



Independent
Evaluation Office
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Enhancing global environmental benefits through
excellence in evaluation



The GEF in the Changing Environment Finance Landscape

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Outline

1 GEF and the global environment

2 GEF performance and impact

Climate change

3 Innovative approaches

Land degradation and value for money

Transformational change

4 Conclusions

SECTION 1

GEF and the Global Environment



**Climate
change**



**International
waters**



**Chemicals
and waste**



Biodiversity



Forests



**Land
degradation**

Strategic relevance

Conventions. Main funding mechanism for:



Convention on Biological Diversity

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNEP MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Countries

More than
140
recipient
countries

Support for
middle
income
countries
remains
important

Support to
**LDCs and
SIDS**
has increased

Also relevant to the





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SECTION 2

Evaluating Performance and Impact

Independent evaluation in the GEF

- ▶ “There shall be an independent evaluation office headed by a director, appointed by and reporting to the Council, whose responsibility it is to carry out independent evaluations consistent with decisions of the Council” [GEF Instrument para 21(i)]
- ▶ Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF conducted by IEO every 4 years as core input to the Replenishment process.

Objective

To provide solid evaluative evidence to inform the replenishment negotiations for

GEF-7

Methodology

29 evaluations and studies

Mix of qualitative and quantitative approaches including geospatial analysis

Formative approaches to evaluate ongoing programs

Limitations

Limitations imposed by data and timing

Site visits to all regions



Performance and Impact



Satisfactory outcomes



of projects have outcomes that are likely to be sustained

Drivers of good performance:

- Project design
- Quality of implementation and execution
- Materialized co-financing

- Performance and sustainability of outcomes > in **middle income countries**
- Institutional capacity challenges in Africa

PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT

Broader adoption and transformational change



of projects achieved
broader adoption



of projects achieved
environmental stress reduction

Mechanisms for broader adoption:

- + Mainstreaming and replication
- Scaling-up and market change

Success factors for transformational change:

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

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Common findings

Relevant to conventions

Strong performance ratings on outcomes with limited variation

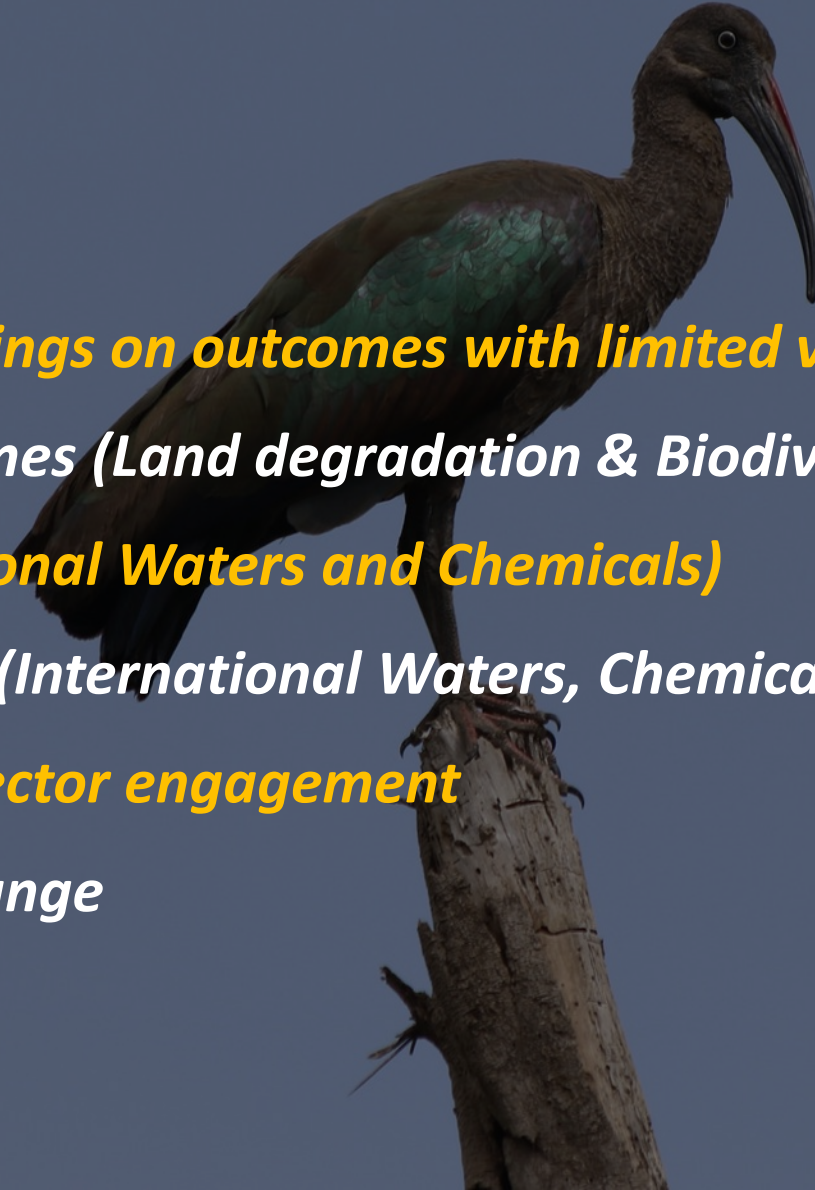
Sustainability of outcomes (Land degradation & Biodiversity)

M&E Design (International Waters and Chemicals)

M&E Implementation (International Waters, Chemicals and Multifocal)

