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LDCF/SCCF ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT 2023

(Prepared by the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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2. The most represented theme in the AER 2023 cohort is agriculture, with nine projects or 20 percent. Eight projects focused on climate information and early-warning systems, seven projects focused their interventions on water resources management, six projects on sustainable livelihoods, five projects sought to improve coastal zone management, and four projects focused on disaster risk management. Three projects addressed land and forest management. Lastly, the AER 2023 cohort includes one project focused on low-carbon and climate-resilient transfer technology and one global project that supported in the formulation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

3. Regarding outcomes, of the 44 projects, 40 were rated in the satisfactory range (91 percent), improving 13 percentage points compared to AER 2021. On the 6-point scale from highly satisfactory to highly unsatisfactory, 2 were rated as highly satisfactory, 19 projects were rated satisfactory, 19 were rated moderately satisfactory, and 4 were rated moderately unsatisfactory. No projects were rated unsatisfactory or highly unsatisfactory.

4. Of the 41 projects with ratings available for M&E design at the time of the evaluation, 36 were rated in the satisfactory range (87 percent), increasing 14 percentage points from the previous AER in 2021. In terms of M&E implementation, of the 44 projects with ratings available, 29 projects were rated in the satisfactory range (66 percent), increasing 9 percentage points over the 2021 AER.

5. Where sustainability ratings were available, 19 projects were rated in the likely range (49 percent). On the four-point scale from likely to unlikely, two projects were rated as likely sustainable, 17 projects were rated moderately likely, 19 projects were rated moderately unlikely, two projects were rated unlikely, and four projects were not rated. It is relevant to note that since AER 2019, there has been a negative trend in sustainability ratings over time. The number of projects in the likely range have dropped 17 percentage points from the AER 2019 to the AER 2023. These numbers are primarily driven by the LDCF; projects face greater risks, financing constraints, impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and sociopolitical challenges in least developed countries. Furthermore, from an analysis of terminal evaluations of completed projects, risks to sustainability were identified as due to the COVID-19 pandemic and mainly

related to the inability to complete activities during implementation that would have supported sustainability. Aside from travel restrictions to avoid the spread of the virus, supply chain disruptions and staffing issues were other causes of delays related to COVID-19 noted in evaluations. Additionally, considering that LDCF and SCCF projects are focused on countries' climate adaptation needs, it is pertinent to also compare likely sustainability with other projects with similar characteristics. Projects from the Adaptation Fund share a similar approach and guidance for rating outcomes and likelihood of sustainability. Seventeen projects from the Adaptation Fund with available sustainability ratings show that 59 percent of its projects were rated in the likely range with an overall outcome achievement rating in the satisfactory range for 82 percent of them (AF-TERG 2021). The higher sustainability rating for the Adaptation Fund could be explained as an effect of the mix of countries where most of the projects were implemented. For instance, of the 17 Adaptation Fund projects assessed, only 5 (29 percent), were implemented in least developed countries, while in the AER 2023 portfolio, 70 percent of the projects were implemented in least developed countries. Additionally, the Adaptation Fund projects assessed were implemented from 2011 to 2019, which limits the analysis of the potential sustainability effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. All 44 projects were reviewed to identify the inclusion and quality of gender components. In all terminal evaluations, there was some discussion of gender outcomes or gender inclusion. The assessment demonstrates that more than half of the projects (62 percent) included a gender analysis in their project design, with 7 percent of them also sharing a separate document with the gender analysis completed. Thirty-nine percent of the projects did not include a gender analysis. Furthermore, 75 percent of projects assessed from the sixth GEF replenishment (GEF-6) in the AER 2023 cohort include some type of gender analysis, which shows a significant increase in projects that conduct gender analyses in the project design and planning stages compared to GEF-5 projects (53 percent). Only five projects (11 percent) presented some evidence of developing a specific gender action plan in the implementation stage. The assessment of terminal evaluations shows that 33 projects (75 percent) included at least one gender-related action, including project outputs, activities, or sex-disaggregated. indicators. Of the 33 projects with gender-related actions, 9 were at the objective and component level and 24 at the activity and output level. Insights from findings in terminal evaluations show that of the nine projects with gender components at the higher level, seven (77 percent) achieved results in the satisfactory range. Regarding the 24 projects with gender components at the lower level, 19 (75 percent) achieved results in the satisfactory range.

7. Projects in the AER 2023 cohort were reviewed against the working definition of vulnerability to climate change, defined as the degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. The assessment included the extent to which interventions reduced vulnerability and climate-related risk, increased resilience, and prevented maladaptation. The review of project documentation made it possible to identify whether an analysis of the factors that contribute to vulnerability was done in the project design phase. Such an analysis could include both the direct and indirect effects of climate change, as well as non-climate stressors (e.g., land use change, habitat fragmentation, pollution, and invasive species). In the design phase, most of the projects showed a consistent analysis of a vulnerability framework. Analyzing the highest

level where projects include a vulnerability framework assessment, 43 percent of the projects reviewed include a specific goal of reducing vulnerability in their main objective, while 21 percent of projects include this goal at the component level, 18 percent at an outcome level, 11 percent at the output level, and 7 percent at the activity level.

8. Regarding the specific results of the vulnerability reduction components, the distribution shows a positive trend. However, it shows a lower score than the overall project ratings. Thirty-two projects were assessed in the satisfactory range (72 percent compared to 91 percent for overall project ratings). Ten projects (22 percent) were rated in the unsatisfactory range (compared to 9 percent for overall project ratings). Seven terminal evaluations cite as reasons for a lower score on these components a lack of rigorous work in the appraisal stage, specifically in the definition of baselines (which affected the effective measurement of impacts), an absence of a proper replication strategy (making less significant the actual result of projects), and no solid evidence that stakeholders used the services developed by the projects.

9. Lessons learned from terminal evaluations were classified into the following categories: exit strategies and institutional commitments, cofinancing, vulnerability indicators, and commitment of key stakeholders. Main lessons are listed below:

(a) It is important that projects have clear exit strategies and follow-up commitments to ensure sustainability.

(b) Five projects noted that the concept of cofinancing applied to GEF projects (including GEF Trust Fund, LDCF and SCCF) remains poorly understood or dealt with by multiple stakeholders. It needs to be clarified to all stakeholders.

(c) The results framework should clearly reflect appropriate indicators to measure outcomes of addressing vulnerability issues, especially those linked to non-infrastructure components (capacity building, awareness, policy, planning, and dissemination activities).

(d) Identifying champions of change, especially in communities and local organizations, is critical. These people can be a key resource point, as well as important influencers of behavior change among their peers.

10. The AER ends with a summary of the GEF MAR. As a follow-up to the Professional Peer Review of the Independent Evaluation Function of the Global Environment Facility (GEF IEO 2019), the GEF's approach to the MAR was revised. One change is that the GEF management responds to each GEF IEO evaluation recommendation with an action plan, and the GEF Council comments on and endorses this action plan. The GEF IEO then tracks progress in implementation of the GEF management's action plan. In the wake of the revised MAR process, the GEF Council began to endorse management's action plans in June 2021. The 2023 MAR is the first MAR that is being prepared using the revised approach.

11. The 2023 MAR for the LDCF/SCCF tracks progress in implementation of management's action plan for one GEF IEO recommendation for the 2020 LDCF Program Evaluation: Continue

to enhance the likelihood of the sustainability of outcomes (GEF IEO 2020). The GEF Secretariat acknowledges this recommendation.

(a). The GEF Secretariat's assessment of progress in the implementation of its action plan: substantial. In GEF-8, the GEF Secretariat is implementing dedicated programs intended to enhance the quality at entry and sustainability of LDCF projects as recommended by this evaluation.

(b). The GEF IEO's validation of reported implementation progress - rating: medium. The launch of the dedicated programs (I. Communications and visibility enhancements; II. Outreach and capacity support for LDCF and small island developing states planning and programming; and III. Organizational learning and coordination) in GEF-8 and other ongoing efforts is acknowledged.

(c). The GEF IEO will track the implementation of the dedicated programs in line with the four main themes of the Council document, "Towards Greater Durability of GEF Investments": (1) theory of change, (2) multi-stakeholder processes, (3) stakeholder involvement, and (4) adaptive learning, as well as the Secretariat's continuation of urging Agencies to emphasize contextual factors affecting sustainability of outcomes.

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Least Developed Countries Fund/Special Climate Change Fund (LDCF/SCCF) Annual Evaluation Report (AER) 2023, prepared by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), presents an assessment of project outcomes and their sustainability, and quality of project monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The assessment is based on an analysis of the ratings and information provided in terminal evaluations. Additionally, the AER includes a summary of the GEF Management Action Record (MAR) tracking the progress in implementation of the GEF management's action plans that have been endorsed by the LDCF/SCCF Council. To align with the changes in reporting on the Annual Performance Report and the MAR which are moving to a biennial reporting schedule, this year's AER assessment covers 44 terminal evaluations, covered for the first time, and submitted since APR 2021. These terminal evaluations were reviewed by the IEO or by the evaluation offices of the GEF Agencies, or both. See annex A for details on the terminal evaluation report review guidelines.

2. Additionally, projects were reviewed against indicators of gender considerations in design and implementation, with results presented. These indicators include evidence of inclusion of gender analysis, a gender action plan, reporting, and related results. A synthesis of lessons learned from the AER 2023 cohort of completed projects is also part of this year's AER.

3. AER 2023 also presents an assessment of vulnerabilities addressed by projects. Terminal evaluations were mined to examine vulnerability to climate change, defined as the degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Moreover, projects were for the level of priority given to addressing vulnerability, for the inclusion of indicators in their results framework, and for reporting the related outcomes.

II. COMPLETED PROJECTS IN THE ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT COHORT

4. AER 2023 includes 44 projects, 31 financed by the LDCF—of which 2 are multitrust fund projects—and 13 financed by SCCF, 2 of which are multitrust fund projects (Table 1). The AER 2023 cohort has a shared value of $257 million in LDCF/SCCF/GEF funding, and $1.18 billion in materialized cofinancing.[1] Forty of the projects assessed were approved during GEF-5, and four were approved during GEF-6. The full list of projects along with their ratings is presented in annex B.

[1] Throughout the report, grant funding includes LDCF/SCCF/GEF amounts approved at CEO endorsement, plus project preparation grants. Agency fees are excluded. Information on realized cofinancing is available for 41 projects.

Table 1: Funding by source of the AER 2023 cohort

Fund source	Number of projects	Funding (million $)	Co-financing (million $)
LDCF	31	182	592
SCCF	13	55	270
MTF[a]	4	20	313
TOTAL		**257**	**1,175**

Notes: [a] Of the four MTF projects, two are LDCF with the GEF Trust Fund and two are SCCF with the GEF Trust Fund.
[b] Information on realized cofinancing is available for 41 projects.

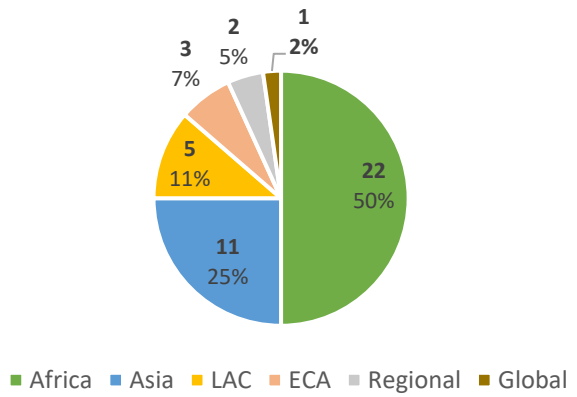
5. Twenty-eight of the 44 projects were implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 9 were implemented by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 4 were implemented by the World Bank, 2 were implemented by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and one project was implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (Table 2).

