





Knowledge Management



- Open access publication Conflict-Sensitive Conservation. Lessons from the Global **Environment Facility**
- Guidelines on terminal evaluations, completed enabling activities, program evaluation





TRAINING

- Workshop on Evaluation at the nexus of the environment and development for the International Program for **Development Evaluation Training**
- Online training on environmental evaluation





- **GEF Assembly:** Side event on evaluation use and influence
- COP28: Co-hosted events with evaluation units of multilateral climate funds
- IEG@50 & GEI: Future proofing national evaluation systems environment



GEF IEO Conference

2024, March 5th - 7th Washington, DC

INTEGRATING

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC DOMAINS FOR **SUSTAINABILITY**















Background and key challenges

Over

40 percent

of the Earth's land surface

Shared land-based

environmental challenges

Home for

2 billion

people

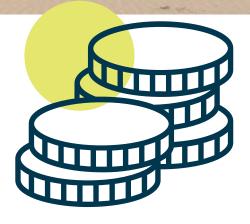
Challenges to

human well-being





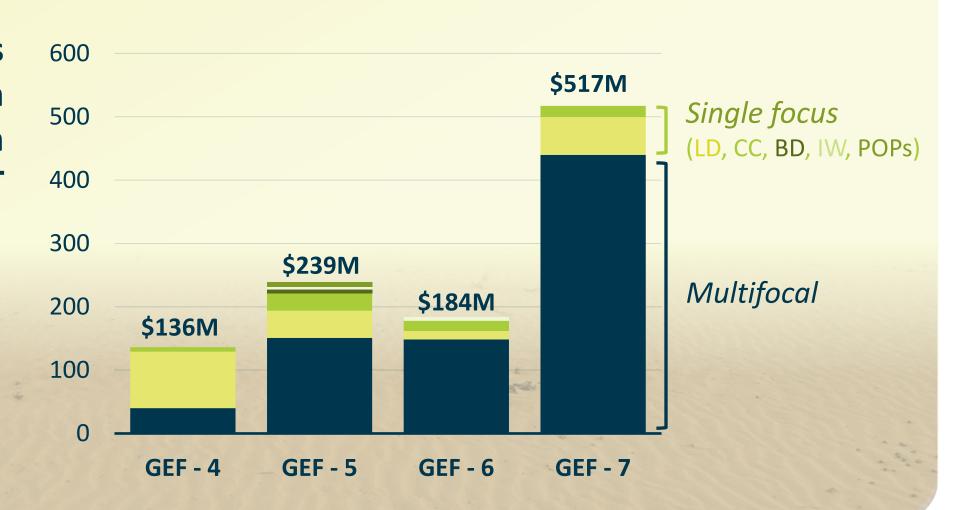
Land degradation strategies



GEF substantial and increasing share of funding in management of drylands

Portfolio

GEF drylands related funding in USD million

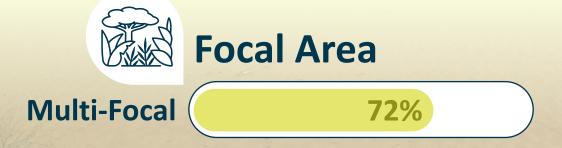


Portfolio

Share of evaluation portfolio's GEF funding



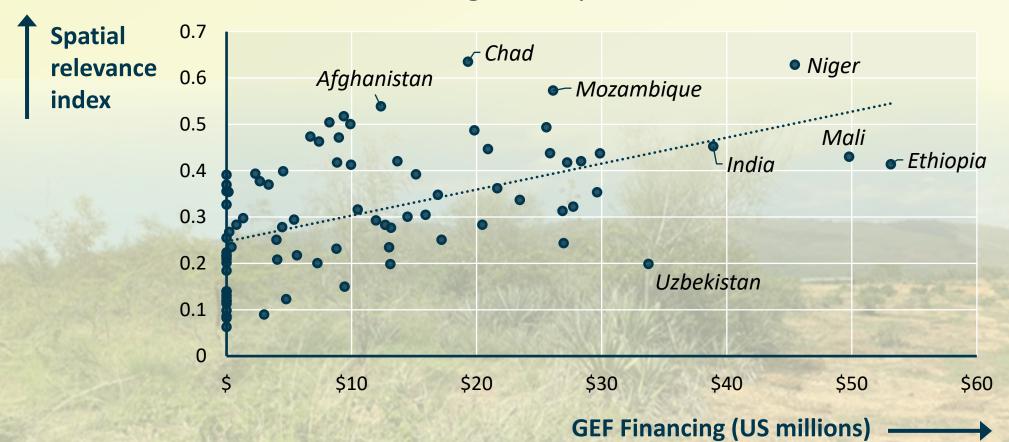






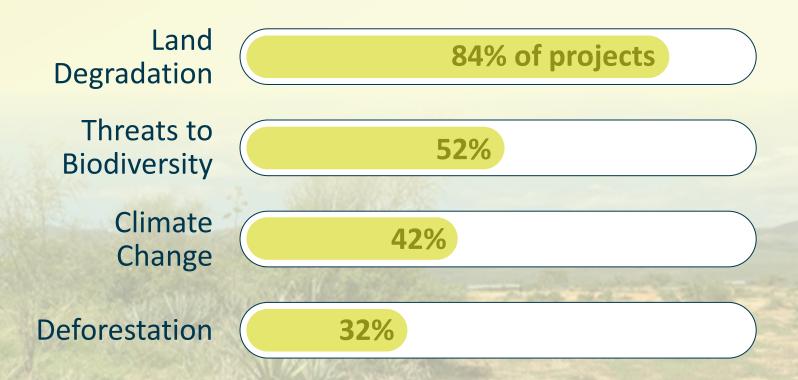
Relevance and Coherence

GEF has been highly relevant to key environmental challenges in drylands