Variation in private sector engagement

Transformational change





GEF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION Strategy

GEF-3

Power sector policy
frameworks for
energy efficiency

Enabling activities
and capacity
building

GEF-4

Residential,
commercial,
industrial EE

GEF-5

Investments in
renewable
energy
technologies

Market
Transformation
for energy
efficiency

GEF-6

Integrated low-
carbon urban
systems

GEF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION Portfolio



Energy efficiency



Renewable energy



Climate-smart agriculture



Sustainable transport



Sustainable forest management

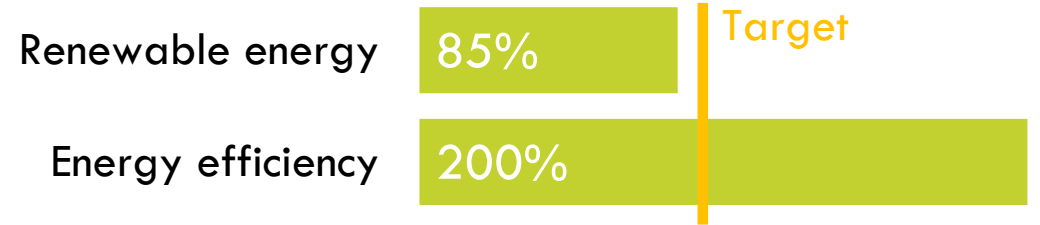
GEF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

Benefits and lessons

71%

of completed projects
achieved significant GHG
avoidance

Emissions avoidance achieved



Adoption

Stakeholders **59%**

Broader **26%**

Success factors

- Comprehensive approaches to address market barriers
- Facilitate supported policy frameworks

GEF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

Project examples

China

India

Mexico

Russia



Catalytic effects in closed projects

~70% | mainstreaming

~30% | replication, scaling up, market changes

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Climate change: Added value and complementarity

Significant and flexible grant financing

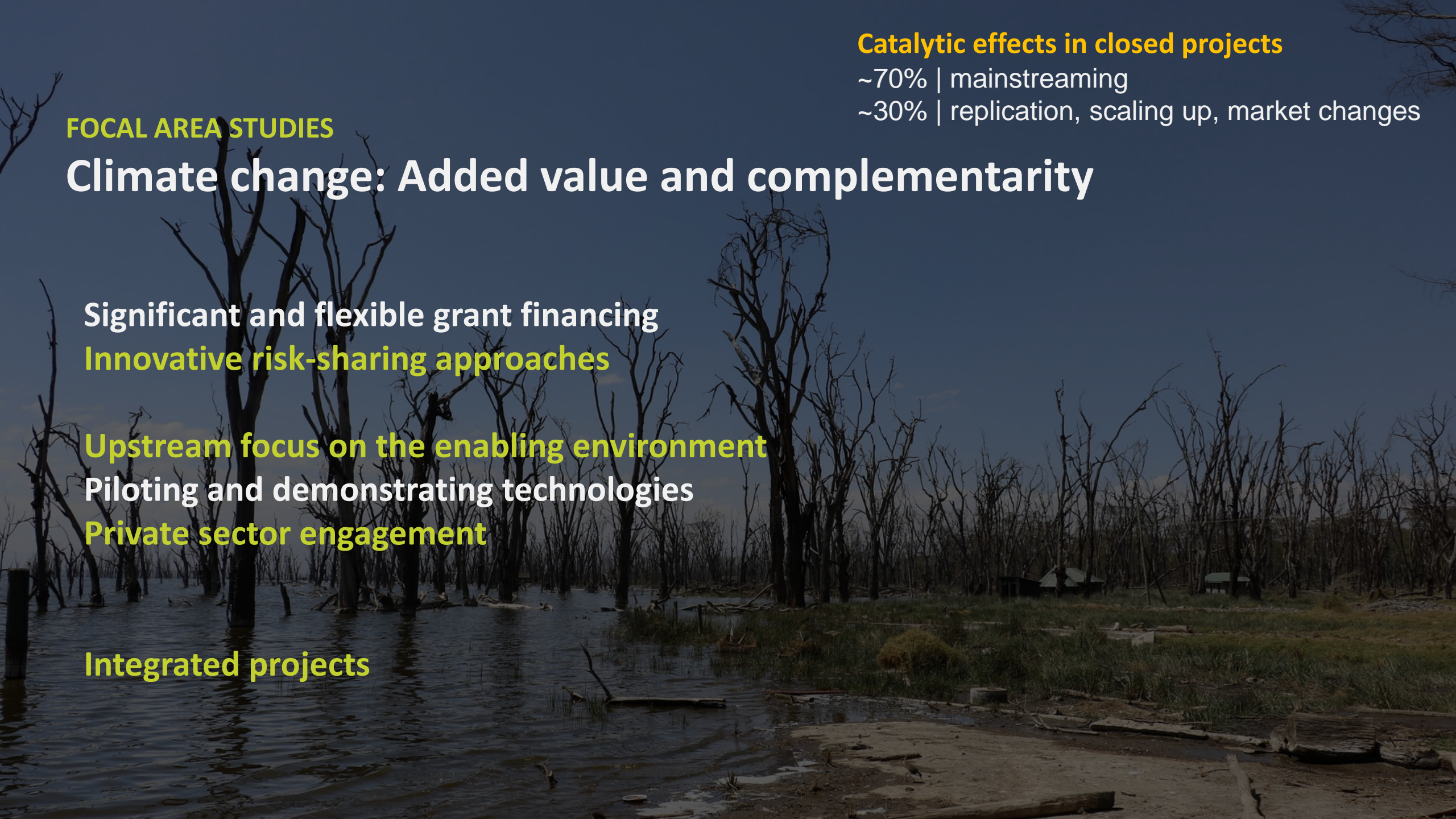
Innovative risk-sharing approaches

Upstream focus on the enabling environment

Piloting and demonstrating technologies

Private sector engagement

Integrated projects



FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Climate change



Highly relevant to
UNFCCC



Important role in
strengthening enabling
environment



GHG emission reductions
(a) Significant contributions
from other focal areas
(b) Inadequate measurement