Table 2: Distribution by lead Agency

Lead Agency	Number of projects	% of projects
UNDP	28	64
FAO	9	21
WB	4	9
IDB	2	4
UNEP	1	2
Total	**44**	**100**

6. Forty-one of the 44 projects were national-level projects: 22 of these were implemented in countries in the Africa region, 11 in the Asia region, 5 in the Latin American and Caribbean region, and 3 in the Europe and Central Asia region. Of the remaining three projects, two were implemented regionally in the Latin America and Caribbean region, and one was implemented globally (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Regional distribution in the AER 2023 cohort (n = 44)



Note: ECA = Europe and Central Asia; LAC = Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. The projects addressed climate change adaptation and resilience through a variety of interventions and in multiple sectors (Table 3). The most represented theme in the AER 2023 cohort is agriculture, with nine projects. Of these, seven were implemented in Africa, one in Latin America and the Caribbean, and one in Europe and Central Asia. Eight projects focused on climate information and early-warning systems, and of these, seven were implemented in Africa and one in Asia. Seven projects focused their interventions on water resources management; four were implemented in Africa, two in Latin America and the Caribbean, and one in Europe and Central Asia. Six projects focused on sustainable livelihoods: four in Asia and two in Africa. Five projects addressed coastal zone management: three in Asia, two in Latin America and the Caribbean. Four projects focused on disaster risk management, with two in Asia, one in Africa and one in Europe and Central Asia. Three projects addressed land and forest management: one project in Zambia, one in Haiti, and one in Bangladesh. Lastly, the AER 2023 cohort includes two projects focused on other themes: a regional project in Latin America and the Caribbean focused on low-carbon and climate-resilient technology transfer, and one global project that supported in the formulation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

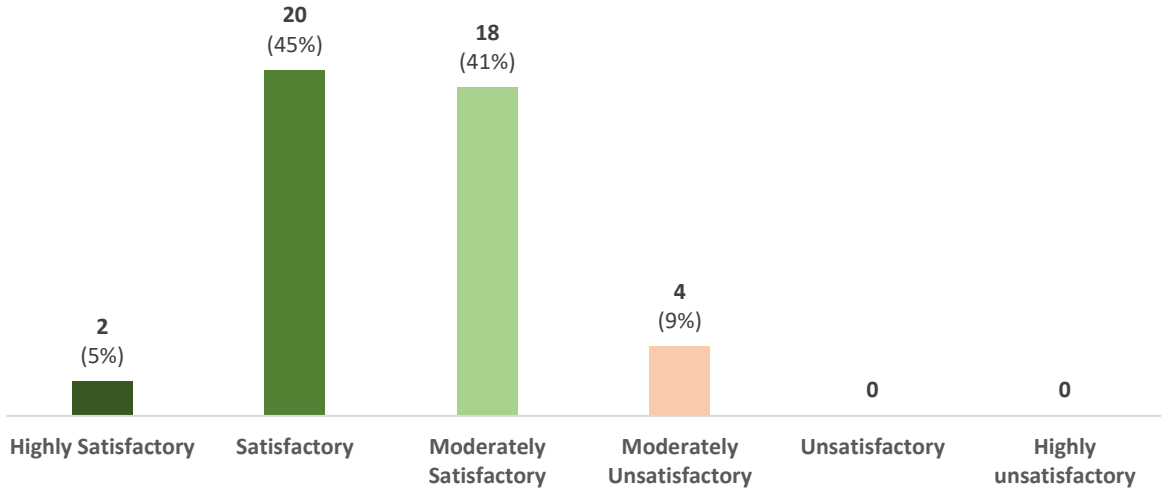
Table 3: Distribution by main intervention theme of the AER 2023 cohort

Intervention theme	Number of projects
Agriculture	9
Climate Information and Early Warning Systems	8
Water Resources Management	7
Sustainable Livelihoods	6
Coastal Zone	5
Disaster Risk	4
Land and Forest	3
Others	2
Total	**44**

III. OUTCOMES AND SUSTAINABILITY

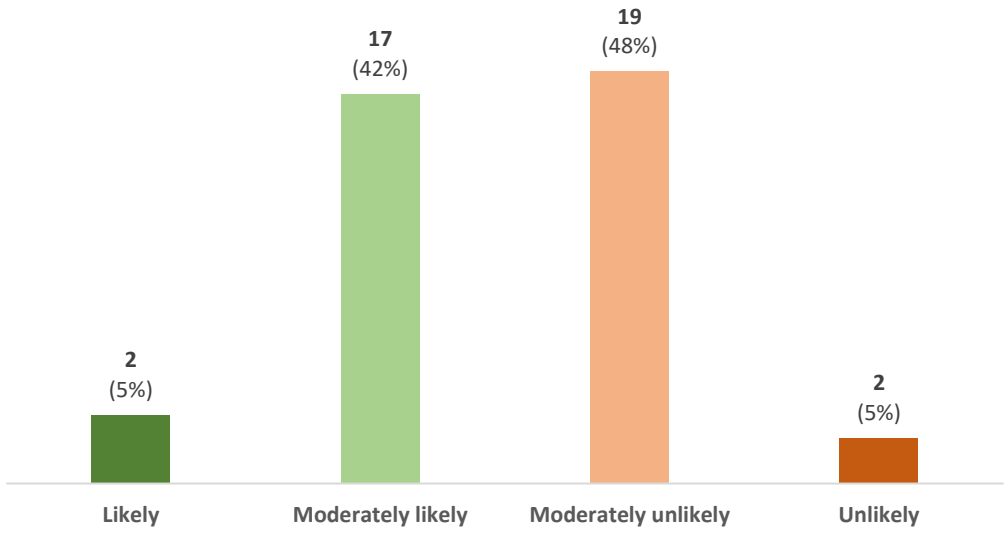
8. The distribution of outcome ratings is shown in Figure 2. Regarding outcomes, of the 44 projects, 40 were rated in the satisfactory range for achievement of outcomes (91 percent), improving 13 percentage points compared to the AER 2021. On the six-point scale from highly satisfactory to highly unsatisfactory, two were rated as highly satisfactory, 20 projects were rated satisfactory for achievement of outcomes, 18 were rated moderately satisfactory, and four were rated moderately unsatisfactory. No projects were rated unsatisfactory or highly unsatisfactory. The results of AER 2023 are comparable to the outcome ratings of all the projects from trust funds managed by the GEF that were included in the 2023 Annual Performance Report (APR 2023), which has 91 percent of its projects with outcomes rated in the satisfactory range.

Figure 2: Distribution of outcome ratings in the AER 2023 cohort (n = 44)



9. In terms of sustainability ratings (Figure 3), 19 projects of 40 with ratings available were rated in the likely range (47 percent). On the four-point scale from likely to unlikely, two projects were rated likely, 17 projects were rated moderately likely, 19 projects were rated moderately unlikely, 2 projects were rated unlikely, and 4 projects were not rated.

Figure 3: Distribution of sustainability ratings in the AER 2023 cohort (n = 40)

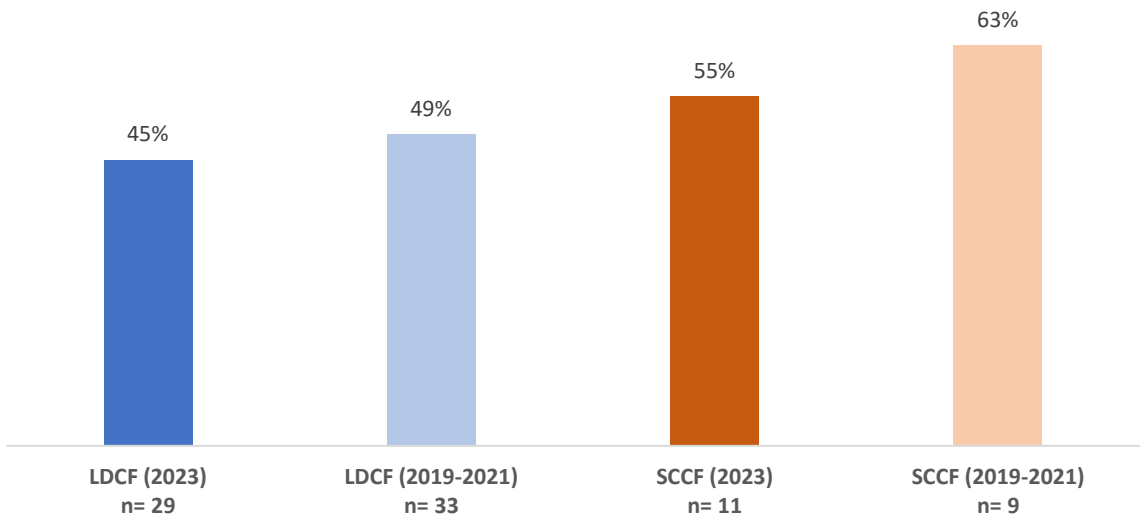


10. The ratings for sustainability of outcomes in the AER 2023 are lower than those for the projects from trust funds managed by the GEF included in the 2023 APR, which has 77 percent of its projects in the likely range (compared to 47 percent in the AER 2023 cohort). These

numbers are primarily driven by LDCF, where projects face greater risks to sustainability because of financing constraints and sociopolitical challenges.

11. Analyzing the evolution of the sustainability of outcomes of the LDCF and the SCCF from 2019 to 2021 (Figure 4), the LCDF portfolio in the AER 2023 cohort decreased by four percentage points compared to the average of the 2019–21 period while the 2023 SCCF cohort also dropped eight percentage points. Historically, the SCCF has shown higher ratings on sustainability than the LDCF, explained mainly by the greater risks, financing constraints, and sociopolitical challenges in least developed countries.

