



Today





Semi-Annual Evaluation Report



SAER: OUTLINE

- 1.1 Peer Review of the Independent Evaluation Function
- 1.2 Evaluation work in progress
- I.3 Knowledge Management

Peer review of the independent evaluation function

Purpose

To enhance the evaluation function in the GEF

Thematic focus

Relevance, evaluation policy, stakeholder engagement
Work program
Office structure and budget

Core assessment criteria

Independence Credibility Utility

Evaluation work in progress

JUNE 2020

- Strategic country cluster evaluation:
 African biomes
- Strategic country cluster evaluation: least developed countries
- Evaluation of GEF engagement in fragile
 and conflict-affected situations
- Annual Performance Report 2020
- The LDCF (Least Developed Countries Fund) program evaluation
- Approach paper for OPS7

DECEMBER 2020

- Innovation and risk management in the GEF: evaluative findings and lessons
- Evaluation of GEF support to the sustainable forest management and REDD+ projects
- Evaluation of GEF medium-sized projects and enabling activities
- Evaluation of GEF Small Grants Program

OPS7: preliminary timeline

(assuming timeline for GEF-8 replenishment negotiations is similar to GEF-7)

- June 2020 approach paper for OPS7
 - Spring 2021 early findings and briefs for the first replenishment meeting
 - Fall 2021 full draft report for replenishment
 - December 2021 final report to the GEF Council

Knowledge Management

Knowledge products (June 2020)



Sustainable fisheries



GEF freshwater portfolio review



Country and constituency evaluation notes



Health co-benefits of chemical and waste projects



2015 — first GEF IEO stakeholder survey and needs assessment

What has IEO done in response to the 2015 survey?



Prepared focal area studies and meso-level evaluations



Introduced learning briefs



Developed tailored communications for constituency meetings and ECWs



Revamped IEO website

Why survey stakeholders in 2019?

To obtain feedback on the quality and use of IEO evaluations and knowledge products

To inform the IEO knowledge and learning work

To improve the quality of IEO work towards OPS7

To provide information for the Peer Review of the GEF's Independent Evaluation Function

Stakeholder survey — 11114 responses

704 GEF Partnership (25% response rate)

244 GEF Agencies, executing agencies, projects

202 GEF CSO Network

182 GEF OFP/PFP and their staff

19 GEF Secretariat

II STAP

46 Convention secretariats

37 GEF Council (33% response rate)

373 External stakeholders (3% response rate)

181 National and local government

106 Civil society organizations

86 Other (multilateral/bilateral, private, academia, media, independent consultants)

Stakeholder survey —

Satisfaction with IEO evaluations

| Overall quality of reports | 96% |
|---|-----|
| Relevance to work | 96% |
| Transparency and clarity of methodology | 95% |
| Ease of understanding | 94% |
| Unbiased analysis | 94% |
| Usefulness of recommendations | 94% |
| Stakeholder engagement | 90% |

