

Semiannual Evaluation Update

GEF Council 59

December 2020



Presentation outline

Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS7) – Progress to date Managing evaluations during COVID-19 2 Recently completed evaluations and knowledge products 3 Agenda Item 9 – Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations 4 Agenda Item 10 – Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector 5 Agenda Item 11 – Medium-Sized Projects 6 Agenda Item 12 – Knowledge Management 7

Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS7) – Progress to date

Independent Evaluation office Global Environment Facility

OPS7: Purpose

Provide

evidence

for GEF-8

replenishment

Assess to what extent the GEF is achieving its objectives of enhancing global environmental benefits

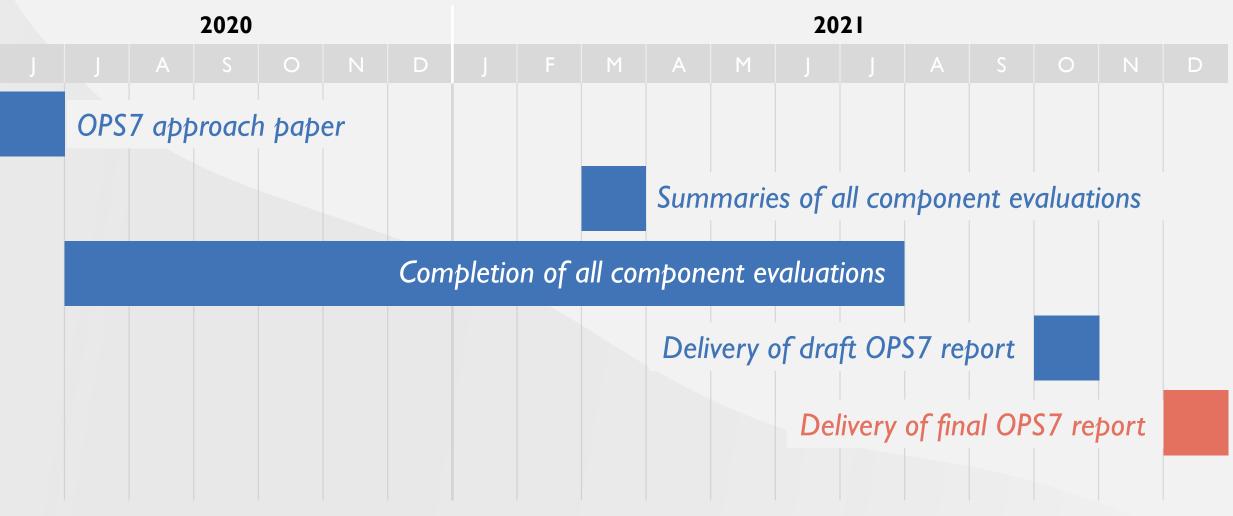
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Identify potential areas for **improvement**

Assess the GEF's **progress** in implementation and achievement of the GEF 2020 Strategy

OPS7

Schedule



Ongoing work

2020 2021

	J F	M A		
Evaluation Terminal evaluation GEF interve LDCF evalu	entions in artisa	ed projects	nining	 Institutional policies and stakeholder engagement Results-based management and portal Innovation in the GEF Agency self-evaluation systems Third joint GEF-UNDP SGP evaluation Evaluation of GEF country support program (CSP) GEF support to SFM and REDD+ projects GEF engagement with micro-, small-, medium-size enterprises Formative review of the GEF integrated approach Climate change resilience mainstreaming Annual Performance Report 2021 LDCF/SCCF AER SCCF evaluation Enabling activities Governance
				Governance

OPS7

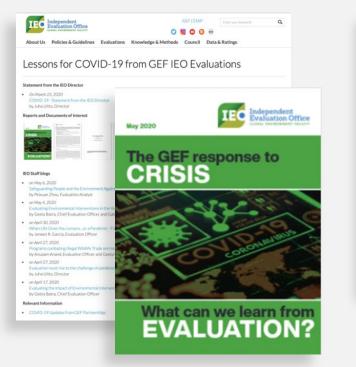
Managing IEO evaluations during COVID-19

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Adapting evaluation process during COVID-19

Mixed methods approach	Using socio-economic data, such as World Bank's household surveys (LSMS)	Conducting remote interviews and surveys
Applying geospatial	Hiring local consultants	Mining IEO case
data to measure relevance, effectiveness, efficiency	for field verification (Costa Rica, Mozambique, Philippines)	studies