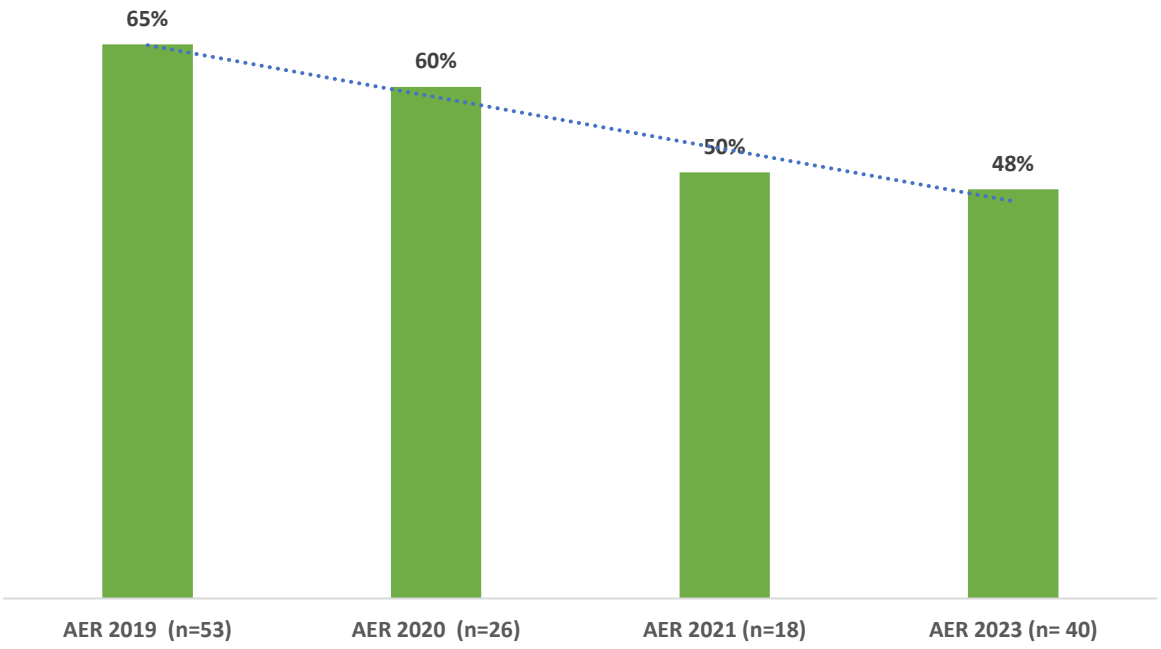
Figure 4: Evolution of sustainability ratings of the LDCF/SCCF



12. Since the 2019 AER, there has been a negative trend in the sustainability ratings over time. As shown in Figure 5, the number of projects in the likely range has dropped 17 percentage points from AER 2019 to AER 2023. An analysis was made of the regional distribution of interventions from LDCF/SCCF projects in previous AER cohorts, seeking insight into potential factors influencing sustainability outcomes; nevertheless, the variance is not significant. Also, the most represented thematic areas in the AER 2023 (agriculture, climate information and early-warning systems, and water resources management) appear to be consistent with previous AERs. From an analysis of this year's cohort of terminal evaluations of completed projects, risks to sustainability were identified as due to the COVID-19 pandemic and mainly related to the inability to complete activities during implementation that would have supported sustainability. Aside from travel restrictions to avoid the spread of the virus, supply chain disruptions and staffing issues were other causes of delays related to COVID-19 noted in evaluations. For instance, the terminal evaluation of the regional project, Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (GEF ID 5667), suggested that better contingency plans should be in place for reaching people on the ground in extreme circumstances (e.g., COVID-19), and these should include a variety of solutions to maintain interpersonal engagement. While virtual engagement was necessary due to COVID-19 restrictions and allowed project activities to continue, its limitations as a way to engage with

beneficiaries and communities were evident; it could not replace in-person engagement with people who might not all have access to or be comfortable with virtual platforms, and this affected achievement and sustainability outcomes.

Figure 5: Evolution of sustainability ratings in the likely range (2019-2023)



13. A deeper analysis of the 19 projects rated in the likely range of sustainability shows that higher sustainability ratings at project completion are associated with higher project outcomes ratings. Furthermore, all projects that were rated in the likely sustainable range at closure also had overall project outcomes in the satisfactory range, compared to 71 percent of the projects with outcomes in the unsustainable range.

14. Insights obtained from previous IEO evaluations indicate that the likelihood of outcome sustainability at project completion is influenced by the quality of project preparation, country context, government support, quality of implementation and execution, and materialization of cofinancing. For instance, leveraging experiences from the *Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation of the Least Developed Countries* (SCCE LDC) (2022) shows that project performance in least developed countries is lower than in the overall GEF portfolio. Analysis of APR data available at the time showed that completed projects in LDCs are rated lower than the overall GEF portfolio on all performance indicators. For sustainability of outcomes, 46 percent of least developed country projects were rated in the likely range, compared with 63 percent in the overall GEF portfolio.

15. The SCCE LDC also found that financial sustainability is a challenge in most of the least developed countries. Of the four dimensions of sustainability—financial, institutional, environmental, and political—financial sustainability is rated the lowest in least developed countries. Seventy-two percent of projects in the 2019 APR cohort of projects completed from

2007 to 2014 were rated likely for sustainability of outcomes in the overall GEF portfolio compared with 65 percent in least developed countries. This finding points to the importance of elaborating financial arrangements in the project design that can continue, after project completion, to deliver ongoing benefits. Where past outcomes were not sustained, a lack of financial support for the maintenance of infrastructure or follow-up, a lack of sustained efforts from the executing agency, inadequate political support, including limited progress on the adoption of legal and regulatory measures, low institutional capacities of key agencies, low stakeholder buy-in, and flaws in the theory of change of projects were also reported as contributing factors.

16. The review of terminal evaluations and the post-completion site visits for country case studies conducted for the SCCEs found that many GEF interventions include income-generating activities to link local community benefits to improved environmental management. This approach has been found to lead to tangible outcomes in least developed countries, but it alone does not guarantee success. Community livelihood interventions in least developed countries are more likely to succeed if they are, in fact, alternative livelihoods; are well designed; have a positive environmental-socioeconomic nexus; and meet the needs of beneficiaries. Interventions are more likely to be sustainable if they are market oriented and are integrated into development plans and budget.

17. Considering that LDCF and SCCF projects are focused on countries' climate adaptation needs, it is pertinent to also compare their likely sustainability with that of other projects that have similar characteristics. Projects from the Adaptation Fund,[2] share a comparable approach and funding process. The Adaptation Fund has similar guidance for rating outcomes and their likelihood of sustainability (AF 2011). Among Adaptation Fund projects with available sustainability ratings, 59 percent were rated in the likely range, while the overall outcome achievement rating was in the satisfactory range for 82 percent of them (AF-TERG 2021). However, information was available for only 17 projects, implemented from 2011 to 2019, which limits the analysis of the potential sustainability effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The difference between the sustainability outcomes of the Adaptation Fund and LDCF/SCCF can be explained an effect of the mix of countries where most of the projects were implemented. For instance, for the 17 Adaptation Fund projects assessed, only 5 (29 percent), were implemented in least developed countries, while in the LDCF/SCCF AER 2023 portfolio, 70 percent of the projects were.

18. Also, insights retrieved from the Mid-term Review of the Medium-Term Strategy of the Adaptation Fund (2021) show that sustainability is a persistent concern during the entire project cycle. Specifically, of 99 project proposals that were not approved by the Adaptation Fund Board from 2010 to 2020, 20 mentioned the sustainability of the projects as one of the main reasons for that decision. Also, besides the 59 percent of the projects that were rated in the likely sustainable range of 17 completed projects mentioned previously, an exploration of 24 project monitoring mission reports indicates that at least 13 (54 percent) highlighted the

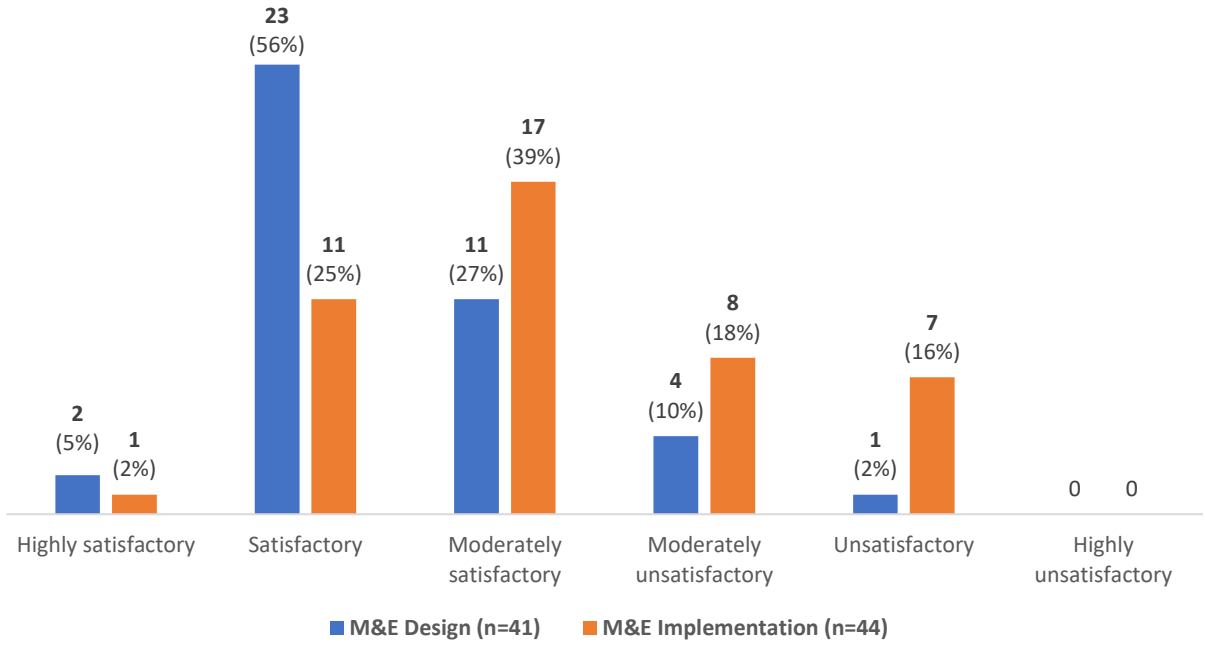
[2] The Adaptation Fund is an international fund that finances projects and programs aimed at helping developing countries adapt to the harmful effects of climate change. It is set up under the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (https://www.adaptation-fund.org/).

issue of the sustainability of the project and included specific risks to sustainability that cannot be discarded if the outcomes achieved are to be sustained.

IV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

19. Figure 6 presents the distribution of ratings for M&E design and implementation in the AER 2023 cohort. Of the 41 projects with ratings available for M&E design at the time of the terminal evaluation, 36 projects were rated in the satisfactory range (88 percent), increasing 15 percentage points from the 2021 AER. In M&E implementation, of the 44 projects with ratings available, 29 projects were rated in the satisfactory range (66 percent), increasing 9 percentage points from the 2021 AER. Interestingly, compared to the ratings of the GEF Trust Fund projects approved in the same GEF replenishment, the percentage of projects in the AER 2023 cohort with a satisfactory range in the M&E design is very similar, 88 percent (AER 2023) and 84 percent (GEF Trust Fund). Despite this similarity, there are important differences among the M&E ratings in the implementation phase, because while 81 percent of projects in the GEF Trust Fund achieved a rating in the satisfactory range, only 66 percent in the AER 2023 cohort attained such a rating.

Figure 6: Distribution of M&E design and implementation ratings in the AER 2023 cohort



V. GENDER CONSIDERATIONS

20. Gender analyses[3] in projects continue to provide valuable information on gender differences in needs, roles and responsibilities, and opportunities for equal participation and

[3] A Gender analysis is a critical examination of how differences in gender norms, roles, power structures, activities, needs, opportunities, and rights affect men, women, girls, and boys in a certain situation or context. It includes

leadership of women and men. All 44 projects of the AER 2023 cohort were reviewed to identify the inclusion and quality of gender components at design (Table 4)and during implementation, as well as gender results (Figure 7). In all terminal evaluations there was some discussion of gender outcomes or gender inclusion, and there are gender contributions in the implementation phase that are not captured in project design documents. The assessment demonstrates that most of the projects (62 percent) included a gender analysis in their project design, and 7 percent of them also shared a separate gender analysis document. Thirty-nine percent of the projects did not include a gender analysis.

21. The assessment of terminal evaluations show that 33 projects (75 percent) included at least one gender-related action, including project outputs, activities, or sex-disaggregated indicators. However, the assessment of the results framework of GEF-6 projects indicates that only 25 percent of the projects included gender-specific indicators[4] (compared to 22 percent in GEF-5), which shows that even though there has been progress in terms of including a gender mainstreaming framework in project designs, there is a need to further integrate these gender components into the project results framework and to focus the gender metrics on empowerment and equality. Because there are only three projects from GEF-6 in the analysis, the finding should not be considered a trend based on this sample. Only five projects (11 percent) presented some evidence of developing a specific gender action plan in the implementation stage that led to the execution of additional gender-related actions, including project outputs, activities, or collecting gender-specific indicators.