Stakeholder survey — Use of IEO evaluations

80%Of respondents reported us

Of respondents reported using IEO evaluations

Designing programs

Assessing performance

Providing advice Reference

Designing policies

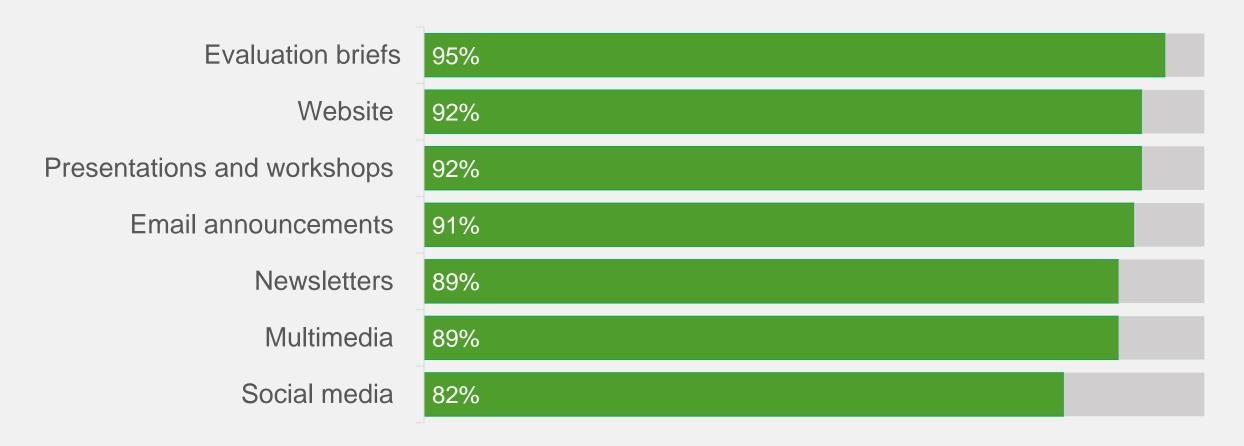
Course of action Sharing

Stakeholder survey — Relevance of GEF-7 evaluations

| Comprehensive evaluation (OPS7) | 96% |
|--|-----|
| Evaluation of impact programs | 94% |
| Evaluation of institutional frameworks | 94% |
| Annual performance reports | 94% |
| Evaluation of GEF policies | 93% |

Stakeholder survey — Dissemination channels

Effectiveness during GEF-6



Stakeholder survey —

Suggestions



For dissemination

- F2F and online events
- Evaluation summaries

For learning products



Lessons on

- design and implementation
- stakeholder engagementSynthesis notes by
- focal area and theme



- Strengthen the search function
- Increased use of visuals, photos, videos
- A more visible MAR





Knowledge management and dissemination contd.

IEO website



What's New

Events



Sharing evaluation methods



ECG, UNEG, UNCCD COP14, National Evaluation Capacities Conference SHIPDET (Shanghai International Program for Development Evaluation Training)



Semi-Annual Evaluation Report





Methodological approach to post-completion verification

GEF IEO

December 2019

Why do post-completion?

GEF-supported interventions
typically aim to achieve impacts that
often require time beyond the
period of GEF funding

What do we want to find out?

1

The extent to which outcomes achieved continue to progress beyond project completion

2

The extent to which the conditions allowing longer-term outcomes to be achieved are present and contribute to progress

What do we measure?

Outcomes



Environmental impacts



Social impacts



Synergies and trade-offs



Broader adoption and transformational change

Influencing factors



Enabling conditions



Catalytic conditions



Barriers



Risks



GEF's additionality

SELECTION CRITERIA



Minimum of 4-5 years past project closure

For which interventions?



