss (2000-2012)



Al Hashemiah Reserve, Jordan GEFID#5026 (2013-2017)



2015 May - Aug



2013 May - Aug

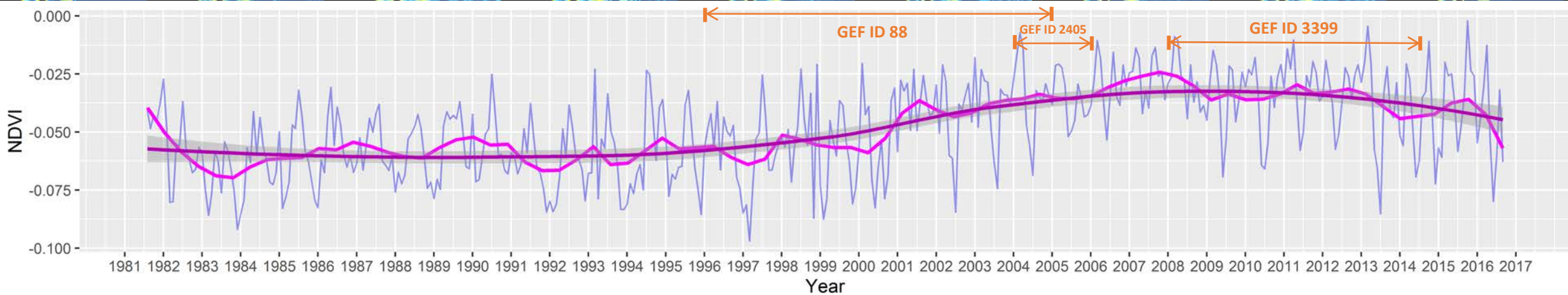
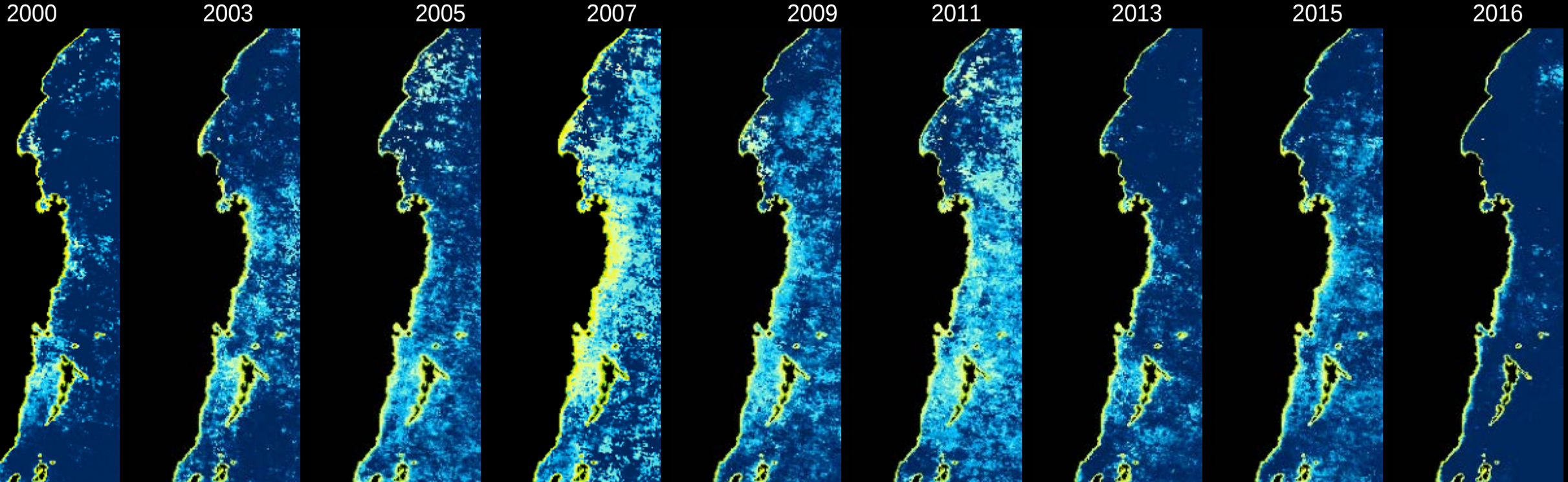


DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

Biodiversity (multifocal): Jordan

DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

International waters: Lake Victoria

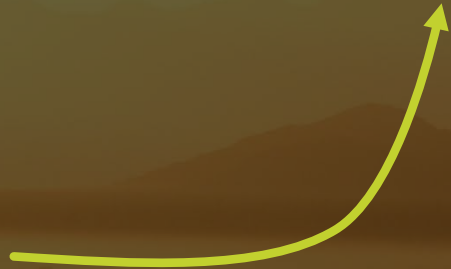


VALUE FOR MONEY

Land degradation

\$1:1.08

Globally positive impacts on forest cover



Lag time of 4.5-
5.5 years for
larger impact



Access to electricity
associated with
larger impact



Larger impact
observed in areas with
poor initial conditions

VALUE FOR MONEY
Biodiversity

\$1:1.04

Positive impact on forest cover and vegetation productivity



Noticeable impact
after 1st year



Access to
electricity linked
to larger impact



Performance
improved as projects
increased in size

STRONG POINTS

Private sector programs

80% satisfactory outcomes



High co-financing
ratio of 8:1



GEF is a
valued
partner



Technical
knowledge



Helps
mitigate risk



Flexible
financing
instruments



CHALLENGES

Private sector programs

80% satisfactory outcomes



Skewed
portfolio



Need to find
comparative
advantage



Raise awareness
of the GEF



Improve
processes and
mechanisms

Nongrant instruments

78% satisfactory outcomes

LOAN

Most popular

EQUITY

More prevalent recently

GUARANTEES

Mixed evidence on effectiveness

ISSUES

Diversification beyond climate change

Monitoring complexity in financial structures

Setting realistic targets for reflows

Defining a niche for the GEF

SECTION 3

Policies and Institutional Issues

New policies have positive impact



Consolidation of the project cycle



Cancellation policy



Harmonization pilot with the World Bank

Results-based management system



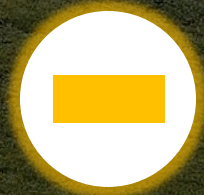
Streamlining the results framework



Improved corporate reporting



Remains complex



Focus on shorter-term results



PMIS database needs upgrading

Knowledge management is getting attention



Only 1 in 3 respondents happy
with mechanisms in place

BUT

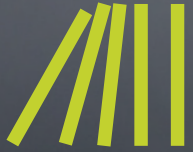


Recognition of shortcomings
and efforts under way



Positive contribution
of STAP

Safeguard policies



Catalyst among many GEF Agencies to strengthen existing safeguard policies



Gaps in the GEF
Minimum Standards



Need for enhanced
monitoring and reporting

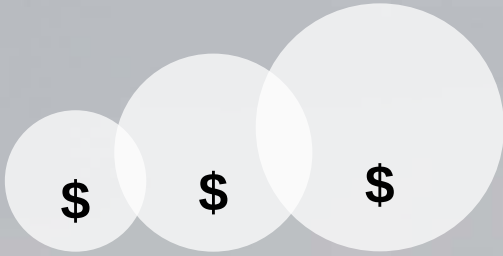


SECTION 4

Financing, Governance, and Health of the Partnership



Financing



Modest funding to meet global needs



**62%
of completed
projects**

**Co-financing
consistent with
policy (6:1)**



**STAR encourages country
ownership but leads to
fragmentation of resources**



Financing: STAR

STAR is a key component of GEF's ability to support environmental activities in a wide range of countries