Table 4: Gender considerations in projects' design

Design-stage components	**# and % of projects**
A gender analysis was conducted, but results are not shared	24 (55%)
A gender analysis was conducted and is shared in a separate document	3 (7%)
No gender analysis is mentioned in available documents	17 (39%)
Project included a gender action plan or equivalent	5 (11%)
Projects' results framework included gender disaggregated indicators	19 (43%)
Projects' results framework included gender specific indicators	14 (32%)
No gender indicators are mentioned in the available documents	11 25%)

22. Gender components in design vary across projects, from a higher level of objectives and outcomes to lower levels, such as outputs and activities. For instance, projects such as Strengthening the Resilience of Women Producer Groups and Vulnerable Communities in Mali (GEF ID 5192) had as the primary objective to "Enhance women producer group's adaptive capacities to secure livelihoods production from climate impacts and increase socioeconomic

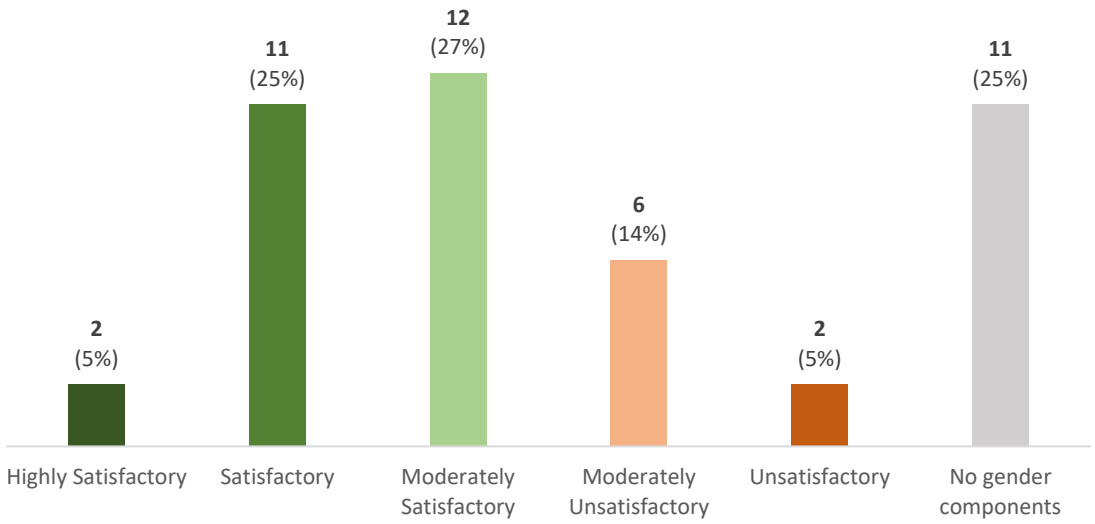
collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and gender information to understand gender differences and gaps, determine gender-differentiated impacts and risks, to identify measures to avoid adverse gender impacts, and to uncover and act on opportunities to address gender gaps and inequalities relevant to the activity (GEF Policy on Gender Equality).

[4] Gender-sensitive indicators go beyond the simple disaggregation of sex and allow for the measurement of changes in the relations between women and men in a certain policy area, program, or activity, as well as changes in the status or situation of women and men.

resilience in Malian vulnerable communes," which is considered a high-level gender component. In contrast, in other cases, such as the project Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Cambodia to Support Climate Resilient Development and Adaptation to Climate Change (GEF ID 5318), the project implemented a gender-focused field-level activity providing capacity building to 21 women, which is considered an activity-level gender component. Of the 33 projects with gender-related actions, 9 were at the objective and component level and 24 at the activity and output level.

23. Insights from findings in terminal evaluations show that of the 9 projects with gender components at the higher level, 7 (77 percent) achieved results in the satisfactory range, while of the 24 projects with gender components at the lower level, 19 (75 percent) achieved results in the satisfactory range. Projects with higher-level gender results include Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity and Resilience of Rural Communities Using Micro Watershed Approaches to Climate Change and Variability to Attain Sustainable Food Security (GEF ID 4434) in Cambodia, Building Adaptive Capacity to Catalyze Active Public and Private Sector Participation to Manage the Exposure and Sensitivity of Water Supply Services to Climate Change in Sierra Leone (GEF ID 4599), Integrating Climate Resilience into Agricultural and Pastoral Production for Food Security in Vulnerable Rural Areas through the Farmers Field School Approach (GEF ID4702) in Niger, Integrating Climate Resilience into Agricultural and Pastoral Production for Food Security in Vulnerable Rural Areas through the Farmers Field School Approach (GEF ID 5014) in Burkina Faso, Scaling Up Community Resilience to Climate Variability and Climate Change in Northern Namibia, with a Special Focus on Women and Children (GEF ID 5343), Reducing the Vulnerability of Cambodian Rural Livelihoods through Enhanced sub-national Climate Change Planning and Execution of Priority Actions (GEF ID 5419), and Strengthening Capacities of Rural Aqueduct Associations (ASADAS) to Address Climate Change Risks in Water Stressed Communities of Northern Costa Rica (GEF ID 6945). For example, the rural livelihoods project in Cambodia was designed to reduce the vulnerability of rural people, especially in women-headed households. By the project's completion, 6,745 households, or 112 percent of the target value (with 74 percent women), had been mobilized and supported with resilient agriculture techniques and water management–related activities. Beneficiaries reported a 29 percent increase in income. Another positive outcome was identified in the Namibia project, which aimed to scale up community resilience to climate variability and climate change in Northern Namibia, with a special focus on women and children. By the end of the project, climate-smart agricultural practices had been introduced to households. For instance, 220 micro-drip irrigation systems were installed. Such gardens directly benefited an estimated total of 7,039 women by producing fresh vegetables to diversify their livelihoods.

Figure 7: Distribution of Gender components results in the AER 2023 cohort (n = 44)



24. The assessment for gender components also included an examination of best practices and innovation tools. From this analysis, the most relevant insights showed that improved access to resources (i.e., water and firewood) was an effective way to empower women, especially in rural areas (Reducing Vulnerability from Climate Change in the Foothills, Lowlands and the Lower Senqu River Basin (GEF ID 5075) in Lesotho; and Strengthening the Resilience of Rural Livelihood Options for Afghan Communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to Manage Climate Change-induced Disaster Risks (GEF ID 5202) in Afghanistan*)*. Several projects demonstrated prioritization of women's participation in the activities and consultations (Adaptation to Climate Impacts in Water Regulation and Supply for the Area of Chingaza-Sumapaz-Guerrero (GEF ID 4610) in Colombia; India: Sustainable Livelihoods and Adaptation to Climate Change (GEF ID 4901); Strengthening Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation through Support to Integrated Watershed Management Programme in Lesotho (GEF ID 5124); and GGW Natural Resources Management in a Changing Climate in Mali (GEF ID 5270). These results nevertheless need to advance to a higher level and promote a transformational shift from participation to empowerment. Another critical insight is that even if the number of female staff members on project implementation teams was noteworthy, it is essential to include women in activities involving direct participation with beneficiaries, such as facilitators or other field positions. This proved to be a critical factor affecting women's involvement in project activities in the Building Adaptive Capacity to Catalyze Active Public and Private Sector Participation to Manage the Exposure and Sensitivity of Water Supply Services to Climate Change in Sierra Leone (GEF ID 4599), Strengthening Capacities of Agricultural Producers to Cope with Climate Change for Increased Food Security through the Farmers Field School Approach (GEF ID 5433) in Mozambique, and the rural aqueduct associations project in Costa Rica (GEF ID 6945). An innovative tool identified was the development of a gender-sensitive climate risk assessment conducted with participatory tools to mainstream gender in climate disaster preparedness (GEF ID 4990, Community Disaster Risk Management in Burundi). This assessment was helpful in including gender inputs in the first step of implementing community-based early-warning systems actions. Lastly, it is important to highlight the need to

collect more effectively gender-specific data in the initial stage of projects to guide and monitor project interventions, this was positively correlated with gender results assessed in terminal evaluations of Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate-resilient Rural Livelihoods in Vulnerable Rural Areas through the Farmer Field School Methodology (GEF ID 5503) in Senegal, The Southeast Europe and Central Asia Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (GEF ID 6915), and Supporting Climate-resilient Livelihoods in Agricultural Communities in Drought-prone Areas (GEF ID 6960) in Turkmenistan.

VI. VULNERABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

25. The term "vulnerability," according to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and incorporated in the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF (2018) is defined as the propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt (IPCC 2014). This vulnerability is determined by the presence and extent of three factors: exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity. Overall, a system is considered vulnerable to climate change if it has high exposure, high sensitivity, and low adaptive capacity.

26. Vulnerability of ecosystems and people to climate change differs substantially among and within regions, driven by patterns of intersecting socioeconomic development, unsustainable ocean and land use, inequity, marginalization, and historical and ongoing patterns of inequity. According to the United Nations, approximately 3.3 billion to 3.6 billion people live in places that are highly vulnerable to climate change. A high proportion of species is vulnerable to climate change. Human and ecosystem vulnerability are interdependent and current unsustainable development patterns are increasing the exposure of ecosystems and people to climate hazards (IPCC 2022).

27. Projects in the AER 2023 cohort were reviewed to assess the extent to which interventions reduced vulnerability and climate-related risk, increased resilience, and avoided maladaptation[5] (Box 1). The review of project documentation made it possible to identify whether an analysis of the factors that contribute to vulnerability was done in the project design phase. Such an analysis could include both the direct and indirect effects of climate change, as well as non-climate stressors (e.g., land use change, habitat fragmentation, pollution, and invasive species).

[5] Maladaptation refers to actions that may lead to increased risk of adverse climate-related outcomes, including via increased greenhouse gas emissions, increased or shifted vulnerability to climate change, more inequitable outcomes, or diminished welfare, now or in the future. Most often, maladaptation is an unintended consequence.

Box 1: Rating taxonomy of vulnerability components in 2023 Annual Evaluation Report

The assessment of vulnerability components included three dimensions:

a) Vulnerability analysis in the project's design: Based on a review of the project documents, a rating was assigned to projects on a five-point scale, ranging from "to a very small extent" to "to a very large extent." Projects rated as "to a very large extent" present detailed information on the vulnerability framework of the project, including whether and how each of the three components of vulnerability (exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity) were considered, if non-climate stressors were considered in the assessment, the geographic location covered by the assessment, and whether the identified components of vulnerability are clearly described in the project design.

b) Measurable framework of vulnerability reduction results: Based on a review of the results framework and the terminal evaluation, a rating was assigned to projects on a five-point scale, ranging from "to a very small extent" to "to a very large extent." Projects rated as "to a very large extent" present monitoring and evaluation systems with specific indicators that ensure evaluability of the interventions that address vulnerability. Indicators should be specific, measurable, attributable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART).

c) Vulnerability components ratings: Based on a review of the terminal evaluations, a rating was assigned to projects on a six-point scale, ranging from "highly satisfactory" to "highly unsatisfactory." Components rated as "highly satisfactory" present results commensurate with the expected outcomes (as described in project documentation) and the problems the project was intended to address; these also show a likely level of sustainability based on the quantitative and qualitative information provided in terminal evaluations.