Applicability of lessons to be learned for future interventions

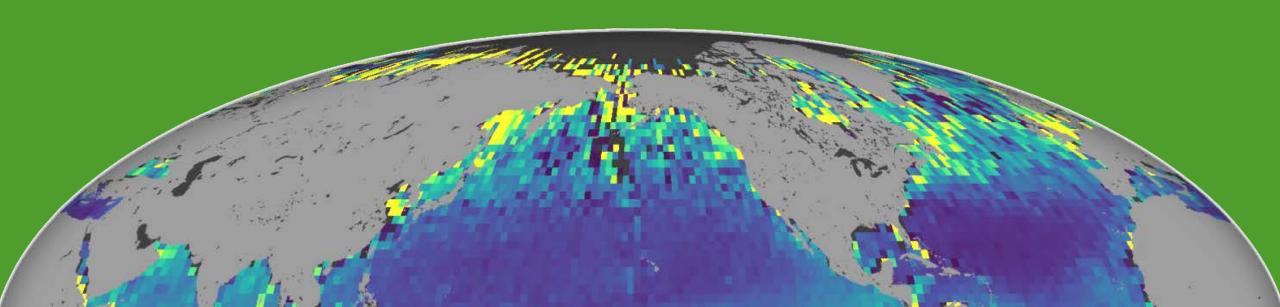


Potential for contribution to larger thematic evaluations

Use of geospatial analysis

in post-completion evaluations

GEF'S YELLOW SEA PORTFOLIO



Use of geospatial analysis

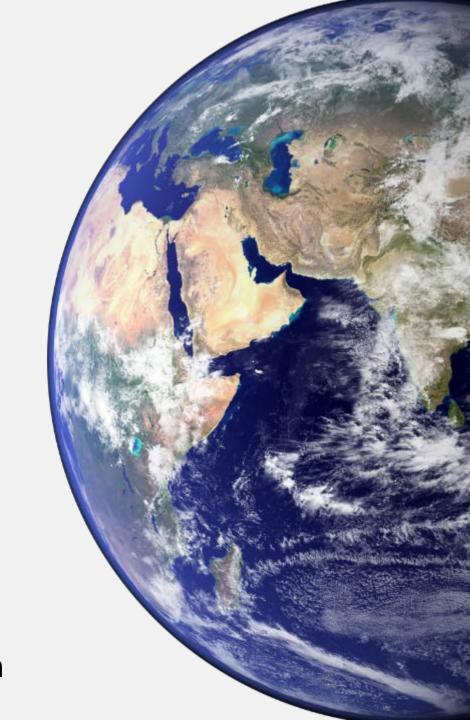
in post-completion evaluations

Geospatial analysis of remote sensing images — useful for measuring change over time

Change on Earth's surface can correlate with environmental indicators of GEF projects

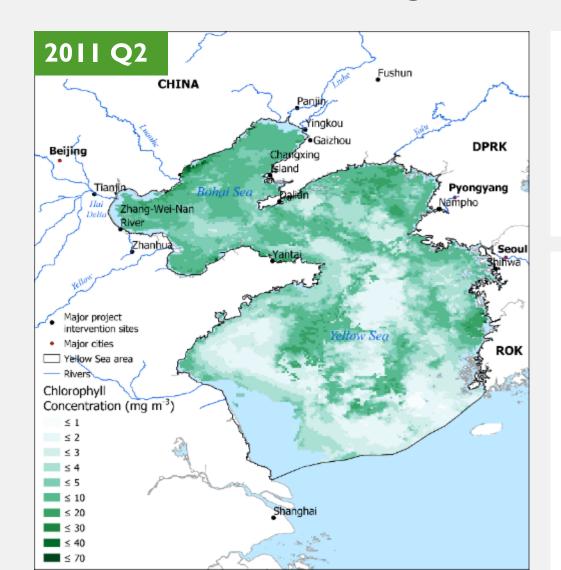
Repeated images in same area show environmental indicators before, during and after project implementation

Guide to selection of projects for field verification



Evaluation of GEF portfolio —

Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem



8 projects between mid-1990s and 2015 (others ongoing)

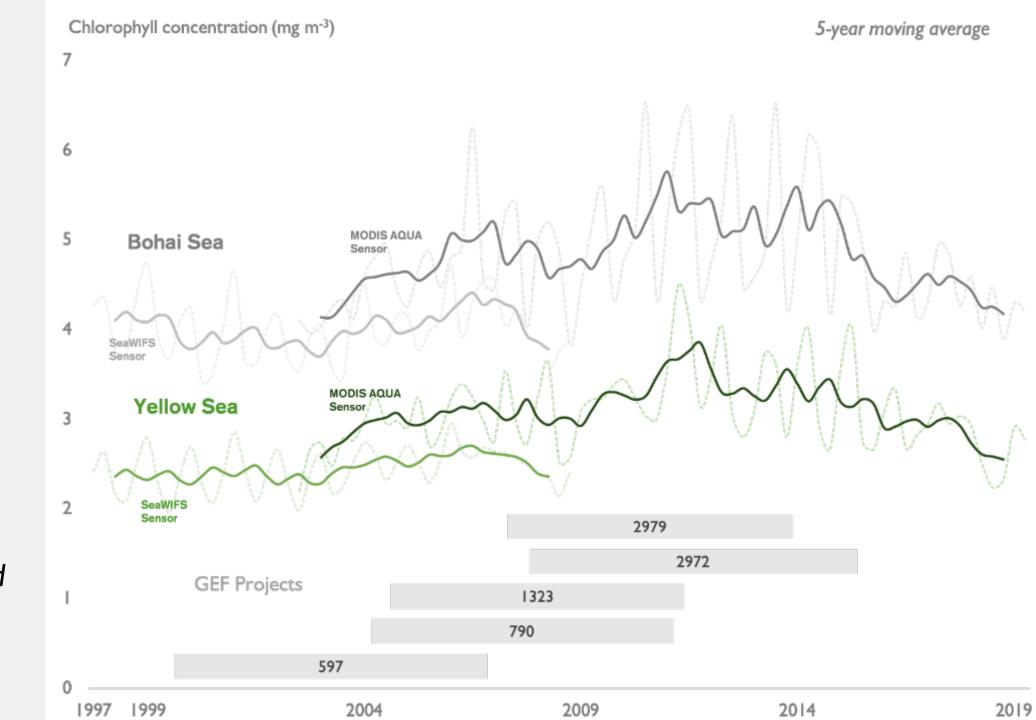
Common goal of reducing marine pollution