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

**Climate change
changing landscape**

Niche areas

Upstream approaches
including policy reform
to accelerate market
development and create
an enabling
environment for
investment

Risk sharing
approaches

Piloting
innovative
technologies

Collaborating
with other
climate funds and
MDBs to scale up
investments



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SECTION 3

Innovative Approaches to Evaluation



Land Degradation and Value for Money

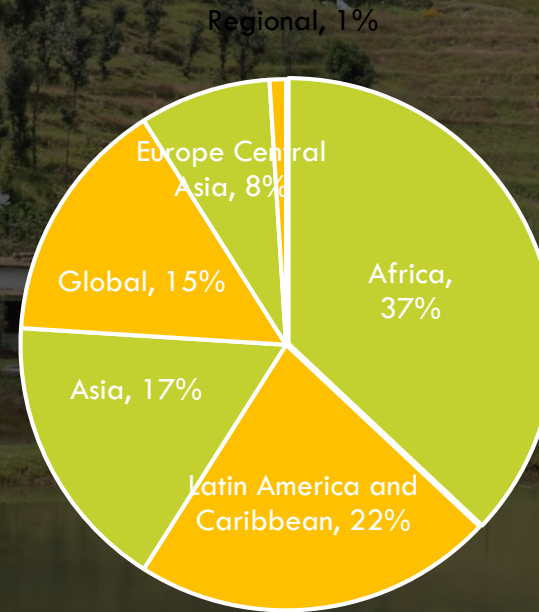