28. The review found a consistent analysis of the vulnerability framework in 66 percent of the projects. Figure 8 presents the distribution of the extent to which projects define the vulnerability to climate change that they seek to reduce. The review identified a high level of prioritization of vulnerability to climate change in most of the projects' logical frameworks. Analyzing the highest level where projects include a vulnerability framework assessment, 43 percent of the projects reviewed include a specific goal to reduce vulnerability in their main objective, while 21 percent have it at a component level, 18 percent at an outcome level, and 18 percent at a lower level, such as output or activity (Figure 9).

Figure 8: Inclusion of a vulnerability analysis in the project's design

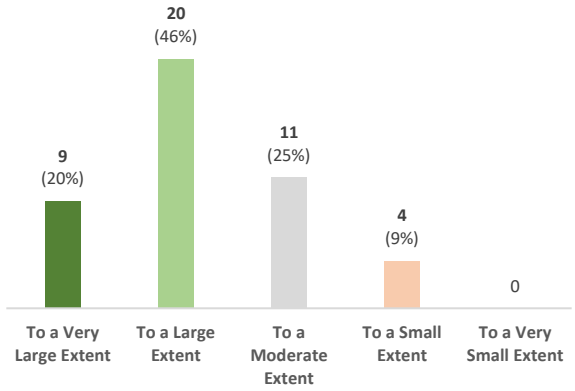
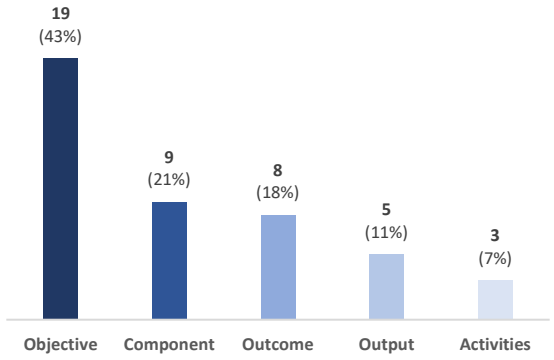


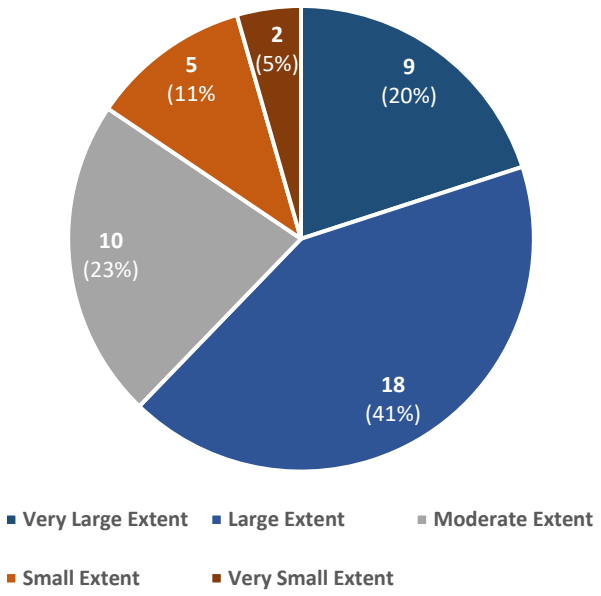
Figure 9: Level of vulnerability prioritization in the project's design



29. Projects' results frameworks were also reviewed for the inclusion of indicators that measure vulnerability interventions. Aligned with the previous findings, the reduction of vulnerabilities was explained in terms of measurable results to a large or a very large extent in 62 percent of the projects (Figure 10). This number may be explained by the fact that in 2014, the Adaptation Monitoring and Assessment Tool (AMAT) was introduced to measure progress toward achieving the outputs and outcomes established at the portfolio-level results framework.[6] The AMAT was aligned with the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF, which had as objective -1 "Reduction of vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, including variability, at local, national, regional and global level." Even if the analysis on the AER 2023 cohort did not find an extended use of the indicators proposed, it is evident that the tool provided useful guidance for adaptation projects and provided a framework for addressing the overall outcome of a project considering LDCF/SCCF goals, promoting a balance between comprehensiveness and ease of use.

[6] In 2018, the Updated Results Architecture for Adaptation to Climate Change Under the Least Developed Countries Fund and The Special Climate Change Fund (2018-2022) was introduced. This framework replaced the Adaptation Monitoring and Assessment Tool.

Figure 10: Extent of a measurable framework of vulnerability reduction results (n = 44)



30. The review also enabled identification of specific indicators used by the AER 2023 cohort that stand out as successful and could be replicated for future interventions. A summary of the most significant categories and their indicators is presented in Table 5.

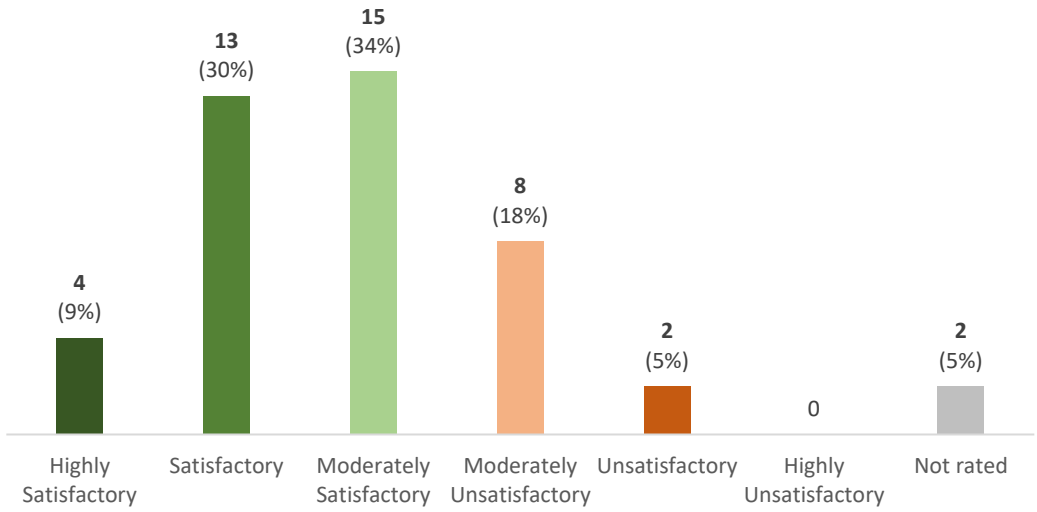
Table 5: Vulnerability indicators on the AER 2023 cohort

Category	Indicator *(target)*
Community-based interventions	**GEF ID 4797**: **Community involvement in monitoring vulnerability** in Malawi (*The community agreed upon a set of indicators in participatory M&E and were able to conduct monthly and quarterly monitoring and report to the district council*).
	GEF ID 5177: Percentage change in vulnerability of local community to climate risks in Angola *(70 percent of Vulnerability Reduction Assessment (VRA) score at the end of the project).*
	GEF ID 5184: Percentage change in local community vulnerability to climate risks through perception-based research in Sao Tome and Príncipe *(50 percent of VRA score at the end of the project).*
	GEF ID 5417: Number of people benefitting from improved flood management through implementation of hard and soft measures for protection of community assets in Samoa *(At least 12,000 people benefitted from protection of community assets)*
Risk management	**GEF ID 6915: Catastrophe risk insurance developed under the project is available through local insurance industry** in Kazakhstan *(catastrophe modeling (CAT) risk is developed and available at the end of the project).*
	GEF ID 5435: Change in frequency of fire across all districts in Zambia *(Fires reduced by 25 percent).*
	GEF ID 5015: Number of staff trained on risks of climate-induced economic losses in Tunisia *(target not specified).*
Planning	**GEF ID 5581: Percentage of targeted communities that demonstrate capacity to implement community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM)/ vulnerability and adaptation (V&A) plans to manage the impacts of natural hazards and climate change** in Solomon Islands *(At least 80 percent of targeted communities demonstrate capacity).*

	GEF ID 5075: The use of climate-driven vulnerabilities and cost-effective planning to inform the implementation of the Land Rehabilitation Programme in Lesotho *(Climate-driven vulnerabilities and cost-effective planning are used to inform the implementation of appropriate climate-smart ecosystem rehabilitation and management measures).*
	GEF ID 5671: The development of a comprehensive national coastal vulnerability assessment to inform integrated coastal management policy and planning in Timor Leste *(A comprehensive coastal vulnerability assessment is developed and used to inform policy and planning).*

31. The vulnerability components were rated based on information retrieved from terminal evaluations, which provided data on their specific results and performance. The distribution presented in Figure 11 shows a positive trend; however, it shows a lower score than the overall project outcomes (Figure 2). Thirty-three projects were assessed in the satisfactory range (73 percent compared to 91 percent for overall project outcome ratings), although most of them counted in the moderately satisfactory rating. Ten projects (22 percent) were rated in the unsatisfactory range (compared to 9 percent for overall project ratings). Considering the limitations in terms of the number of projects and the scope of the assessment, it is difficult to provide the main factors that may explain the lower score for the vulnerability components. However, seven terminal evaluations point out a lack of rigorous work in the appraisal stage, specifically in the definition of baselines (which affected the effective measurement of impacts), an absence of a proper replication strategy (making project results less significant) and no solid evidence that stakeholders used the services developed by the projects.

Figure 11: Distribution of vulnerability components ratings in the AER 2023 cohort (n = 44)



32. The assessment also reviewed the evidence on whether projects contributed to reducing people's vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change. Most of the projects (70 percent) provided data demonstrating some type of contribution to reducing vulnerability. A summary of some of the contributions is presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Contributions of projects to reduce vulnerabilities in the AER 2023 cohort

Category	Indicator *(target)*
Capacity building	• **GEF ID 5683:** 20 countries received tailored support to advance their National Adaptation Plan process. • **GEF ID 5604:** GIS-based tools have been developed and successfully disseminated and made available to municipalities and other users. • **GEF ID 5435:** Community radio farming programs had an impact not only on best-practice climate change adaptation techniques (e.g., climate-smart agriculture), but also provided a forum for promoting forest conservation and generating a sustainable income from it.
Water management	• **GEF ID 6945:** Water availability per capita was improved with more than 500 liters/person/day. • **GEF ID 4599:** Approximately 44,814 people now have access to safe drinking water as a result of the construction of 35 water facilities.
Risk management	• **GEF ID 6915:** The tool developed by the project (CatMonitor) provides scientifically proven information about the vulnerability of dwellings to earthquake risk. • **GEF ID 5581:** Communities implemented their top priority investments to address natural hazards and climate change while receiving financial and technical support from the Project Management Unit. • **GEF ID 5667:** The Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment identified ways to reduce vulnerability to climate change, such as making vessel landing sites safer, increasing discussions with the country's coastal protection unit, and promoting productive diversification practices.
Protective infrastructure	• **GEF ID 4990:** An operational community-based system has been installed with effective receipt of weather and hydrological information, including tracking and reporting of extreme events. • **GEF ID 5202:** Protective infrastructure such as protection walls, and irrigation infrastructure such as canal intake, have reduced the loss and damage caused by floods. • **GEF ID 5332:** 1,665 households (83 percent of target population) had their livelihoods enhanced due to the improved and new infrastructure (boreholes, wells, and thresholds).