Satellite images can show chlorophyll concentration in large water bodies

Chlorophyll is an indicator of water quality — higher concentrations = more nutrient pollution

Evaluation
of GEF's
portfolio —
Yellow Sea
Large
Marine
Ecosystem

Interviews with project and other stakeholders helped understand the trends



Conclusions —

Geospatial analysis

for post-completion evaluations

PROS

Geospatial analysis is unbiased, quantitative, low-cost and provides data for multiple points in time

CONS

Limited to detectable indicators and quality of sensors, difficult to attribute trends specifically to projects or other causes

USE IN COMBINATION

With other methods

Template for Post-Completion Data

This template is to be used to organize all information collected from various sources into a standardized format. This format allows information to be pulled out for further analysis, as well as comparison across a set of post-completion evaluations. It uses the **intervention** as a unit of analysis so that multiple GEF-supported projects & programs that promote the **same technologies/approaches with explicitly linked objectives**, can be analyzed together as a coherent package through which the GEF aims **to achieve a specific impact in a specific sector within a specific geographical area**, such as a city, country, or ecosystem (e.g. sustainable forest management in the southern dryland regions of Ethiopia, DDT elimination in small-scale farms in Gansu province). The post-completion evaluation uses the implementation end date of the most recent project as the starting point for assessing post-completion outcomes.

The template is meant to capture information comprehensively such that it can be used as a reference document for various analyses for both current and future evaluation objectives, without duplicating the data collection effort from many of the documents. Context-specific interview questions will need to be developed for each post-completion evaluation to allow the template to be filled in accurately and reliably. The format of the report will also depend on the relative importance of findings to be communicated following the analysis of this <u>template</u>, <u>but</u> would generally follow the outline in Annex 3.

1. Intervention information

| 1.1.a. | What is the GEF-supported intervention that is being assessed post-completion? | |
|----------------|--|--|
| 1. <u>1.b.</u> | Which geographical area/s did it aim to cover? | |

| 1.2. | PROJECT INFORMATION | GEF ID | Add or delete columns according to number of projects included in analysis |
|------|-----------------------------|--------|--|
| | Project Title | | |
| | Country/ Countries | | |
| | GEF Agency | | |
| | GEF grant amount (actual) | | |
| | Co-financing total (actual) | | |



Methodological approach to post-completion verification

GEF IEO

December 2019





Strategic country cluster evaluation of the Small Island Developing States





ENVIRONMENTAL

CHALLENGES



Sea level rise



Coastal and coral reef degradation



Deforestation



Land degradation



Threats to marine resources and biodiversity



Waste management and water quality



Harmful mining methods



SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES





High cost of living



Vulnerability to natural disasters



Difficulty mobilizing financial resources



Indebtedness



Governance issues



Limited institutional capacity

Evaluation —

Objectives and key questions

Objectives

1. Relevance and Performance of the GEF from the countries' perspective

2. Deeper understanding of the determinants of outcome sustainability

Key questions

- 1. Relevance and performance of the GEF support
- **2.** Environmental and socioeconomic context
- 3. Drivers of Sustainability

Cross
Cutting
Issues

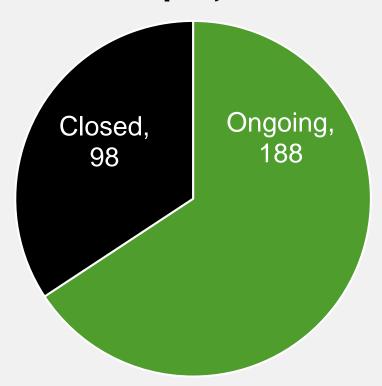
- **1.** Gender and gender equality
- **2.** Resilience and risk management
- **3.** Private sector engagement