Evaluation lessons for COVID-19







Recently completed evaluations and knowledge products

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Terminal evaluations

Terminal evaluations **Findings**



The establishment of minimum evaluation requirements have led to improvements in evaluation quality standards



Aligned with good practices criteria



92% evaluations rated in satisfactory range for quality (2017-2020)



Variations in the evidence presents challenges for consistency in evaluative judgments

Terminal evaluations **Findings**



Credible evidence and few data gaps

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6% disconnect between the GEF-IEO validations and TEs submitted



UNIDO, FAO, and IFAD are well positioned to graduate and not require 100 percent TE validation by IEO

Terminal evaluations Final remarks

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IEO should perform fewer validations for Agencies that meet quality standards



IEO should share more information on the validation process and guidelines with the Agencies



IEO should provide targeted guidance and capacity building to newer Agencies



IEO could develop a searchable qualitative database (on findings, recommendations, lessons learned)



IEO should continue to validate TEs as part of other evaluations (country, thematic, strategic country clusters)

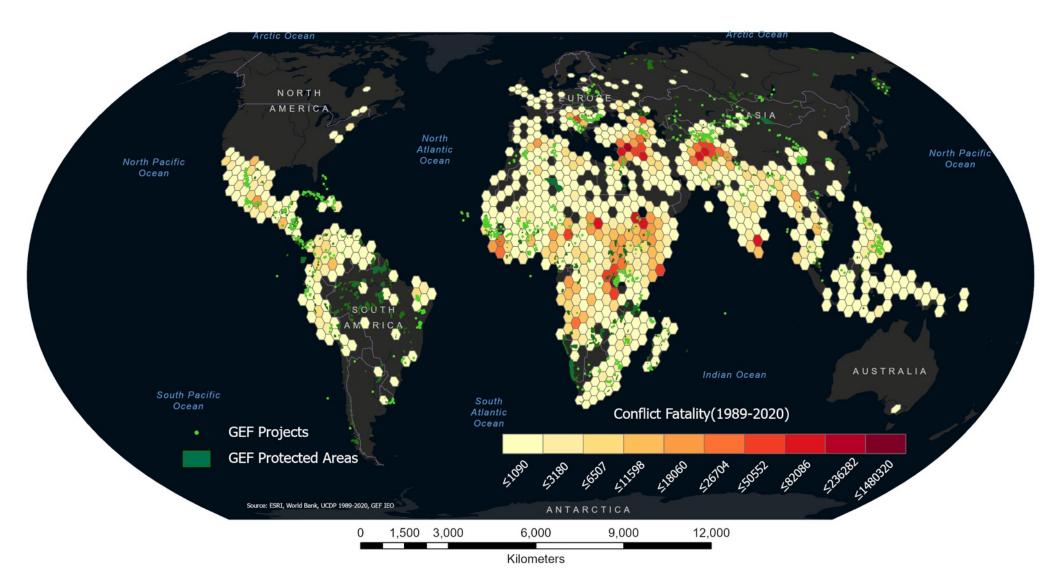
IEO Knowledge Products



Agenda Item 9 Evaluation of GEF Support in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations

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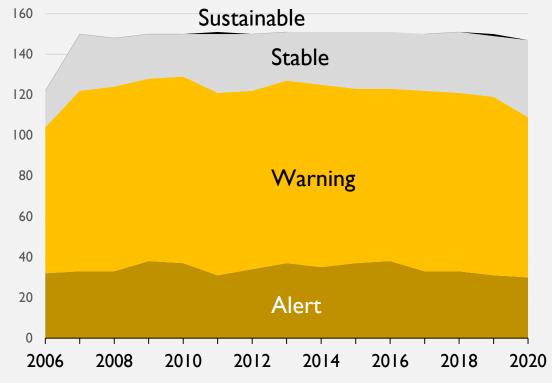
Conflict hotspots and location of GEF interventions