33. The inference analysis of the vulnerability components in AER 2023 projects concludes that vulnerability and risk assessments are key tools that inform identification of adaptation needs and are required to strengthen the adaptation rationale of project activities. Additionally, two terminal evaluations pointed out that locally adapted solutions have the highest potential to address specific local adaptation needs (the climate resilience project GEF ID 4702 in Niger and Enhancing Capacities of Rural Communities to Pursue Climate Resilient Livelihood Options in the São Tomé and Príncipe Districts of Caué, Me-Zochi, Principe, Lemba, Cantagalo, and Lobata (CMPLCL) GEF ID 5184). Another important conclusion is that reducing vulnerabilities can also mean new income and opportunities, not just costs. The development of climate change resilience capacities, structures, and interventions need not necessarily only be about creating costs—including those related to sustainability—but can also create opportunities for community empowerment and income generation, as in the climate change adaptation project (GEF ID 5124) in Lesotho and the Community Resilience to Climate and Disaster Risk in Solomon Islands project (GEF ID 5581). For example, the project Economy-wide Integration of Climate Change Adaptation and DRM/DDR to Reduce Climate Vulnerability of Communities in Samoa

(GEF ID 5417) improved livelihood conditions in Samoa: 640 families were assessed as high-vulnerable and thus selected as beneficiaries. The terminal evaluation showed that the project's support to address household vulnerabilities also led to the development of microenterprises spanning varied activities (vegetable gardens, plantations, fishing, and mixed cropping). At the time of the evaluation field mission, this additional income generated savings of $913 per family. At an institutional level, the participation of government organizations in activities related to reducing vulnerability is more effective and sustainable when it is clearly included in the mandate of public institutions. Two terminal evaluations pointed out the need not only to improve government capacity but to integrate responsibilities in government agencies, regardless of the individuals in charge, which are often affected by a high turnover of officeholders (Building Shoreline Resilience of Timor Leste to Protect Local Communities and their Livelihoods (GEF ID 5671) and the climate-resilient livelihoods project (GEF ID 6960) in Turkmenistan).

Synthesis of lessons learned from completed projects

34. Terminal evaluations were reviewed for lessons learned. Most lessons relate to standard good practices elements in project design and implementation. Lessons identified specifically from components linked to vulnerability were also extracted. Lessons were classified into the following categories: exit strategies and institutional commitments, cofinancing, vulnerability indicators, and commitment of key stakeholders. These groupings are used below to further discuss details of lessons in the context of specific projects.

Exit strategies and institutional commitments

35. As mentioned in previous AERs, lessons learned on providing for sustainability were systematically brought up. Twelve projects emphasized the importance of clear exit strategies and follow-up commitments to ensure sustainability. For instance, the Climate Proofing Local Development Gains in Rural and Urban Areas of Machinga and Mangochi Districts project (GEF ID 4797) in Malawi included a lesson on the importance of a comprehensive exit strategy focused on institutional and financial mechanisms for sustainability from the project's design stages. This is essential because if the exit plan is developed at the design stage, it is usually well integrated into general project implementation.

Cofinancing

36. Five projects noted that the concept of cofinancing applied to GEF projects (including GEF Trust Fund, LDCF and SCCF) remains poorly understood or dealt with by multiple stakeholders. Project GEF ID 5433 in Mozambique states that the scope and responsibilities of cofinancing need to be clarified to all actors involved, including the government and other partners, to avoid any misinterpretation that limits or hinders their achievement of objectives. Also, the terminal evaluation of project GEF ID 5014 in Burkina Faso found that it is important to communicate the co-financing commitment to all stakeholders to prevent any misunderstandings that could impede the expected outcomes of the activities that are not financed by the GEF.

Vulnerability indicators

37. Six terminal evaluations mentioned the need for the results framework to clearly reflect appropriate indicators for measuring the outcomes of addressing vulnerability issues, especially those linked to non-infrastructure components (capacity building, awareness, policy, planning, and dissemination activities). For instance, the terminal evaluation of the project Effective and Responsive Island-level Governance to Secure and Diversify Climate Resilient Marine-based Coastal Livelihoods and Enhance Climate Hazard Response Capacity (GEF ID 4714) in Tuvalu observed that to ensure an accurate vulnerability framework in a project, it is crucial that expected results, indicators, and targets related to vulnerability be determined during the formulation of the project. Once it is part of the project strategy (log-frame) and of the monitoring framework, components addressing vulnerability become part of the project's implementation and of reporting project progress. Additionally, not all indicators of vulnerability components established in the appraisal are realistic and measurable. For example, the project Promoting Climate-resilient Development and Enhanced Adaptive Capacity to Withstand Disaster Risks in Angola's Cuvelai River Basin (GEF ID 5177) determined that the vulnerability results framework should not be built around indicators requiring expensive, demanding, complex, and time-consuming activities, especially when baselines are not clearly defined.

Commitment of key stakeholders

38. Identifying champions of change, especially in communities and local organizations, is critical. These people can be a key resource point, as well as important influencers of behavior change among their peers. Overall, it is essential not to underestimate the need for a strong political champion. Projects have limited prospects of success without the government's backing, and they require an internal advocate to move them forward. For example, the regional project, Climate Technology Transfer Mechanisms and Networks in Latin America and the Caribbean (GEF ID 4880), identified that an engagement strategy is needed to define clear sustainability lines and institutional commitments related to the monitoring of the investments made. Also, the Strengthening Land & Ecosystem Management Under Conditions of Climate Change in the Niayes and Casamance Regions—Republic of Senegal project (GEF ID 5566) showed that the lack of a committed focal point at the local level affected the project's outcome in terms of the number of beneficiaries and their subsequent mobilization to complete the activities successfully.

VII. MANAGEMENT ACTION RECORD

39. The Management Action Record (MAR) has been presented annually to the GEF Council since June 2006. It is the main accountability mechanism to monitor and report on the progress in implementation of recommendations of evaluations prepared by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office. Prior to 2021, the Council endorsed the recommendations, and the GEF IEO tracked implementation of the recommendations. The GEF Secretariat provided a management response to the IEO evaluations and recommendations, but the specific actions included in the management response were not endorsed by the Council.

40. As a follow-up to the Professional Peer Review of the Independent Evaluation Function of the Global Environment Facility (2019), the GEF approach to the MAR was revised. As part of this revision, GEF management responds to each GEF IEO evaluation recommendation with an action plan, and the Council comments on and endorses this action plan. The GEF IEO then tracks progress in implementation of the GEF management's action plan. In the wake of the revised MAR process, the GEF Council began to endorse management's action plans in June 2021. The 2023 MAR is the first MAR that is being prepared using the revised approach.

41. The management response to a GEF IEO recommendation indicates whether it agrees with the recommendation. Where the management agrees with a recommendation—including instances where it partially agrees—it is expected to identify specific actions, along with a time frame, where appropriate, to address it. In instances where management disagrees with a recommendation, it is not expected to provide an action plan to address the recommendation.

Rating Approach

42. For each of the recommendation for which implementation of the management's action plan is tracked, GEF Management was invited to provide self-ratings on the progress in implementation along with commentary as necessary. Ratings and commentary on tracked recommendations are also provided by the GEF IEO for validation.

43. The scale for assessment of the level of implementation of the management action plan is analogous to that used in earlier MARs. However, the description of the ratings has been updated to reflect the revised MAR process. The implementation progress ratings are as follows:

(a) **High**: The management action plan for the relevant recommendation has been fully implemented.

(b) **Substantial.** The management action plan for the relevant recommendation has largely been implemented or most actions have been implemented, but some aspects/actions have not been fully implemented.

(c) **Medium.** Some of the actions listed in the management's action plan have been implemented but not to a significant degree. While some of the specified actions have been implemented, there is only a limited progress in implementation of the key specified actions.

(d) **Negligible.** Specified actions have not yet been implemented or the progress made so far is negligible.

(e) **Not rated.**

(f) **N/A.** Not applicable.

44. The evaluation recommendations and the related management action plans may be graduated or retired from the MAR for one or more of the following reasons:

(a) **Graduated** due to high or, where appropriate, substantial level of implementation of the management's action plan.

(b) **Retired** because the evaluation recommendation and related action plan are not relevant anymore, or further progress on implementation of the action plan is unlikely. An automatic reason for retirement would be if a recommendation and the related action plan have been reported on in the MAR for five years.

LDCF/SCCF MAR 2023

45. MAR 2023 for the LDCF/SCCF tracks progress in implementation of management's action plan for one GEF IEO recommendation for the 2020 LDCF Program Evaluation (GEF IEO 2020). One recommendation from the 2020 LDCF Program Evaluation and one recommendation from the 2021 SCCF Program Evaluation were excluded from the MAR because the management response—despite being in broad agreement with the recommendation—did not include concrete actions that can be tracked.

46. **GEF IEO Recommendation:** Continue to enhance the likelihood of the sustainability of outcomes. The GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies should continue to carry out relevant actions in project design and implementation as highlighted in the GEF Council document "Towards Greater Durability of GEF Investments."[7] This should entail giving more emphasis to the project and context factors identified by this evaluation as affecting the sustainability of outcomes during project design and implementation.

47. **Level of GEF Management's Agreement and its response including specified actions:** agreed. The Secretariat acknowledges the GEF IEO's recommendation to continue to enhance the likelihood of sustainability of outcomes. In this regard, *the Secretariat will continue to carry out relevant actions in project design and implementation as highlighted in the Council document "Towards Greater Durability of GEF Investments," as recommended by the IEO, and will continue to urge Agencies to emphasize contextual factors affecting sustainability outcomes.* No timeframe was indicated.

48. **GEF Secretariat's assessment of progress in the implementation of its action plan** – rating: substantial. In the GEF-8 period, the GEF Secretariat is implementing dedicated programs which aim to enhance the quality at entry and sustainability of LDCF projects, as recommended by this evaluation. Of particular relevance is the dedicated program on outreach and capacity support for country planning and programming, and another program on organizational learning and coordination.

49. The GEF Secretariat is organizing subregional workshops with least developed country representatives, technical personnel, civil society organizations, and agencies to help raise capacity and facilitate stakeholder engagement and coordination. These factors have been identified in the evaluation as contributing to sustainability.

50. The Secretariat also provides relevant, science-based guidance to Agencies to elevate the likelihood of sustainability of LDCF programming, such as STAP guidance on climate risk management; and information on GEF policies designed to ensure the robustness and

[7] This Council document (GEF/C.57/08) was prepared by the GEF Secretariat and submitted to Council at its December 2019 session.

sustainability of project outcomes, which are regularly communicated to Agencies (such as on Stakeholder Engagement and Gender Equality). These guidelines and policies are also directly communicated to countries through expanded constituency workshops, national dialogues, and Introduction Seminars. These measures, as well as the GEF Secretariat's project/program review process, which includes both technical and policy review followed by a review by STAP, aim at ensuring strong project design.

51. Some measures identified in the IEO's 2020 LDCF Evaluation are beyond the scope of direct GEF Secretariat influence, namely "insufficient capacity of the project team, staff turnover and delays in recruitment" and "weak project management." These issues pertain to weaknesses at the Agency or country level that the GEF Secretariat has no means or mandate to oversee. We hope also that evaluators will recall the very difficult circumstances in which LDCF projects tend to be implemented.

52. **The GEF IEO's validation of reported implementation progress** – rating: medium. The launching of the dedicated programs (1) Communications and visibility enhancements; (2). Outreach and capacity support for LDCF and SIDS planning and programming; and (3). Organizational learning and coordination) in GEF-8 and other ongoing efforts is acknowledged.