LAND DEGRADATION

Portfolio

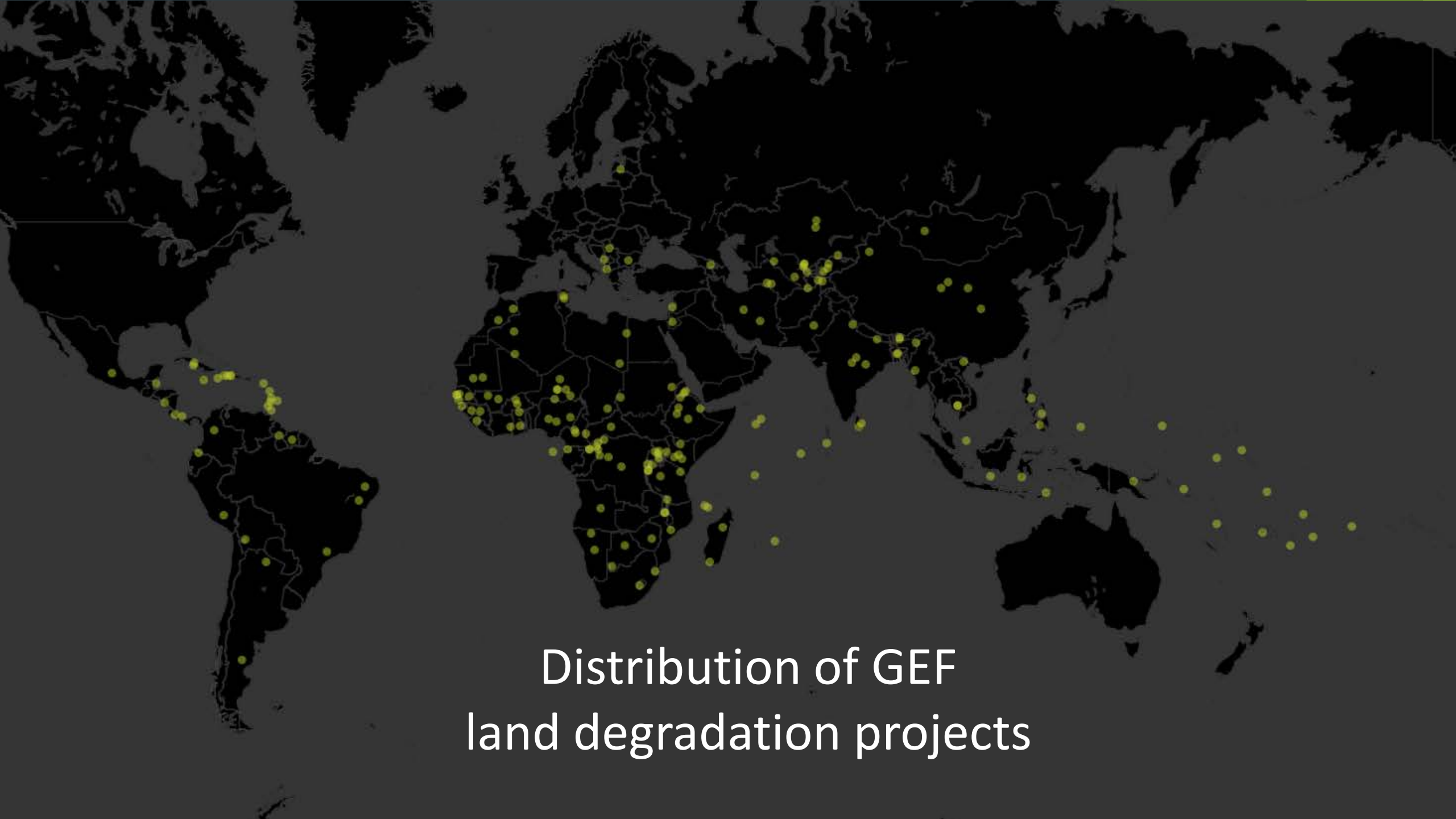
\$3.4 billion

**618 projects
with an LD
component (58%
multifocal)**

**Cofinancing
20.4
billion**

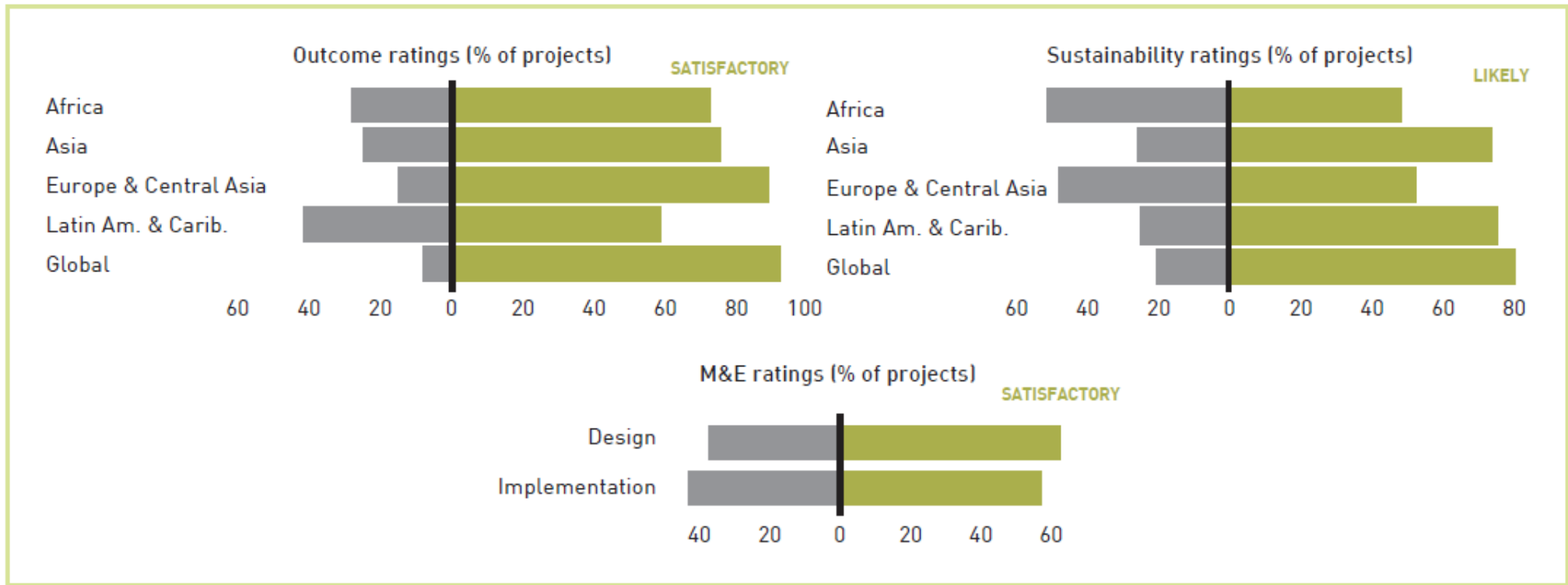


**Shift towards
integrated
landscapes**



Distribution of GEF
land degradation projects

Results: Performance



Impact assessment

Mixed methods and triangulation of findings



Apr 2009



LAND DEGRADATION

Value for money analysis: 3 main objectives

1

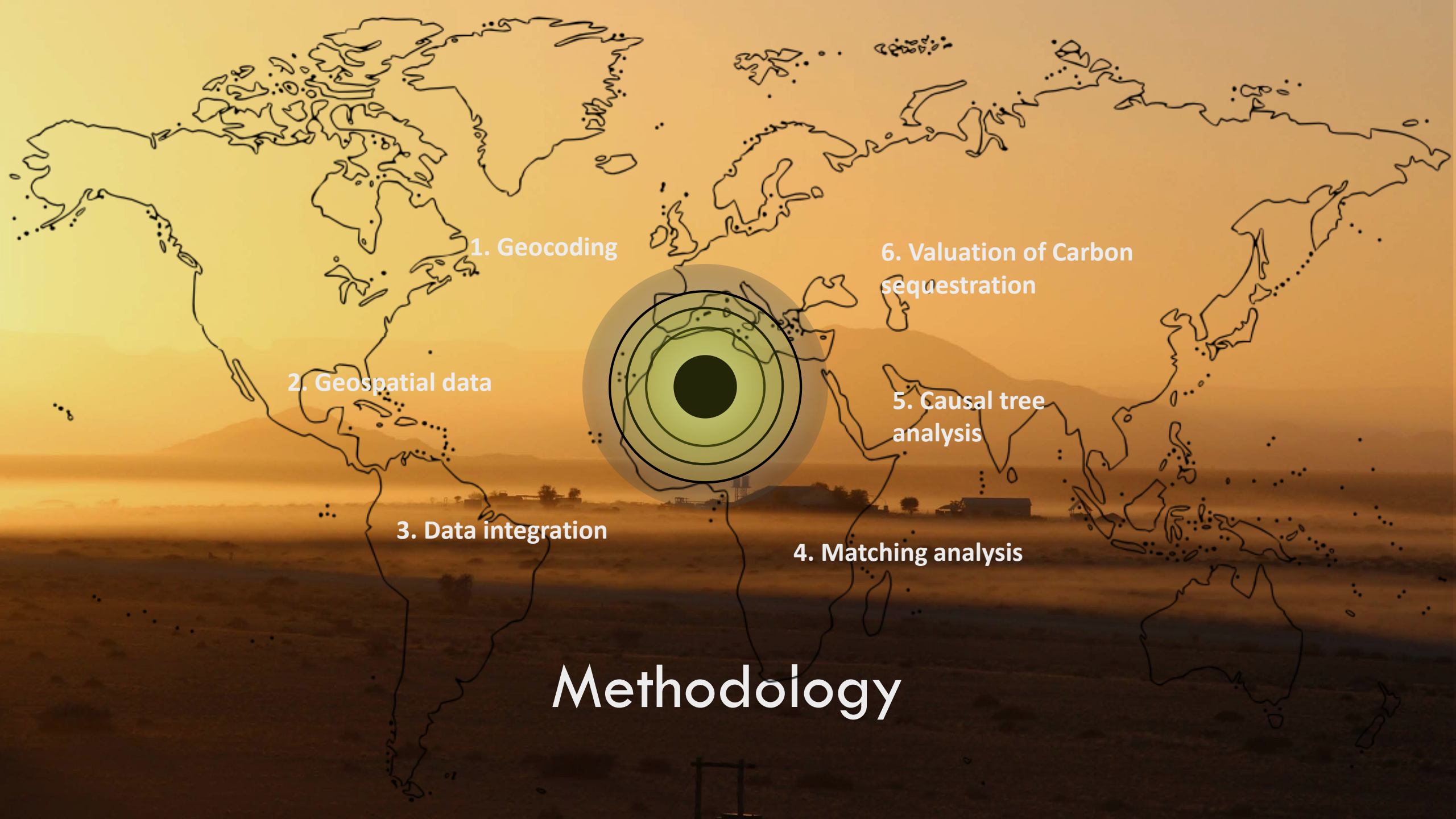
Impact of GEF land degradation interventions?