Majority of GEF projects are in fragile and conflict-affected situations

Fragility of countries and territories receiving GEF funding





Share of GEF projects in countries affected by major armed conflict



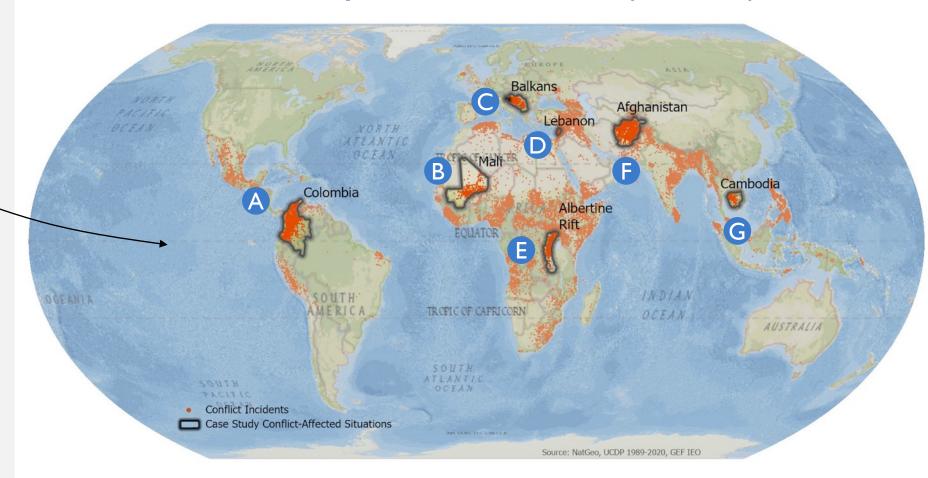
Portfolio

4,136 GEF projects

Case studies across seven conflict and fragile situations

Evaluation methods document analysis statistical analysis remote sensing interviews

GEF Case Study Situations and Conflict (1989-2020)





Key pathways by which conflict and fragility affect GEF projects



Fragility Main Findings



Inconsistent identification of conflict-related risks



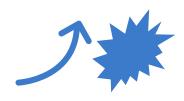


The GEF has so far not developed conflict-sensitive safeguards, policies, and guidance necessary to systematically manage these risks

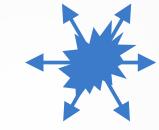


Half of the GEF Agencies have developed policies, strategies, and toolkits

Fragility Impacts



The shift in priorities associated with conflict can negatively affect the relevance of projects



Conflict impacts human rights, indigenous peoples, gender and GEF's ability to engage with the private sector



Increased likelihood that a project will be cancelled and dropped

Increases the duration of a project's delays

Negatively affects outcomes, sustainability, implementation, execution, monitoring