53. The GEF IEO will track the implementation of the dedicated programs, in line with the four main themes of the durability document: (1) theory of change, (2) multi-stakeholder processes, (3) stakeholder involvement, and (4) adaptive learning as well as the Secretariat's continuation of urging Agencies to emphasize contextual factors affecting sustainability of outcomes.

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IX. ANNEX A: TERMINAL EVALUATION REPORT REVIEW GUIDELINES

1. The assessments in the terminal evaluation reviews will be based largely on the information presented in the terminal evaluation report. If insufficient information is presented in a terminal evaluation report to assess a specific issue, such as, for example, quality of the project's monitoring and evaluation system or a specific aspect of sustainability, then the preparer of the terminal evaluation reviews will briefly indicate so in that section and elaborate more, if appropriate, in the section of the review that addresses quality of report. If the review's preparer possesses other first-hand information, such as, for example, from a field visit to the project, and this information is relevant to the terminal evaluation reviews, then it should be included in the reviews only under the heading "Additional independent information available to the reviewer." The preparer of the terminal evaluation review will take into account all the independent relevant information when verifying ratings.

B.1 Criteria for Outcome Ratings

2. Based on the information provided in the terminal evaluation report, the terminal evaluation review will make an assessment of the extent to which the project's major relevant objectives were achieved or are expected to be achieved,[8] relevance of the project results, and the project's cost-effectiveness. The ratings on the outcomes of the project will be based on performance on the following criteria:[9]

- **Relevance.** Were project outcomes consistent with the focal area/operational program strategies and country priorities? Explain.
- **Effectiveness.** Are project outcomes commensurate with the expected outcomes (as described in the project document) and the problems the project was intended to address (that is, the original or modified project objectives)?
- **Efficiency.** Include an assessment of outcomes and impacts in relation to inputs, costs, and implementation times based on the following questions: Was the project cost-effective? How does the project's cost/time versus outcomes equation compare to that of similar projects? Was the project implementation delayed as a result of any bureaucratic, administrative, or political problems and did that affect cost-effectiveness?

3. An overall rating will be provided according to the achievement and shortcomings in the three criteria, ranging from highly satisfactory, satisfactory, moderately satisfactory, moderately unsatisfactory, unsatisfactory, highly unsatisfactory, and unable to assess.

[8] *Objectives* are the intended physical, financial, institutional, social, environmental, or other development results to which a project or program is expected to contribute (OECD DAC 2002).

[9] *Outcomes* are the likely or achieved short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention's outputs. Outputs are the products, capital goods, and services that result from a development intervention; these may also include changes resulting from the intervention that are relevant to the achievement of outcomes (OECD DAC 2002). For the GEF, environmental outcomes are the main focus.

4. The reviewer of the terminal evaluation will provide a rating under each of the three criteria (relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency). Relevance of outcomes will be rated on a binary scale: a satisfactory or an unsatisfactory rating will be provided. If an unsatisfactory rating has been provided on this criterion, the overall outcome achievement rating may not be higher than unsatisfactory. Effectiveness and efficiency will be rated as following:

- **Highly satisfactory.** The project had no shortcomings.
- **Satisfactory.** The project had minor shortcomings.
- **Moderately satisfactory.** The project had moderate shortcomings.
- **Moderately unsatisfactory.** The project had noticeable shortcomings.
- **Unsatisfactory. The project had major shortcomings.**
- **Highly unsatisfactory.** The project had severe shortcomings.
- **Unable to assess.** The reviewer was unable to assess outcomes on this dimension.

5. The calculation of the overall outcomes score of projects will consider all three criteria, of which relevance criterion will be applied first; the overall outcome achievement rating may not be higher than unsatisfactory. The second constraint that is applied is that the overall outcome achievement rating may not be higher than the effectiveness rating. The third constraint that is applied is that the overall rating may not be higher than the average score of effectiveness and efficiency criteria calculated using the following formula:

Outcomes = (b + c) ÷ 2

6. In case the average score is lower than the score obtained after application of the first two constraints, then the average score will be the overall score. The score will then be converted into an overall rating with mid values being rounded up upwards.

B.2 Impacts

7. Has the project achieved impacts, or is it likely that outcomes will lead to the expected impacts? Impacts will be understood to include positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by a development intervention. They could be produced directly or indirectly and could be intended or unintended. The terminal evaluation review's preparer will take note of any mention of impacts, especially global environmental benefits, in the terminal evaluation report, including the likelihood that the project outcomes will contribute to their achievement. Negative impacts mentioned in the terminal evaluation report should be noted and recorded in section 2 of the terminal evaluation reviews template in the subsection on "Issues that require follow-up." Although project impacts will be described, they will not be rated.

B.3 Criteria for Sustainability Ratings

8. Sustainability will be understood as the likelihood of continuation of project benefits after completion of project implementation (GEF 2000). To assess sustainability, the terminal evaluation reviewer will identify and assess the key risks that could undermine continuation of benefits at the time of the evaluation. Some of these risks might include the absence of or inadequate financial resources, an enabling legal framework, commitment from key stakeholders, and enabling economy. The following four types of risk factors will be assessed by the terminal evaluation reviewer to rate the likelihood of sustainability of project outcomes: financial, sociopolitical, institutional frameworks and governance, and environmental.

9. The following questions provide guidance to assess if the factors are met:

- **Financial resources.** What is the likelihood that financial resources will be available to continue the activities that result in the continuation of benefits (income-generating activities, and trends that may indicate that it is likely that in future there will be adequate financial resources for sustaining project outcomes)?
- **Sociopolitical.** Are there any social or political risks that can undermine the longevity of project outcomes? What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership is insufficient to allow for project outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Do the various key stakeholders see in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow? Is there sufficient public/stakeholder awareness in support of the long-term objectives of the project?
- **Institutional framework and governance.** Do the legal frameworks, policies, and governance structures and processes pose any threat to the continuation of project benefits? While assessing this parameter, consider if the required systems for accountability and transparency, and the required technical know-how, are in place.
- **Environmental.** Are there any environmental risks that can undermine the future flow of project environmental benefits? The terminal evaluation should assess whether certain activities in the project area will pose a threat to the sustainability of project outcomes. For example, construction of a dam in a protected area could inundate a sizable area and thereby neutralize the biodiversity-related gains made by the project.

10. The reviewer will provide a rating as follows:

- **Likely.** There are no risks affecting that criterion of sustainability.
- **Moderately likely.** There are moderate risks that affect that criterion of sustainability.

- **Moderately unlikely.** There are significant risks that affect that criterion of sustainability.
- **Unlikely.** There are severe risks affecting that criterion of sustainability.
- **Unable to assess.** Unable to assess risk on this dimension.
- **Not applicable.** This dimension is not applicable to the project.

B.4 Criteria for Assessment of Quality of Project M&E Systems

11. GEF projects are required to develop M&E plans by the time of work program inclusion, to appropriately budget M&E plans, and to fully carry out the M&E plan during implementation. Project managers are also expected to use the information generated by the M&E system during project implementation to improve and adapt the project to changing situations. Given the long-term nature of many GEF projects, projects are also encouraged to include long-term monitoring plans that measure results (such as environmental results) after project completion. Terminal evaluation reviews will include an assessment of the achievement and shortcomings of M&E systems.

- **M&E design.** Project should have a sound M&E plan to monitor results and track progress in achieving project objectives. An M&E plan should include a baseline (including data, methodology, and so on), SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely) indicators and data analysis systems, and evaluation studies at specific times to assess results. The time frame for various M&E activities and standards for outputs should have been specified. Questions to guide this assessment include: In retrospect, was the M&E plan at entry practicable and sufficient (sufficient and practical indicators identified; timely baseline; targets created; effective use of data collection; analysis systems including studies and reports; practical organization and logistics in terms of what, who, and when for M&E activities)?
- **M&E plan implementation.** The M&E system was in place and allowed the timely tracking of results and progress toward project objectives throughout the project. Annual project reports were complete, accurate, and with well-justified ratings. The information provided by the M&E system was used to improve and adapt project performance. An M&E system should be in place with proper training for parties responsible for M&E activities to ensure that data will continue to be collected and used after project closure. Question to guide this assessment include: Did the project M&E system operate throughout the project? How was M&E information used during the project? Did it allow for tracking of progress toward project objectives? Did the project provide proper training for parties responsible for M&E activities to ensure data will continue to be collected and used after project closure?
- **Other questions.** This includes questions on funding and whether the M&E system was a good practice.

- Was sufficient funding provided for M&E—in the budget included in the project document?
- Was sufficient and timely funding provided—for M&E during project implementation?
- Can the project M&E system be considered—a good practice?

12. A number rating 1–6 will be provided for each criterion according to the achievement and shortcomings, with highly satisfactory = 6, satisfactory = 5, moderately satisfactory = 4, moderately unsatisfactory = 3, unsatisfactory = 2, highly unsatisfactory = 1, and unable to assess = no rating. The reviewer of the terminal evaluation will provide a rating under each of the three criteria (M&E design, M&E plan implementation, and M&E properly budgeted and funded) as follows:

- **Highly satisfactory.** There were no shortcomings in that criterion of the project M&E system.
- **Satisfactory.** There were minor shortcomings in that criterion of the project M&E system.
- **Moderately satisfactory.** There were moderate shortcomings in that criterion of the project M&E system.
- **Moderately unsatisfactory.** There were significant shortcomings in that criterion of the project M&E system.
- **Unsatisfactory.** There were major shortcomings in that criterion of the project M&E system.
- **Highly unsatisfactory.** There was no project M&E system.

The rating for M&E during implementation will be the overall rating of the M&E system:

Rating on the Quality of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation System = b

B.5 Criteria for Assessment of Quality of Terminal Evaluation Reports

13. The ratings on quality of terminal evaluation reports will be assessed using the following criteria:

- The report presents an assessment of all relevant outcomes and achievement of project objectives in the context of the focal area program indicators, if applicable.
- The report was consistent, the evidence presented was complete and convincing, and ratings were well substantiated.
- The report presented a sound assessment of sustainability of outcomes.
- The lessons and recommendations are supported by the evidence presented and are relevant to the portfolio and future projects.

- The report included the actual project costs (totals, per activity and per source) and actual cofinancing used.
- The report included an assessment of the quality of the M&E plan at entry, the M&E system used during implementation, and whether the information generated by the M&E system was used for project management.

14. A number rating 1–6 will be provided for each criterion according to the achievement and shortcomings with highly satisfactory = 6, satisfactory = 5, moderately satisfactory = 4, moderately unsatisfactory = 3, unsatisfactory = 2, highly unsatisfactory = 1, and unable to assess = no rating.

Each criterion to assess the quality of the terminal evaluation will be rated as follows:

- **Highly satisfactory.** There were no shortcomings in the terminal evaluation on this criterion.
- **Satisfactory.** There were minor shortcomings in the terminal evaluation on this criterion.
- **Moderately satisfactory.** There were moderate shortcomings in the **terminal evaluation on this criterion.**
- **Moderately unsatisfactory.** There were significant shortcomings in the terminal evaluation on this criterion.
- **Unsatisfactory.** There were major shortcomings in the terminal evaluation on this criterion.
- **Highly unsatisfactory.** There were severe shortcomings in the terminal evaluation on this criterion.