2

Factors associated with the environmental outcomes?

3

Value for money in terms of carbon sequestered?



1. Geocoding

2. Geospatial data

3. Data integration

4. Matching analysis

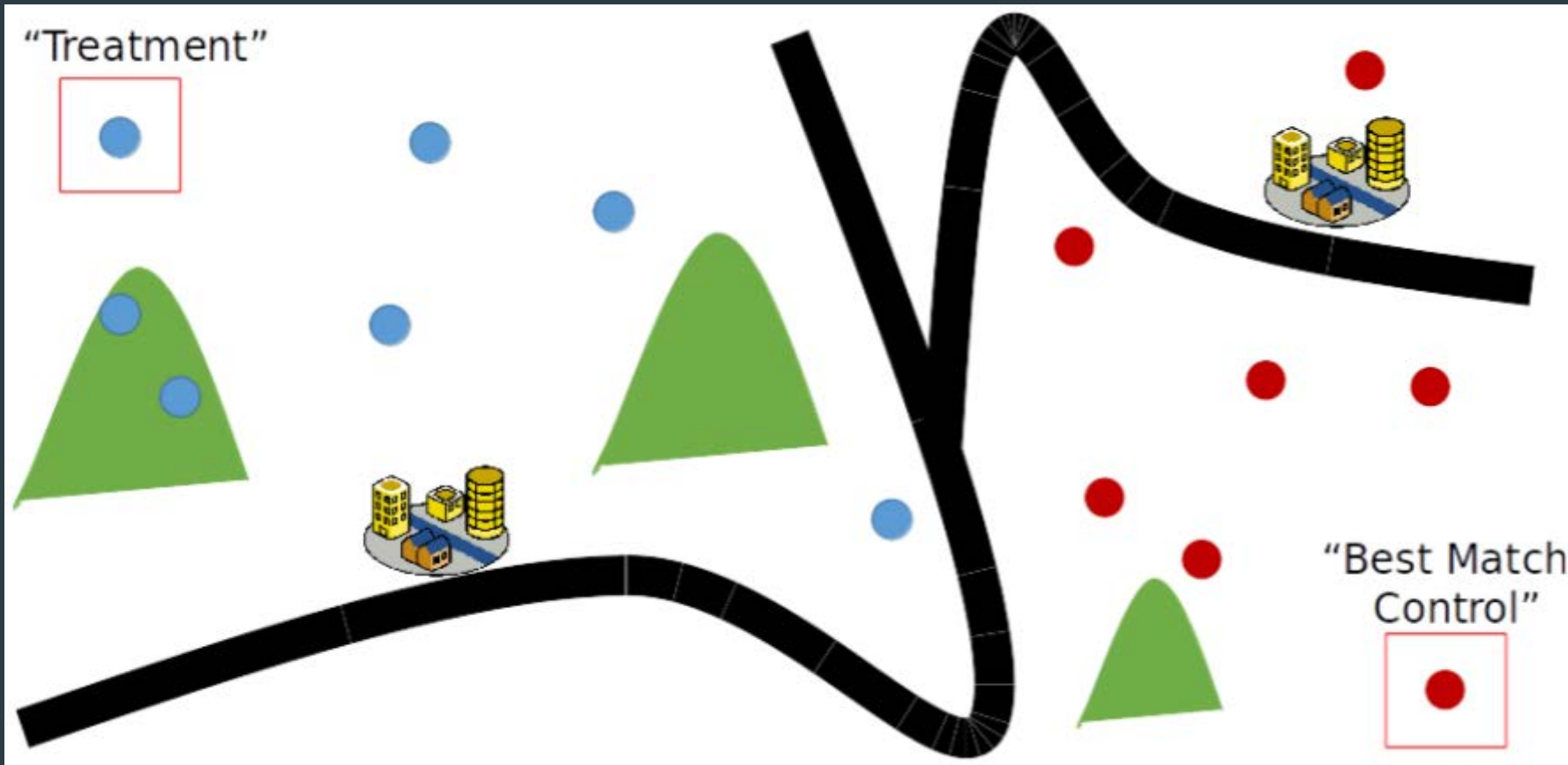
5. Causal tree analysis

6. Valuation of Carbon sequestration

Methodology

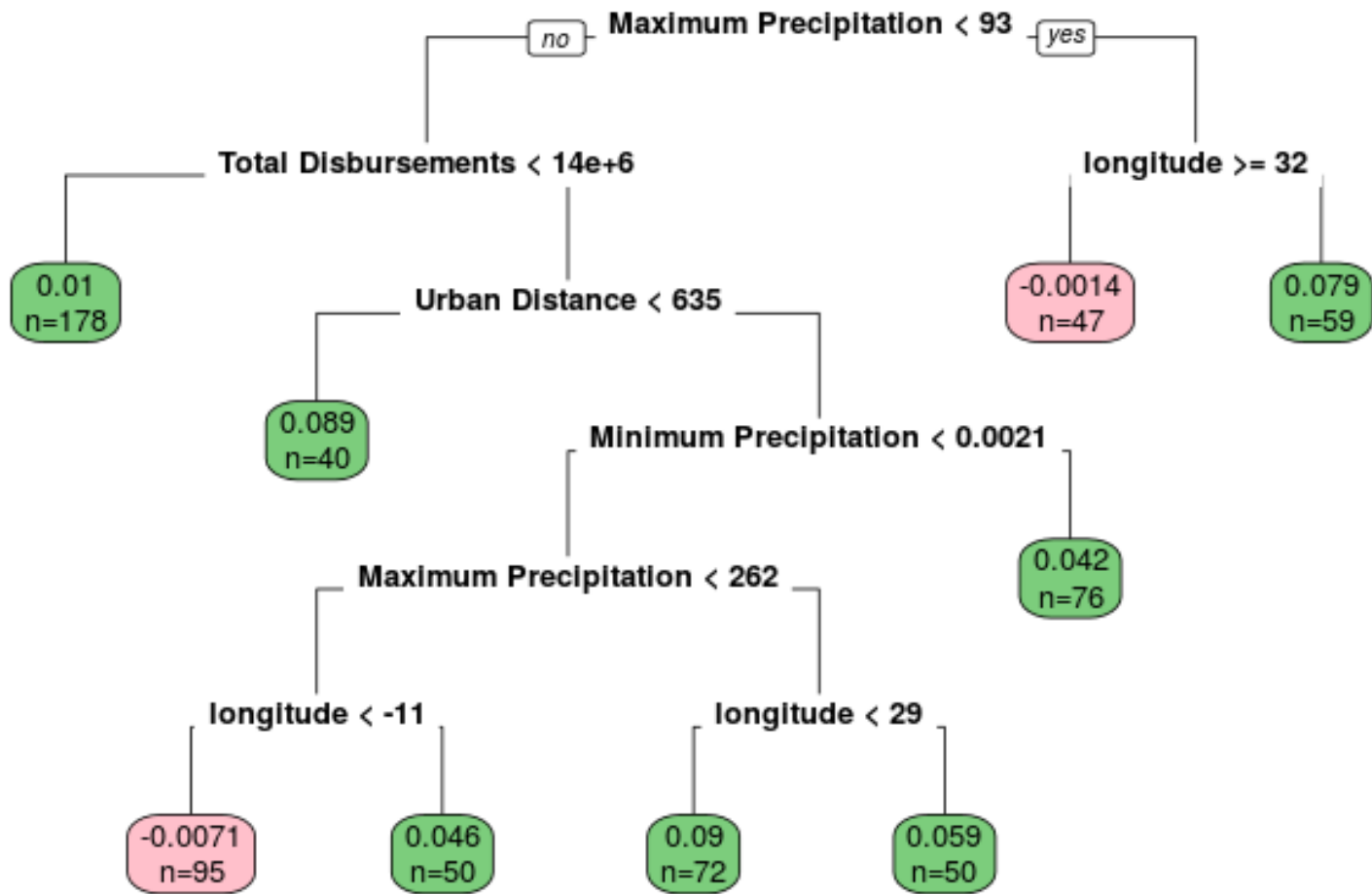
LAND DEGRADATION

Quasi-experimental method



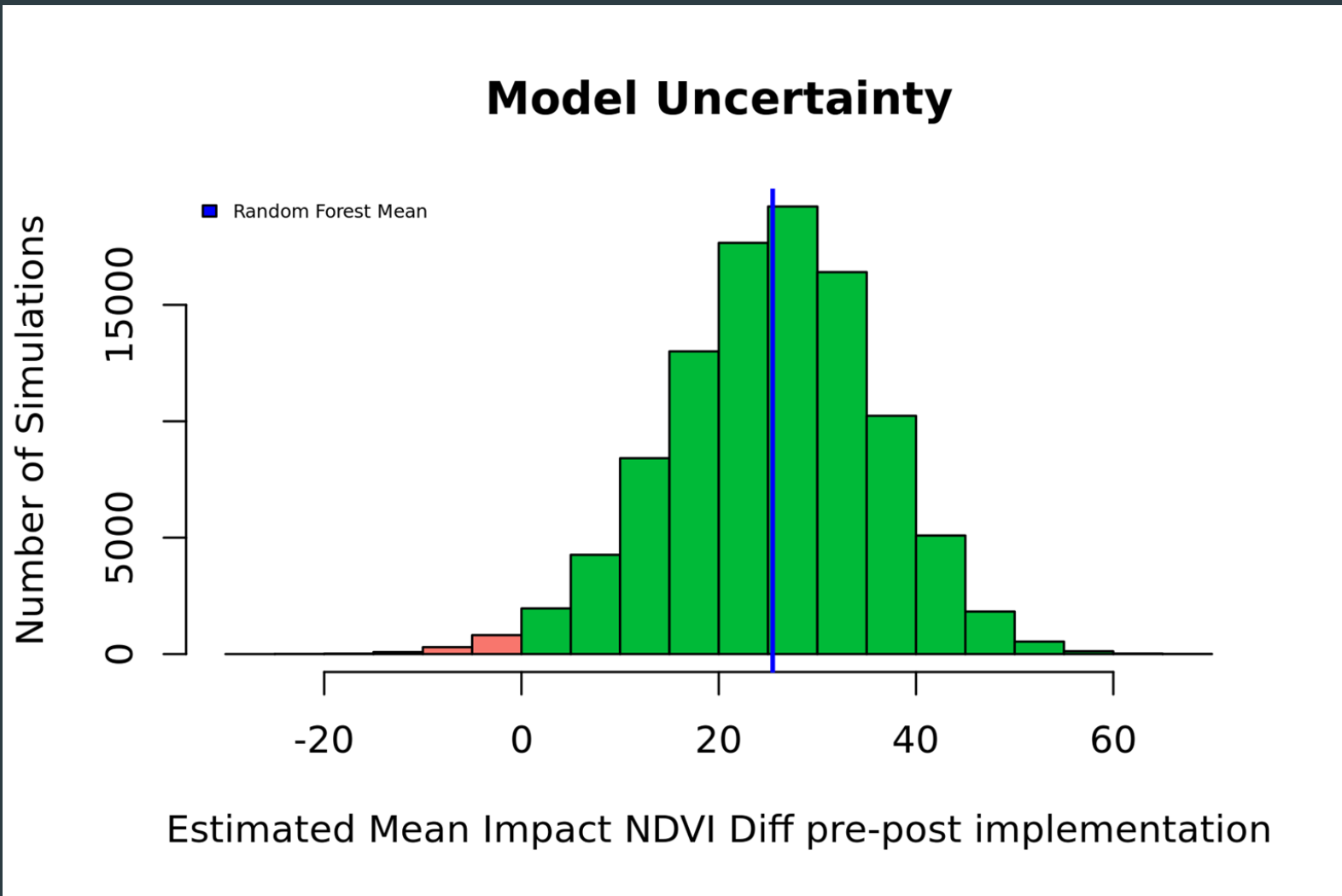
LAND DEGRADATION

Machine learning and causal tree



LAND DEGRADATION

Repeated model simulation



LAND DEGRADATION

Value for money

\$1:1.08

**43.52
tC/ha**



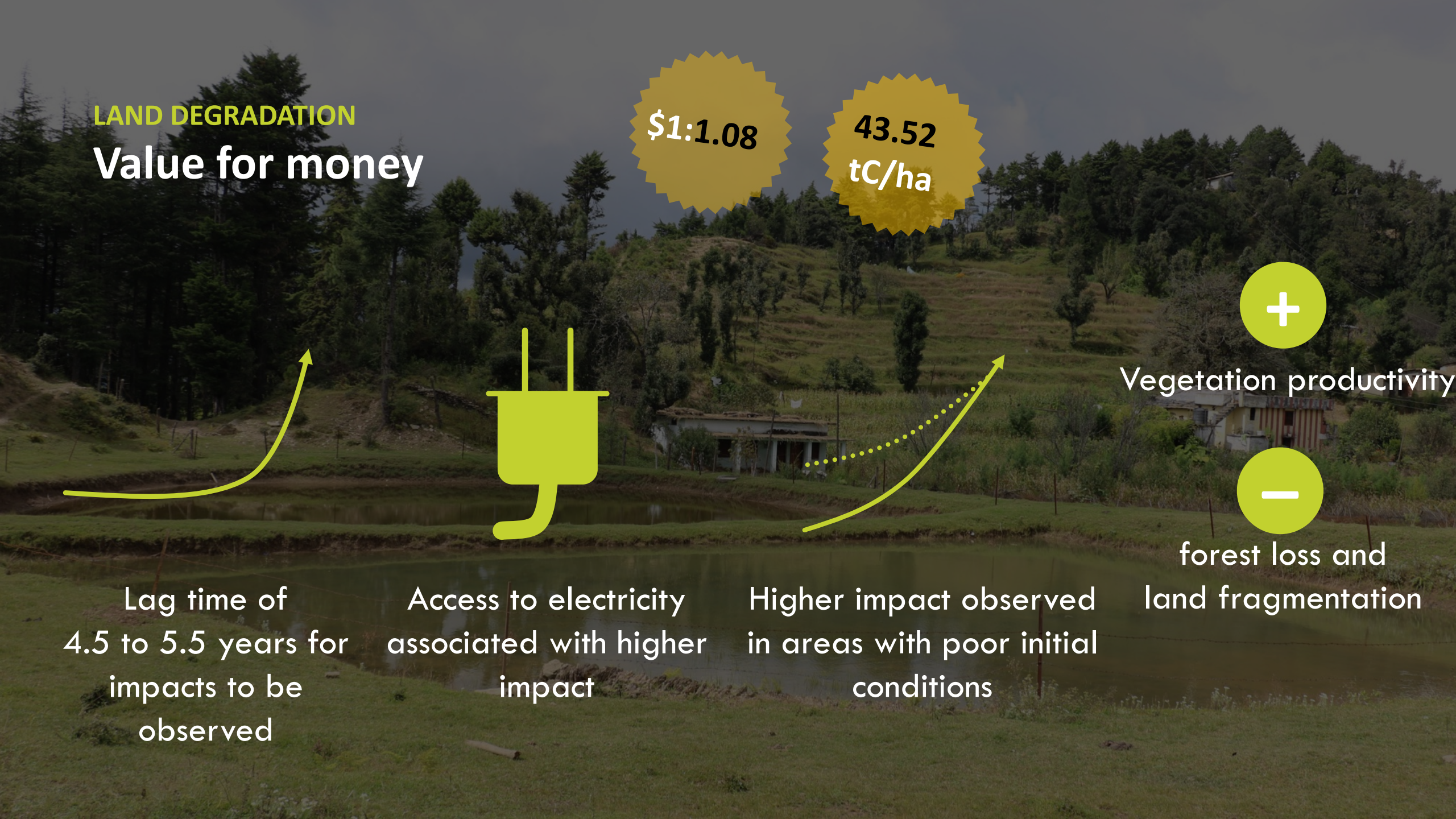
Vegetation productivity

forest loss and
land fragmentation

Lag time of
4.5 to 5.5 years for
impacts to be
observed

Access to electricity