STAR is a key component of GEF's ability to meet country objectives

STAR ensures an equitable resource allocation overall

STAR is being implemented efficiently

STAR enables the delivery of regional projects

STAR enables partnerships between the public and private sectors

72.4%

66.6%

57.4%

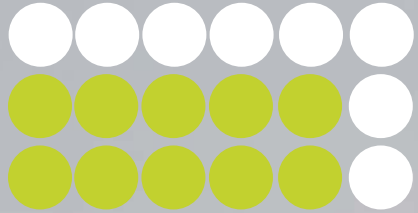
48.7%

29.8%

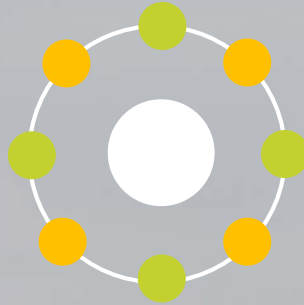
24.7%



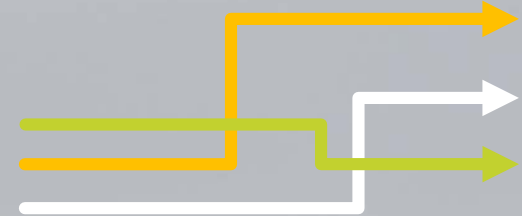
Partnership



**From 10 to
18 agencies**