Evaluation —

Methods, data sources, and quality assurance

MIXED-METHODS APPROACH

286 projects



Field visits to

10 countries (out of 39) covering **64 projects**

Sustainability analysis based on **45 closed projects**

QUALITY ASSURANCE

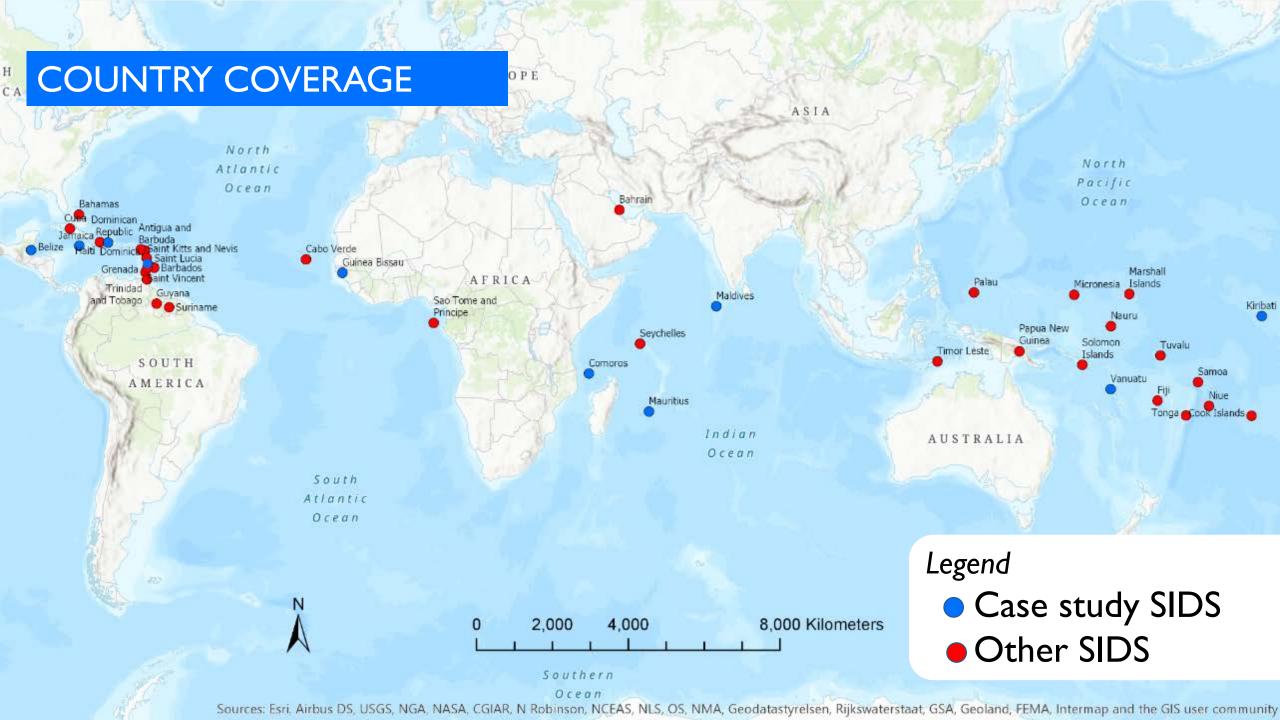


Reference Group

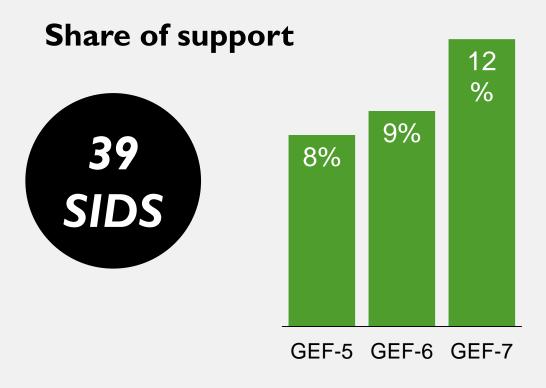
GEF Secretariat, GEF Agencies, STAP



2 Peer ReviewersGEF IEO and World Bank IEG



PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS: GEF Support to Small Island Developing States

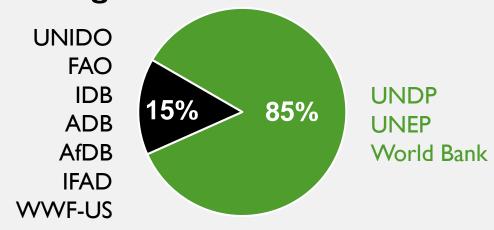




Project modality

49 enabling activities84 medium-sized projects153 full-sized projects and programsSmall-Grants Programme (SGP)