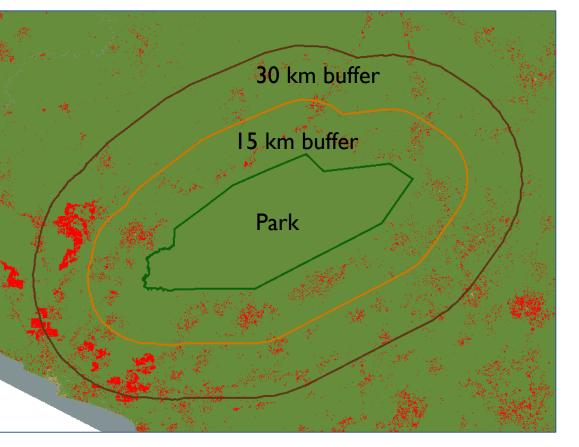
Fragility

Risk management strategies

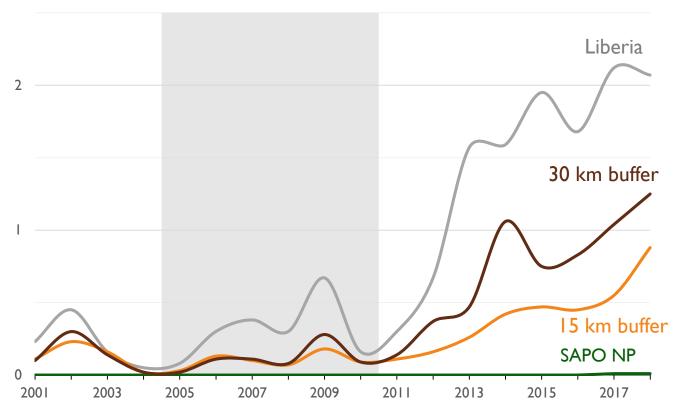


Fragility Case: Liberia

Liberia: SAPO National Park



Percentage of forest loss



Fragile and conflict affected situations **Recommendations**

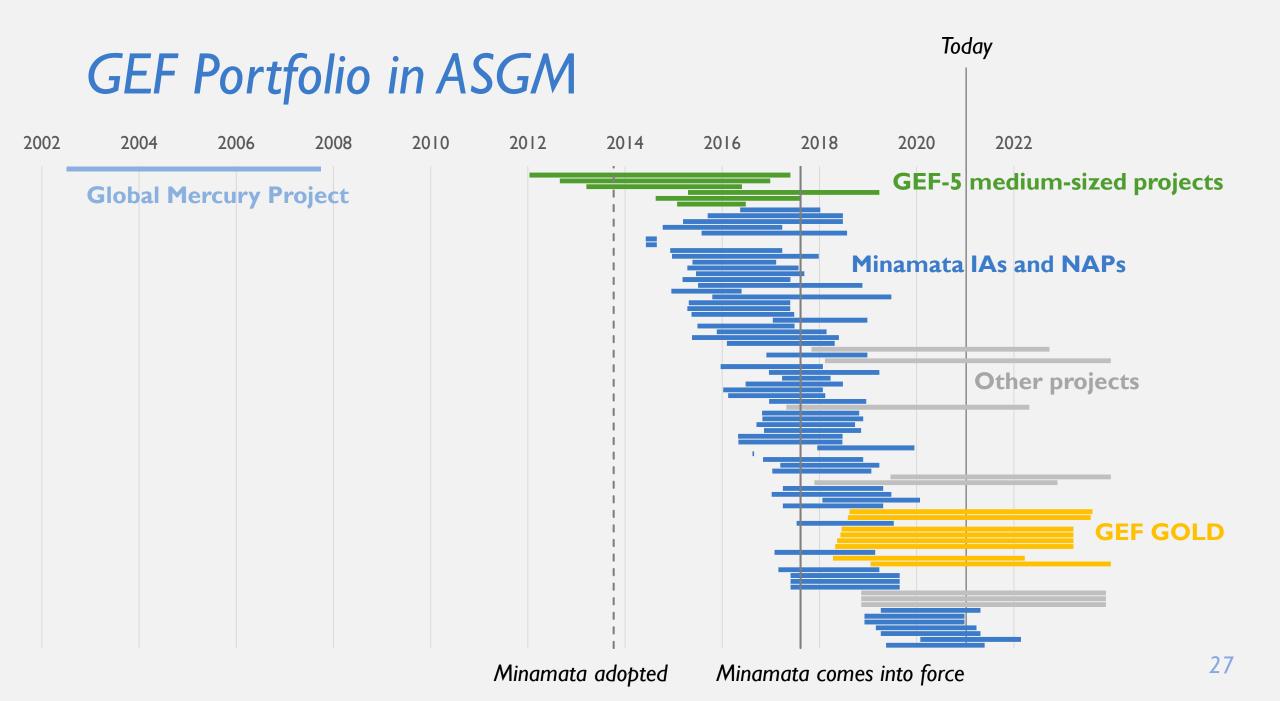
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- The GEF Secretariat should use the project review process to provide feedback to Agencies to identify conflict- and fragility-related risks to a proposed project and develop measures to mitigate those risks.
- 2. To improve conflict-sensitive programming while also providing flexibility to Agencies and projects, the GEF Secretariat could develop guidance for conflict-sensitive programming.
- 3. To improve conflict-sensitive design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of GEF projects, the GEF Secretariat together with the Agencies should leverage existing platforms for learning, exchange, and technical assistance.

- 4. The current GEF Environmental and Social Safeguards could be expanded to provide more details so that GEF projects address key conflict-sensitive considerations.
- 5. The GEF Secretariat could consider revising its policies and procedures so that GEFsupported projects can better adapt to rapid and substantial changes common in fragile and conflict-affected situations.

Agenda Item 10 IEO Evaluation of GEF Interventions in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector

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Artisan and small-scale gold mining Findings: post-completion evaluations