associated with higher
impact

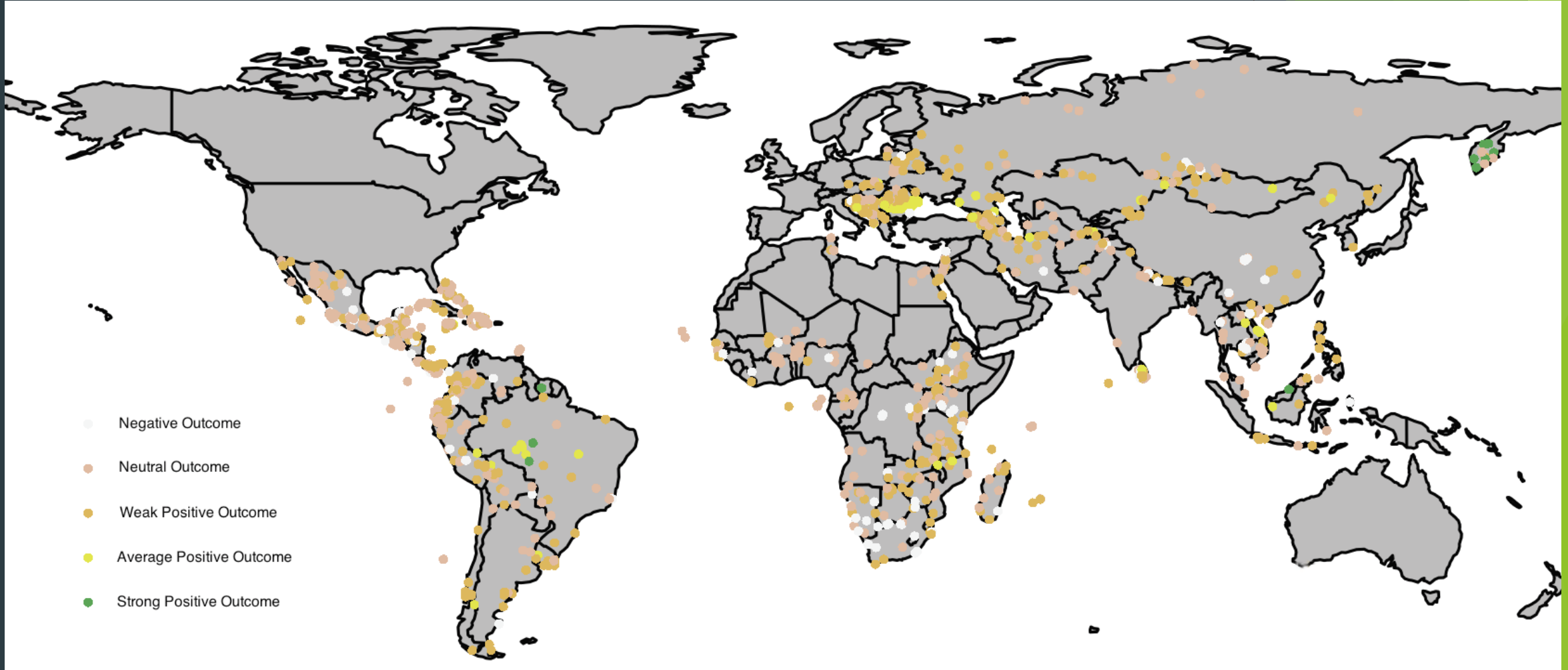
Higher impact observed
in areas with poor initial
conditions



LAND DEGRADATION

Bang for the buck

\$1:1.08



Land degradation

Strategy

Shift towards **integrated landscape**

Shift from linkages towards land degradation **neutrality**

Portfolio

High level
of effort in

Africa

Addresses the
local
socioeconomic

drivers



Climate risks, contextual factors, restoration



Transformational Change

Transformational change

- ▶ Deep, systemic, and sustainable change with large-scale impact
- ▶ Criteria:
 - (1) Relevance
 - (2) Depth of change
 - (3) Scale of change
 - (4) Sustainability
- ▶ Eight cases purposefully selected

PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT

Examples: transformational change

Uruguay

Wind power
2008: 0%
2016: 33%

Africa

1.3 mln – quality
solar lanterns;

Private market
transformed

Amazon

13.2 mln ha – strict
protection
10.8 mln ha –
sustainable use

China

Wind power
2005: 1.3 GW
2015: 129.3 GW

Namibia

98% PAs improved;

Doubled number of
wild dogs, leopards,
cheetahs, lions
(2004–12)

GEF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

Transformational change: success factors



Clear ambition
in designs



Addressing market
reforms through
policies



Quality of
implementation
and execution



Mechanisms for
financial
sustainability



May be achieved
by projects of
different sizes



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SECTION 4

Conclusions



Comparative advantage of the GEF

RELEVANCE

1. Serves multiple conventions and broad range of environmental issues
2. Strong Support to LDCs and SIDS

PERFORMANCE

3. Long history of good performance
4. Ability to address linkages and synergies between focal areas

TRANSFORMATIONAL

5. Ability to Create an enabling environment in countries through legal and regulatory reforms
6. Delivers innovative financial models and risk-sharing approaches

Influence of the Comprehensive Evaluation

- ▶ Independent
- ▶ Responsive to Council and stakeholder demand
- ▶ Credible
- ▶ Timely

- ▶ Informed replenishment, programming directions and policy agenda
- ▶ IEO monitors implementation of agreed recommendations



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Thank you!

<http://www.gefieo.org>