**Increase in access
to new capacities
and networks**

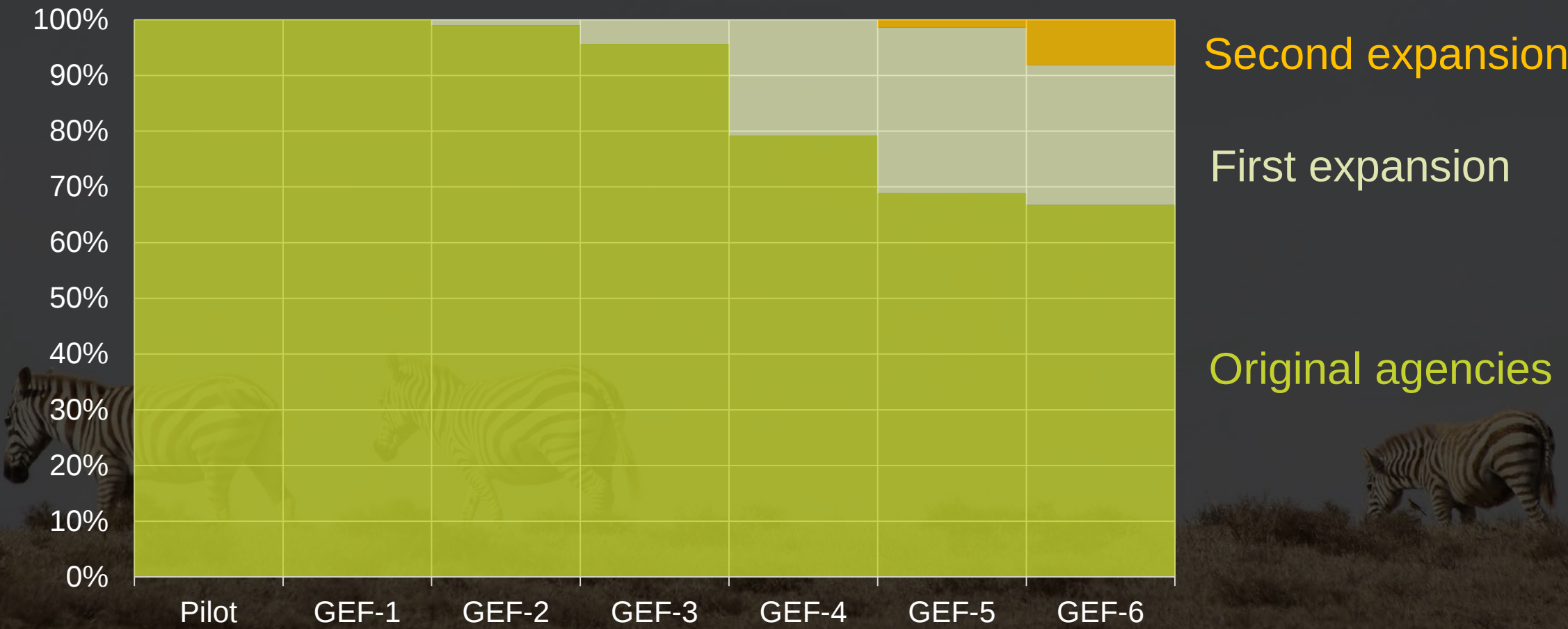


**More competition
and higher
transaction costs**



Partnership

Share of GEF Portfolio by lead agency in million \$

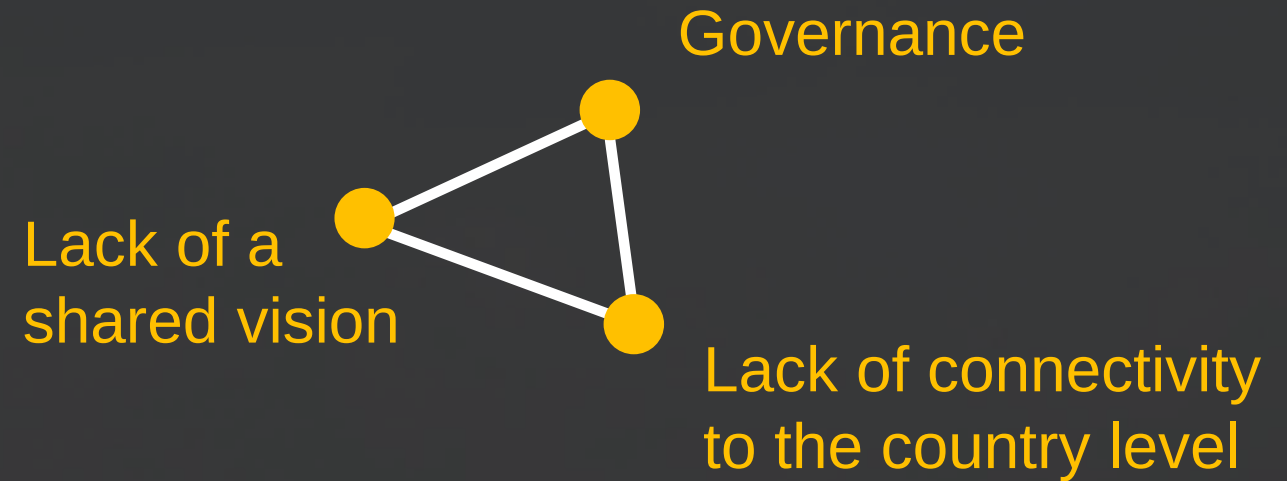


Civil Society Organizations Network

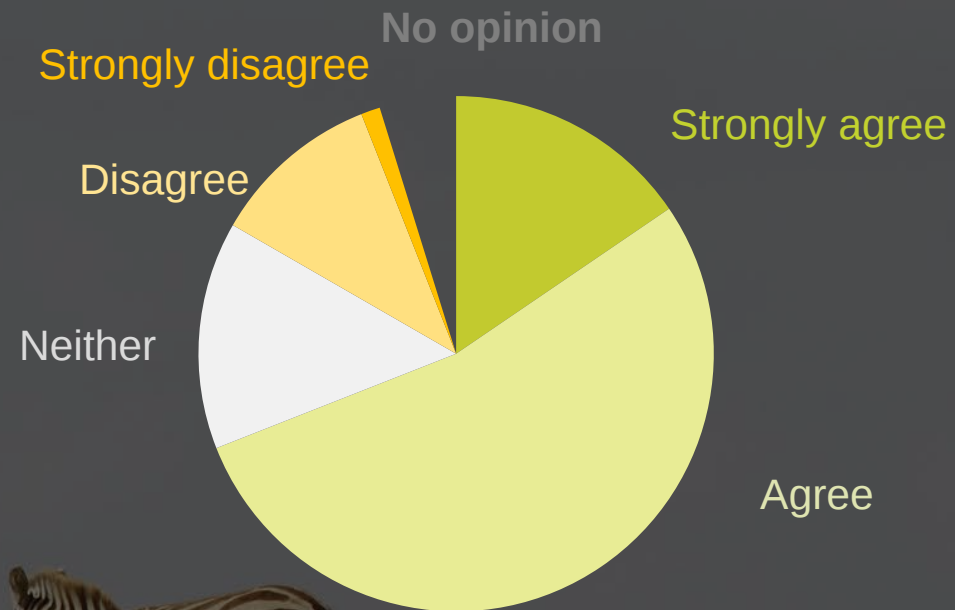
Strong points



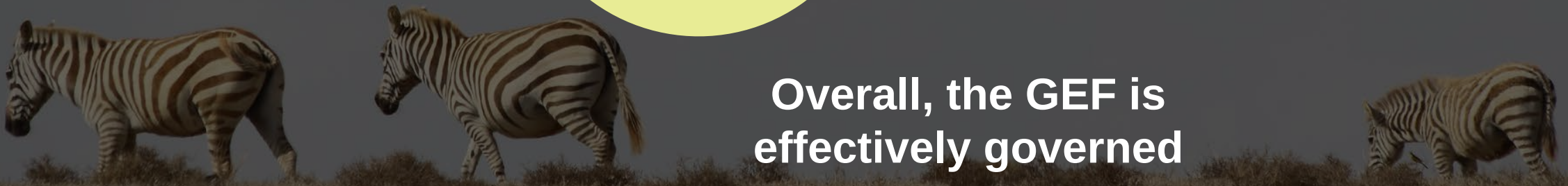
Issues



Good governance



**Overall, the GEF is
effectively governed**





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