GEF Agencies



GEF support to SIDS —

Types of interventions



Land use management



Invasive alien species



Renewable energy and energy efficiency



Integrated approaches



Protected areas



Chemicals and waste



Resilience

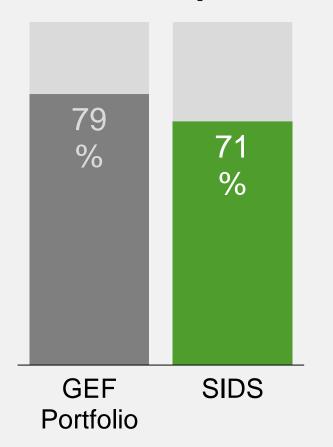


Governance and stakeholder involvement

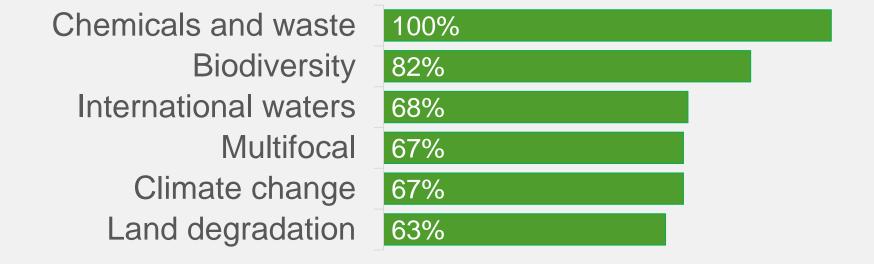
GEF support to SIDS —

Project performance

Satisfactory outcomes



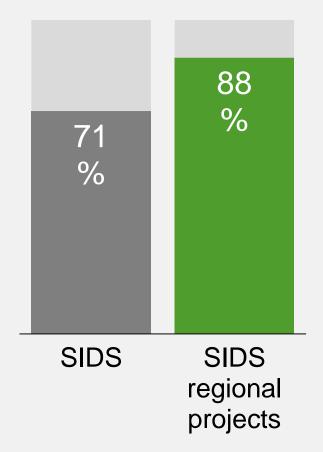
% of projects with satisfactory outcomes, by focal area

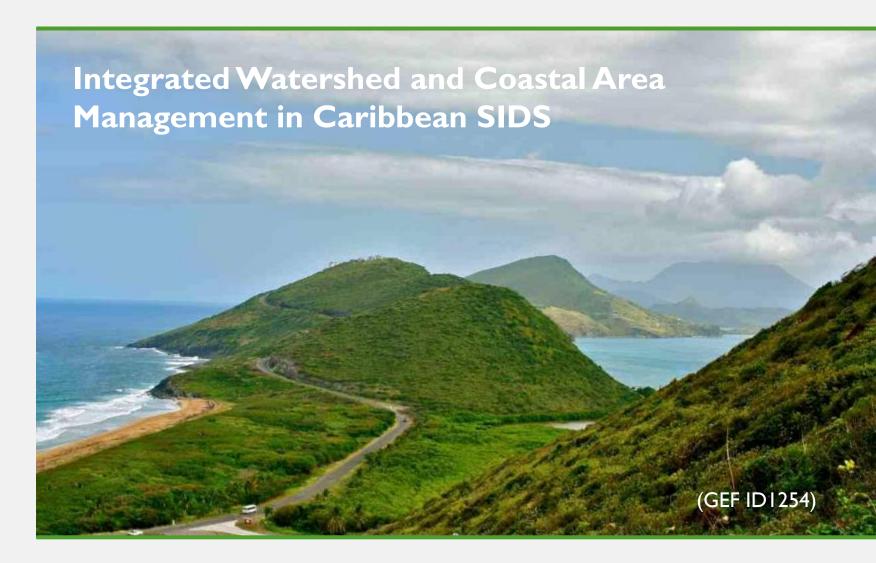


GEF support to SIDS —

Regional project performance

Satisfactory outcomes





Project outcomes

Institutional and environmental outcomes

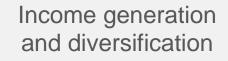
Institutional capacity and governance outcomes