GEF-5 pilot MSPs achieved sustained mercury use reductions in some cases





Formalization gained momentum after Project closure



Artisan and smallscale gold mining Example

"Sin Mercurio" project in Ecuador and Peru



Artisan and small-scale gold mining Lessons learned from past projects

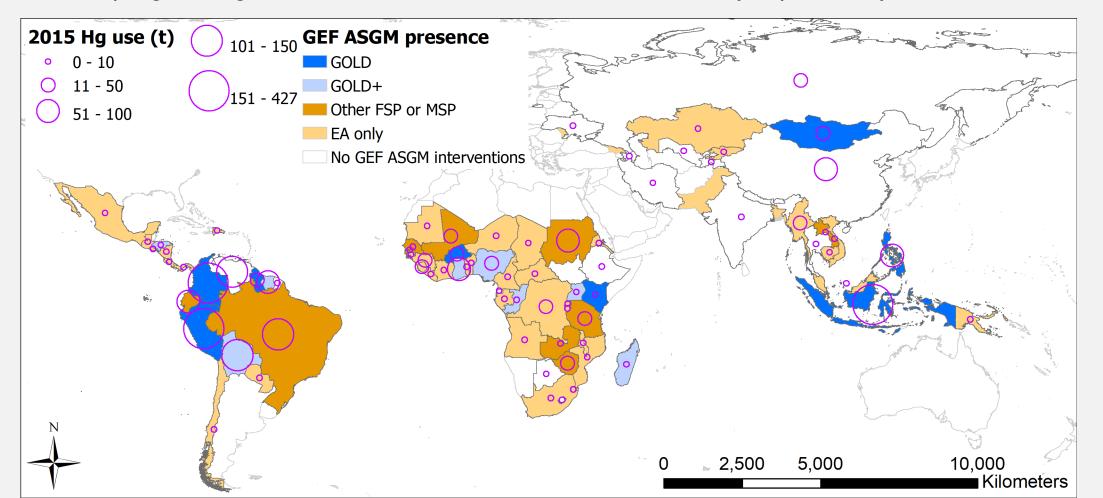


Miners need **access to finance** to transition to non-mercury technologies. Access to finance is GOLD program's largest component.

Formalize miners through improved policy and streamlined bureaucratic process. With formalization, miners will have **more access to financial products** and markets to invest in non-mercury technologies. With access to finance, miners will **shift away from mercury** towards other, cleaner technologies. Disseminate lessons learned to other areas and miners not involved in GOLD to further reduce mercury use.

Artisan and small-scale gold mining Findings: project design in ongoing projects

GOLD program aligned to Minamata Convention and covers many top mercury use countries



Artisan and small-scale gold mining Findings: ongoing project design



Targets for mercury reductions will be difficult to monitor and verify, partially due to a scarcity of high-quality baseline data



Addresses policies and safeguards through the planetGOLD Criteria and gender through project level gender analyses



Shift to working with downstream supply chain stakeholders, including private sector



Programs very focused on mercury reductions and few projects include interventions to address associated environmental issues



Global project promotes strong program collaboration and learning



Majority of mercury reductions expected through broader adoption and replication

Subtitle **Recommendations**



I. Encourage more large mercury users to become involved in Minamata Convention

2. Promote interventions that assist governments in implementing ASGM policies

3. Seek opportunities for multi-focal area ASGM co-benefits and interventions.

4. Further the use of the planetGOLD website to disseminate lessons learned from previous projects and communicate status of projects.



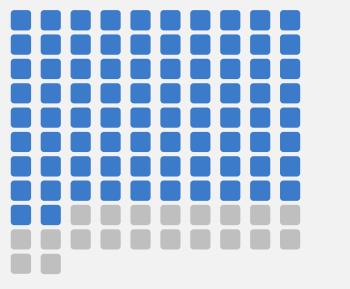
Agenda Item 11 Evaluation of the Role of Medium-Sized Projects (MSP) in the GEF Partnership

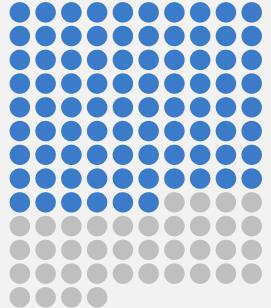
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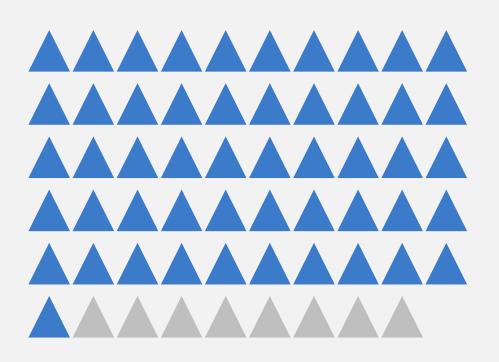
Medium-sized projects Evaluation scope: GEF-4 and onwards

819 (80%) of the 1,024 MSPs **\$958 million** (77%) of the \$1.24 billion in MSP grants

