Evaluation Office

Annual Report on Impact 2007

GEF Council

November 14-16

Agenda Item 10

Impact in the GEF:

- Overall performance studies: too early to report on impact
- Council: impact needs to be established
- Inclusion in work plan Evaluation Office in 2005
- Preparatory work: methodology development
- 2007: first Annual Report on Impact

Three important caveats on impact

- Do not expect too much for your money
  - GHG emissions reductions: in 12 years the GEF has succeeded in contributing 1% of what is needed annually
  - China: cleaning lake Thai Bo takes US$ 14 billion
- The GEF supports countries and regions, it is enabling others to act – it contributes to the impact that others achieve
- Most GEF support is multi-dimensional, multi-actor and multi-level – traditional impact methodology assesses one-dimensional interventions of one actor operating on one level

Impact methodologies

- Straightforward before/after analysis: does establish change but not why: no certainty about impact and GEF contribution
- Historical analysis: does establish why but is costly and difficult beyond project level
- With/without analysis through quasi-experimental design: reductionist – good understanding of level of change through micro-interventions, only partial understanding on macro-level, or of reasons behind change
- Conclusion: all these methodologies have to contribute – “mixed methods” approach
- Choice for **theory-based approach**, which is mixed methods, and focuses on identifying crucial questions

Theory-based approach

- Strategies, programs and projects are infused by “theories” on why they are supposed to work
- These theories must be made explicit before they can be evaluated
- Once assumptions are made explicit, the right methodology can be chosen
- When causal mechanisms behind assumptions and contextual factors are mapped, before/after suffices
- When causal mechanisms are unknown, more in-depth studies would be needed, either historical or quasi-experimental

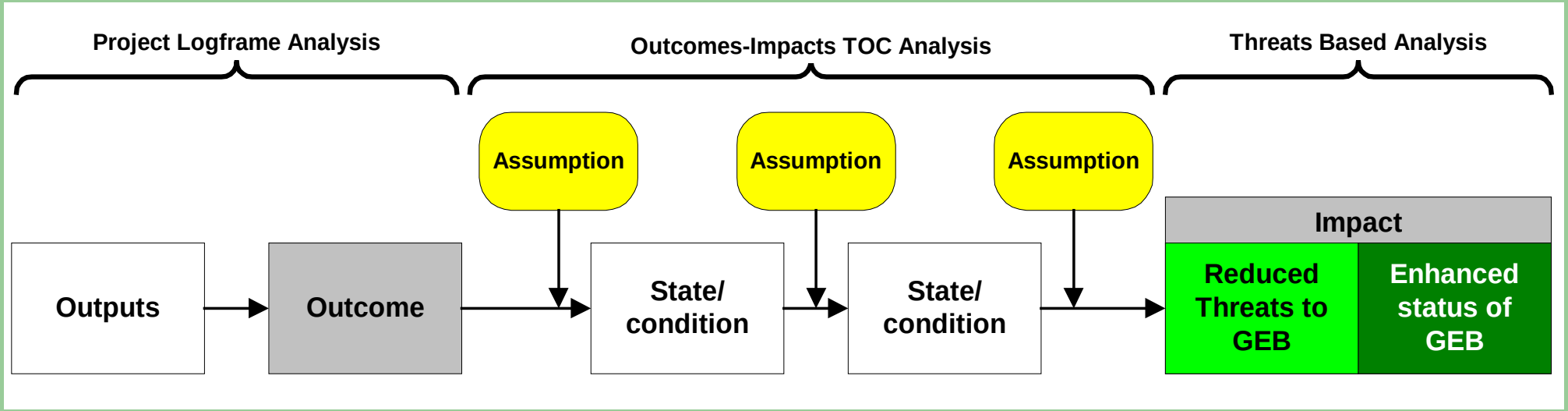
Work on Impact

- Three protected areas in Eastern Africa
- With STAP member: public policy in Costa Rica
- Joint effort with UNEP to uncover linkages between macro data and GEF interventions

Three protected areas in Eastern Africa

- Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Mgahingi Gorilla National Park (Uganda)
  - GEF support: $ 4.43 million through the World Bank, 1995-2000, co-funding $ 2.3 million
- Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (Kenya)
  - GEF support: $ 0.75 million through the World Bank, 2000-2004, co-funding $ 3.2 million
- Cross-border Sites (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda)
  - GEF support: $ 12.9 million through UNDP, 1998-2003, co-funding $ 5.5 million

Impact Evaluation Framework



Assess direct effects of the project → Assess how these effects are leading to impacts → Assess whether impacts have actually occurred