15. The first two criteria (of all relevant outcomes and achievements of project objectives, and report consistency and substantiation of claims with proper evidence) are more important, and, therefore, have been assigned a greater weight. The quality of the terminal evaluation reports will be calculated by the following formula:

Quality of the Terminal Evaluation Report = 0.3 × (a + b) + 0.1 × (c + d + e + f)

The total number will be rounded and converted to the scale of highly satisfactory to highly unsatisfactory.

B.6 Assessment of Processes Affecting Attainment of Project Outcomes and Sustainability

16. This section of the terminal evaluation review will summarize the factors or processes related to implementation delays and cofinancing that may have affected attainment of project results. This section will summarize the description in the terminal evaluation on key causal linkages of these factors:

- Cofinancing and project outcomes and sustainability. If there was a difference in the level of expected cofinancing and actual cofinancing, what were the reasons for it? To what extent did materialization of cofinancing affect project outcomes or sustainability, or both? What were the causal linkages of these effects?

Delays and project outcomes and sustainability. If there were delays, what were the reasons for them? To what extent did the delay affect project outcomes or sustainability, or both? What were the causal linkages of these effects?

X. ANNEX B: OUTCOME, SUSTAINABILITY, AND M&E RATINGS OF COMPLETED LDCF AND SCCF PROJECTS IN AER 2023

GEF ID	GEF phase	Fund	Agency	Project title	Country	Grant (M$)	Outcome rating	Sustaina-bility rating	M&E design at entry rating	M&E plan implemen-tation rating
4434	GEF-5	LDCF	FAO	Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity and Resilience of Rural Communities Using Micro Watershed Approaches to Climate Change and Variability to Attain Sustainable Food Security	Cambodia	5.2	MS	MU	S	MU
4599	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Building Adaptive Capacity to Catalyze Active Public and Private Sector Participation to Manage the Exposure and Sensitivity of Water Supply Services to Climate Change in Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	2.9	S	MU	MS	MS
4610	GEF-5	SCCF	IDB	Adaptation to Climate Impacts in Water Regulation and Supply for the Area of Chingaza - Sumapaz - Guerrero	Colombia	4.2	S	L	S	MS
4700	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Integrating Community-based Adaptation into Afforestation and Reforestation Programmes in Bangladesh	Banglades h	5.7	S	ML	S	S
4702	GEF-5	LDCF	FAO	Integrating Climate Resilience into Agricultural and Pastoral Production for Food Security in Vulnerable Rural Areas through the Farmers Field School Approach	Niger	3.8	MS	ML	S	MU
4714	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Effective and Responsive Island-level Governance to Secure and Diversify Climate Resilient Marine-based Coastal	Tuvalu	4.2	S	ML	MS	S

GEF ID	GEF phase	Fund	Agency	Project title	Country	Grant (M$)	Outcome rating	Sustaina-bility rating	M&E design at entry rating	M&E plan implemen-tation rating
				Livelihoods and Enhance Climate Hazard Response Capacity						
4775	GEF-5	GET, MTF, SCCF	FAO	Promotion of Climate-smart Livestock Management Integrating Reversion of Land Degradation and Reduction of Desertification Risks in Vulnerable Provinces	Ecuador	3.9	HS	MU	HS	HS
4797	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Climate Proofing Local Development Gains in Rural and Urban Areas of Machinga and Mangochi Districts	Malawi	5.3	S	ML	S	S
4880	GEF-5	GET, MTF, SCCF	IDB	Climate Technology Transfer Mechanisms and Networks in Latin America and the Caribbean	Latin America and Caribbean	10.9	S	ML	MU	MS
4901	GEF-5	SCCF	World Bank	India: Sustainable Livelihoods and Adaptation to Climate Change (SLACC)	India	8.0	MS	NR	NR	U
4958	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Climate Risk Finance for Sustainable and Climate Resilient Rainfed Farming and Pastoral Systems	Sudan	5.7	S	MU	MS	MU
4971	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Adapting Natural Resource Dependent Livelihoods to Climate induced Risks in Selected Landscaqpes in Burkina Faso: the Boucle du Mouhoun Forest Corridor and the Mare d'Oursi Wetlands Basin	Burkina Faso	7.0	MS	MU	S	S
4990	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Community Disaster Risk Management in Burundi	Burundi	8.7	MS	MU	MS	MS
5004	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Sao Tome and Principe for Climate Resilient	Sao Tome and Principe	4.0	MS	U	MS	MU

GEF ID	GEF phase	Fund	Agency	Project title	Country	Grant (M$)	Outcome rating	Sustaina-bility rating	M&E design at entry rating	M&E plan implemen-tation rating
				Development and Adaptation to Climate Change						
5014	GEF-5	LDCF	FAO	Integrating Climate Resilience into Agricultural and Pastoral Production for Food Security in Vulnerable Rural Areas Through the Farmers Field School Approach.	Burkina Faso	3.8	S	L	S	S
5015	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Implementing Urgent Adaptation Priorities Through Strengthened Decentralized and National Development Plans.	Malawi	4.5	HS	ML	S	S
5049	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Zone in Vanuatu	Vanuatu	8.0	MS	MU	S	MS
5075	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Reducing Vulnerability from Climate Change in the Foothills, Lowlands and the Lower Senqu River Basin	Lesotho	8.4	MS	MU	S	MS
5105	GEF-5	SCCF	UNDP	Addressing Climate Change Vulnerabilities and Risks in Vulnerable Coastal Areas of Tunisia	Tunisia	5.5	MS	MU	S	MS
5124	GEF-5	LDCF	FAO	Strengthening Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation through Support to Integrated Watershed Management Programme in Lesotho	Lesotho	3.6	S	ML	MS	MS
5177	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Promoting Climate-resilient Development and Enhanced Adaptive Capacity to Withstand Disaster Risks in Angola's Cuvelai River Basin	Angola	8.2	MU	MU	MU	MU
5184	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Enhancing Capacities of Rural Communities to Pursue Climate Resilient Livelihood Options in the Sao	Sao Tome and Principe	4.0	S	MU	S	MS

GEF ID	GEF phase	Fund	Agency	Project title	Country	Grant (M$)	Outcome rating	Sustaina-bility rating	M&E design at entry rating	M&E plan implemen-tation rating
				Tome and Principe Districts of Caué, Me-Zochi, Principe, Lemba, Cantagalo, and Lobata (CMPLCL)						
5192	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Strengthening the Resilience of Women Producer Group's and Vulnerable Communities in Mali	Mali	5.5	MS	MU	MS	MS
5202	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Strengthening the Resilience of Rural Livelihood Options for Afghan Communities in Panjshir, Balkh, Uruzgan and Herat Provinces to Manage Climate Change-induced Disaster Risks	Afghanistan	9.0	S	MU	S	MS
5270	GEF-5	GET, LDCF, MTF	World Bank	GGW Natural Resources Management in a Changing Climate in Mali	Mali	8.4	MS	NR	NR	U
5318	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Cambodia to Support Climate Resilient Development and Adaptation to Climate Change	Cambodia	4.9	S	ML	S	MS
5332	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Supporting Rural Community Adaptation to Climate Change in Mountain Regions of Djibouti	Djibouti	5.4	MS	MU	S	MU
5343	GEF-5	SCCF	UNDP	Scaling Up Community Resilience to Climate Variability and Climate Change in Northern Namibia, with a Special Focus on Women and Children	Namibia	3.1	MS	MU	MS	MS
5380	GEF-5	GET, LDCF, MTF	UNDP	Increasing Resilience of Ecosystems and Vulnerable Communities to CC and Anthropic Threats Through a Ridge to	Haiti	9.1	S	ML	S	S

GEF ID	GEF phase	Fund	Agency	Project title	Country	Grant (M$)	Outcome rating	Sustaina-bility rating	M&E design at entry rating	M&E plan implemen-tation rating
				Reef Approach to BD Conservation and Watershed Management						
5417	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Economy-wide Integration of Climate Change Adaptation and DRM/DRR to Reduce Climate Vulnerability of Communities in Samoa	Samoa	12.3	S	ML	S	MS
5419	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Reducing the Vulnerability of Cambodian Rural Livelihoods through Enhanced sub-national Climate Change Planning and Execution of Priority Actions	Cambodia	4.6	S	ML	S	S
5433	GEF-5	LDCF	FAO	Strengthening Capacities of Agricultural Producers to Cope with Climate Change for Increased Food Security through the Farmers Field School Approach	Mozambiq ue	9.0	S	ML	HS	S
5435	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Promoting Climate Resilient Community-based Regeneration of Indigenous Forests in Zambia's Central Province	Zambia	3.9	MU	MU	U	U
5503	GEF-5	LDCF	FAO	Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate-resilient Rural Livelihoods in Vulnerable Rural Areas through the Farmer Field School Methodology	Senegal	6.2	MS	MU	MS	U
5566	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Strengthening Land & Ecosystem Management Under Conditions of Climate Change in the Niayes and Casamance regions- Republic of Senegal	Senegal	4.1	MS	ML	MU	U

GEF ID	GEF phase	Fund	Agency	Project title	Country	Grant (M$)	Outcome rating	Sustaina-bility rating	M&E design at entry rating	M&E plan implemen-tation rating
5581	GEF-5	LDCF	World Bank	Community Resilience to Climate and Disaster Risk in Solomon Islands Project	Solomon Islands	7.3	MS	NR	NR	U
5604	GEF-5	SCCF	UNDP	Technology Transfer for Climate Resilient Flood Management in Vrbas River Basin	Bosnia-Herzegovina	5.0	S	ML	S	S
5667	GEF-5	SCCF	FAO	Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector	Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Regional	5.5	MS	ML	MS	MS
5671	GEF-5	LDCF	UNDP	Building Shoreline Resilience of Timor Leste to Protect Local Communities and their Livelihoods	Timor Leste	7.0	MU	U	S	U
5683	GEF-5	SCCF	UNDP	Assisting non- LDC Developing Countries with Country-driven Processes to Advance National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)	Global	4.5	MS	ML	S	MS
6915	GEF-6	SCCF	World Bank	Southeast Europe and Central Asia Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility	Kazakhstan	5.0	S	NR	NR	MU

GEF ID	GEF phase	Fund	Agency	Project title	Country	Grant (M$)	Outcome rating	Sustaina-bility rating	M&E design at entry rating	M&E plan implemen-tation rating
6945	GEF-6	SCCF	UNDP	Strengthening Capacities of Rural Aqueduct Associations' (ASADAS) to Address Climate Change Risks in Water Stressed Communities of Northern Costa Rica	Costa Rica	5.0	S	ML	S	S
6955	GEF-6	SCCF	FAO	Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector	Chile	2.5	MU	MU	MU	MU
6960	GEF-6	SCCF	UNDP	Supporting Climate Resilient Livelihoods in Agricultural Communities in Drought-prone Areas	Turkmenistan	3.0	S	MU	S	MS

Source: GEF IEO terminal evaluation review data set.

Note: Grant is LDCF/SCCF/GEF funding approved at CEO endorsement, plus PPG. Agency fees are excluded. Outcome, M&E design and M&E implementation ratings are reported on a six-point rating scale: Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), and Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). Sustainability ratings are reported on a four-point rating scale: Likely (L), Moderately Likely (ML), Moderately Unlikely (U). Any category may also be Not rated (NR) or rated Unable to assess (UA). ADB = Asian Development Bank; AfDB = African Development Bank; CI = Conservation International; FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; IDB = Inter-American Development Bank; LDCF = Least Developed Countries Fund; SCCF = Special Climate Change Fund; UNDP = United Nations Development Programme; UNEP = United Nations Environmental Programme.