Environmental outcomes

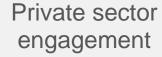




Socio-economic outcomes and processes













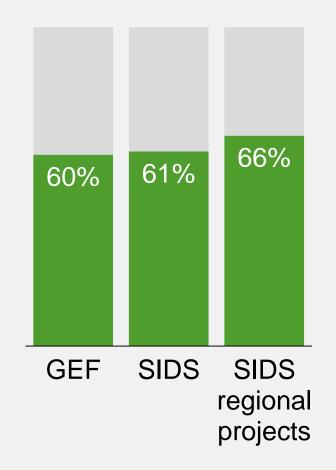
St. Lucia case study

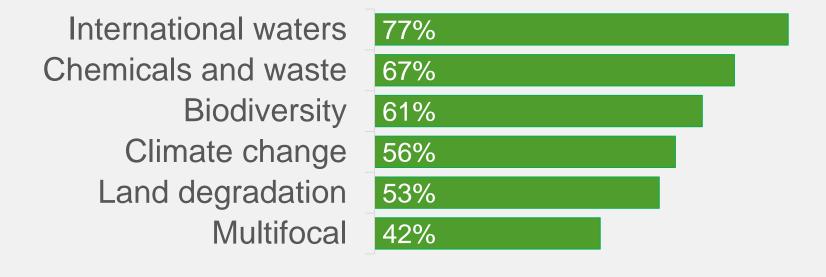


GEF support to SIDS — Sustainability

'Likely sustainable' outcomes

% of projects rated as 'likely sustainable', by focal area





Sustainability —

Post-Completion (field verification)

Sustainability is achieved over time, and seldom achieved within one GEF phase

67%

81%

'Likely sustainable' at completion

(during terminal evaluation stage)

Post completion sustainability

(during evaluation field visits)

(projects in Belize, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica, Kiribati, Maldives, Mauritius, St. Lucia, Vanuatu)

Sustainability — Contextual factors



Contributing

- Legal and institutional framework supportive for environment and protected areas
- Strategic partnerships
- Sustainable financing mechanisms (national environmental funds)
- Strong institutional capacity



Hindering

- Low institutional capacity
- Low levels of environmental awareness
- Pressures from agriculture and tourism

Sustainability — Project-related factors



Contributing

- Training and institutional capacity building
- Adaptive project management
- Strong project teams and engaged steering committees
- Strong institutional partnerships
- Replication and scaling-up, including small-scale



Hindering

- Little consideration of impact and sustainability in project design
- Limited capacity building
- Lack of exit strategy and future financing

Conclusions



Relevance



Performance



Institutional issues



Additionality



Cross-cutting issues



GEF financing continues to be highly relevant in most SIDS

GEF projects in SIDS are strongly aligned with the government's priorities

GEF increased commitment to SIDS over replenishment periods

GEF interventions are relevant to national environmental challenges and aligned with GEF focal areas

GEF is promoting ridge to reef approaches to sustainably manage natural resources, while considering productive sectors



Performance of SIDS projects was lower than the overall GEF portfolio

Positive environmental, socioeconomic, and institutional outcomes in at least 75% of projects

GEF supported the long-term sustainability in SIDS through multiple modalities

Regional projects have significantly higher ratings on outcomes and sustainability

Three agencies have implemented more than 85% of GEF SIDS portfolio

Post completion ratings of several projects have improved since project completion





GEF's main areas of additionality are strengthening institutions and assistance with legal and regulatory frameworks

GEF has been given increasing attention to cross-cutting issues including gender and private sector participation

Recommendations



Increase the number of integrated interventions



Derive greater benefits from the expanded GEF partnership



In the context of climate change mitigation, build on GEF's comparative advantage — waste management and renewable energy



Promote

innovation, scaling up, and knowledge exchange



Continue to strengthen institutional capacity



Recommended Council decisions



- I. The Council, having reviewed the "Semi-Annual Evaluation Report of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office: November 2019," acknowledges the progress made by the Independent Evaluation Office in the reporting period.
- 2. The Council, having reviewed the "A methodological approach for post-completion verification: November 2019", endorses the approach and supports the application of the post-completion verification methodology.
- 3. The Council, having reviewed the "Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation of the Small Island Developing States" endorses the recommendations of the evaluation.