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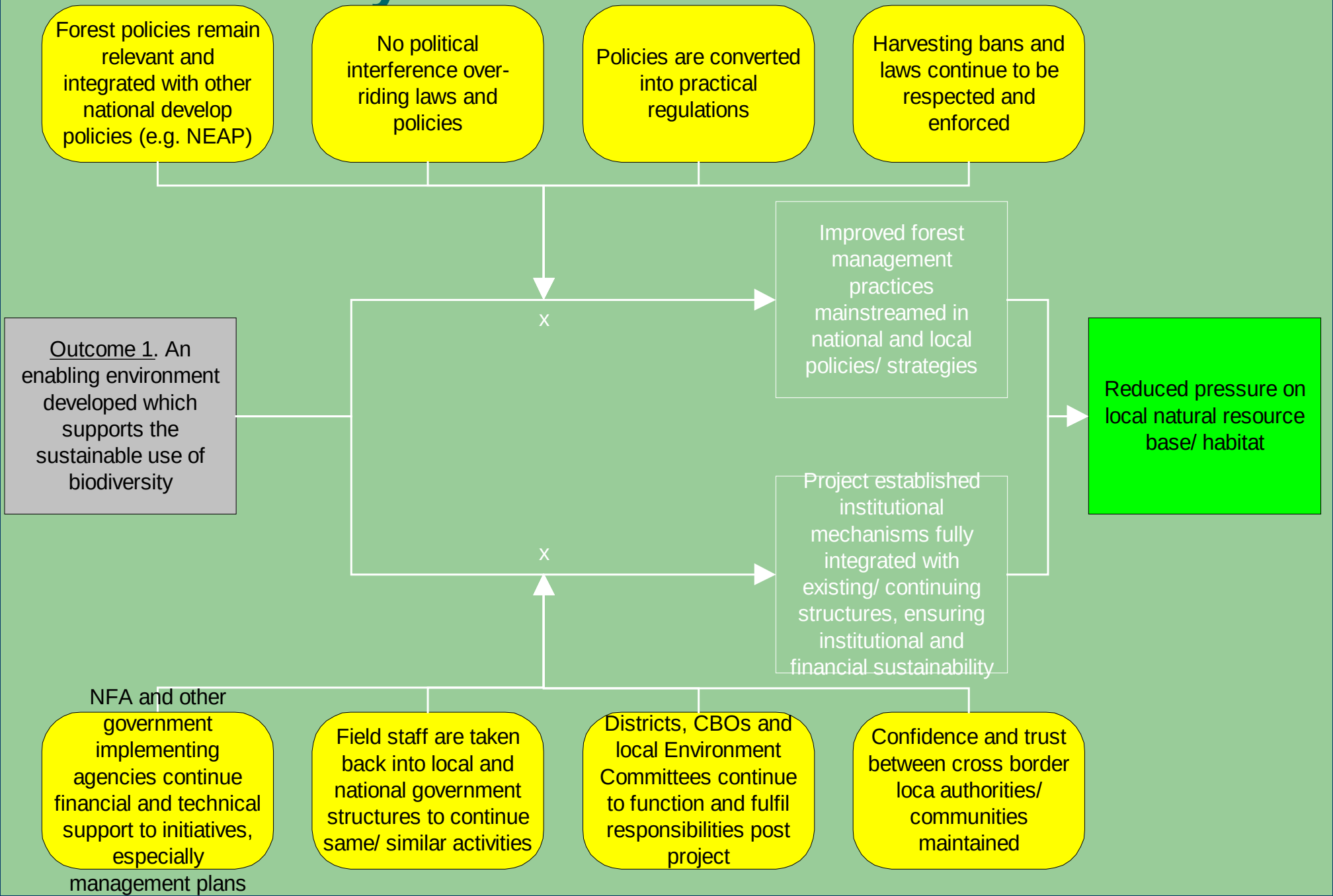
Outcomes-Impacts TOC: Institutional Sustainability



Multi-level analysis

- Outcome level: many outcomes achieved but not all
  - a car can drive with a bad tire, but will do so less efficiently
- Assumptions level: achieved in two out of three projects
  - main success factor: institutionalization of threat reduction
- Impact level: status change and reduced threat level for 2 key species in 2 projects
  - no improved status for Grevy's zebra – reason: increased threat through lion population

Conclusions

- Conclusion 1: impact achieved on status of Mountain Gorilla and Black Rhino
- Conclusion 2: 2 projects have contributed to sustained threat reduction
- Conclusion 3: 3rd project did not sustain threat-reducing mechanisms after GEF support stopped
- Conclusion 4: Success factor was explicit plan for institutional continuity in the 2 projects that achieved impact
- Conclusion 5: The example of the 2 successful projects was followed elsewhere
- Conclusion 6: The Bwindi project has not yet successfully resolved negative impacts on the indigenous Batwa

Quasi-experimental analysis of avoided deforestation in Costa Rica

- 1960-1997: Costa Rica loses 1 million ha. of forests; protects 900,000 ha.
- Study question: “How much more forest would have been cleared in the absence of the protected areas”?
- Data: GIS data layers from the Earth Observation Systems Laboratory of the University of Alberta, Canada
- Quasi-experimental design:
  - change in forest cover on protected plots is compared to:
  - change in forest cover on unprotected plots (the counterfactual)
- Controls were introduced to ensure that the comparison is valid

Conclusion on deforestation

- Of the 900,000 ha protected forest plots, about 111,000 ha – circa 10% – would have been deforested if there would have been no protected area policy in Costa Rica
- In areas supported by the GEF, avoided deforestation is slightly higher: 11%.
- Costa Rica claimed deforestation was higher
- However, neither Costa Rica nor the GEF were primarily focused on avoiding deforestation – improved management of natural resources and reduction of biodiversity loss are primary goals

Recommendations

- GEF Evaluation Office will continue impact work through a theory based approach
  - will look for opportunistic quasi-experimental analysis in collaboration with STAP
  - further collaboration with UNEP
- Protected Area projects should include a specific plan for institutional continuity, which should be included in the biodiversity tracking tools of the GEF, or through the development of an alternative system, under the direction of the GEF Secretariat