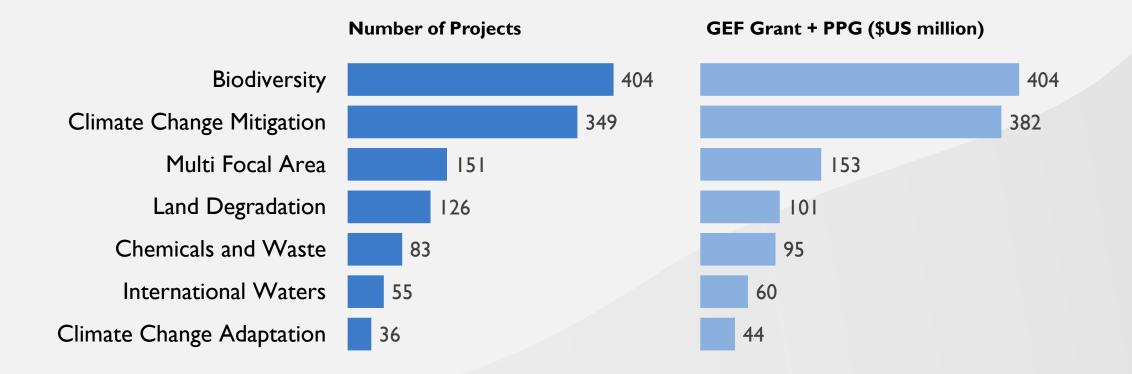
\$5.1 billion (86%) of the\$5.9 billion in MSP planned cofinancing







Medium-sized projects **Portfolio**



Medium-sized projects Findings

A broad representation of CSO executing agencies

MSP	FSP
	10/
18%	4%



MSPs remain **relevant** to the GEF partnership



An entry point into the GEF



Used for capacity building and developing knowledge products



Address funding gaps



2

Perform on par with or slightly higher than FSPs



A catalyst for financing innovation and scaling up

Approval process is efficient

The \$2 million limit seems appropriate for smaller agencies and countries



Use of modality affected by the STAR allocation system





Payments for Environmental Services and Sustainable Financing Schemes in the Danube Basin

Medium-sized projects Recommendation



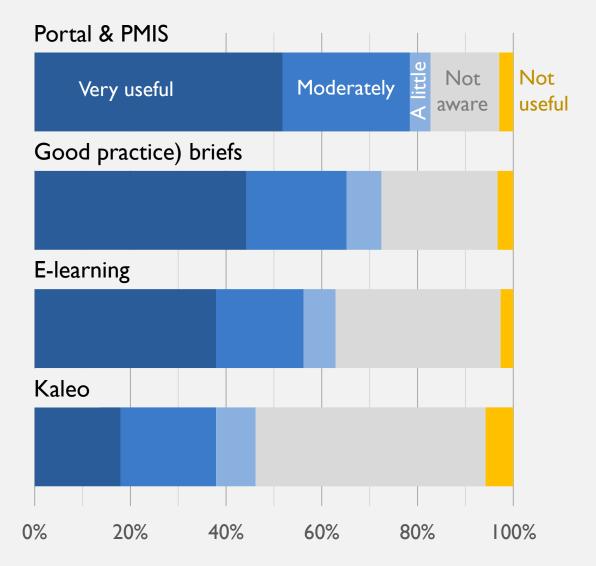
The medium-sized projects should continue to be primarily used for developing innovative projects. Midterm and final evaluations should be conducted on MSPs designed as innovative or transformative, to provide lessons for scaling up or replication

Agenda Item 12 Evaluation of Knowledge Management in the GEF (2020)

Independent Evaluation office Global Environment Facility

Knowledge management at the GEF Progress in each step, several new products

Knowledge
captureKnowledge
developmentKnowledge
sharingKnowledge
application



Knowledge management at the GEF Challenges remain

Capturing data and information from GEF projects and programs

Limited ability of GEF Portal to aggregate and extract lessons

Need for detailed KM projectlevel guidance and examples KM Strategy and partnership members' roles

Absence of KM strategy and clear role of KM Advisory Group and other members of partnership

Capacity to connect with GEF Agency systems and platforms

Knowledge management at the GEF **Programmatic approaches** incorporate knowledge and learning



Program-level approaches to KM facilitate knowledge sharing across projects, countries, and agencies



Systematic KM approaches and consistent set of KM indicators absent in some programs

GEF-6 and GEF-7 examples Integrated Approach Pilots Impact Programs GOLD Program Coastal Fisheries Initiative

Central knowledge and learning platforms are not limited to programs:

Focal areas: IW:LEARN Cross-cutting themes: GEF Gender Partnership

Knowledge management at the GEF **Recommendations**



 The GEF partnership should develop a clear KM strategy. 2. The GEF partnership should invest in a technical solution that strengthens the KM system.



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