Relevance and Coherence

Key drylands
environmental
challenges targeted
by GEF drylands
projects



Source: GEF/IEO project document review. Confirmed by stakeholder surveys.

Relevance and Coherence

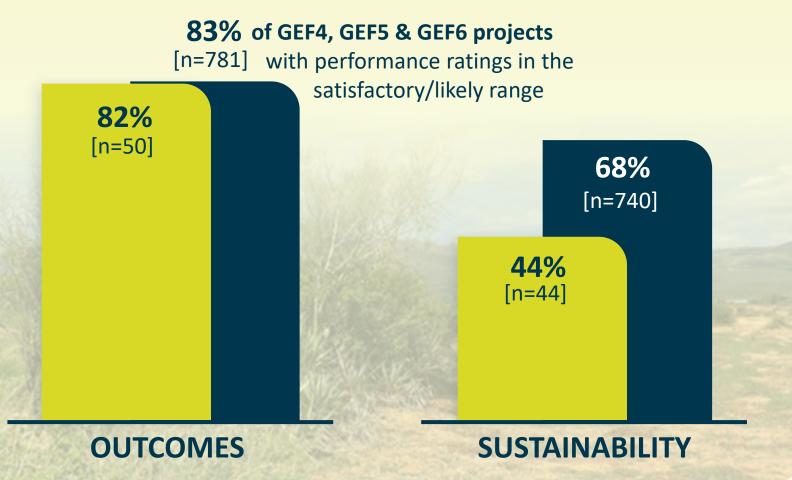
Projects identified policy misalignments at design but didn't succeed in mitigating their impact on outcomes

National policy coherence did not translate into local policy coherence during implementation

Environmental and socioeconomic sustainability: Performance

Overall GEF portfolio performance

GEBs and Socio Economic co-benefits delivered across dryland sub habitats, less in pastoral lands



Environmental and socioeconomic sustainability

Reliance on area-based indicators

limits ability to track changes in

Environmental status

Natural resource governance at design not translated in results

Limited attention to **conflict**and land tenure in project
design



Environmental and socioeconomic sustainability



DRYLANDS COUNTRIES, FINDI

Environmental and socioeconomic sustainability



Sustainability less assured

Involvement of private sector more limited but improving





Results and Impact (Example)

MALAWI

Improved sustainable landscape management practices and agricultural productivity on 480,000 ha, more than 10% of agricultural lands



Results and Impact (Example)





Delivered over 250,000 ha under improved soil and water management practices

Sustainably improved vegetation coverage, reduced erosion and soil salinity

Results and Impact (Example)

ETHIOPIA

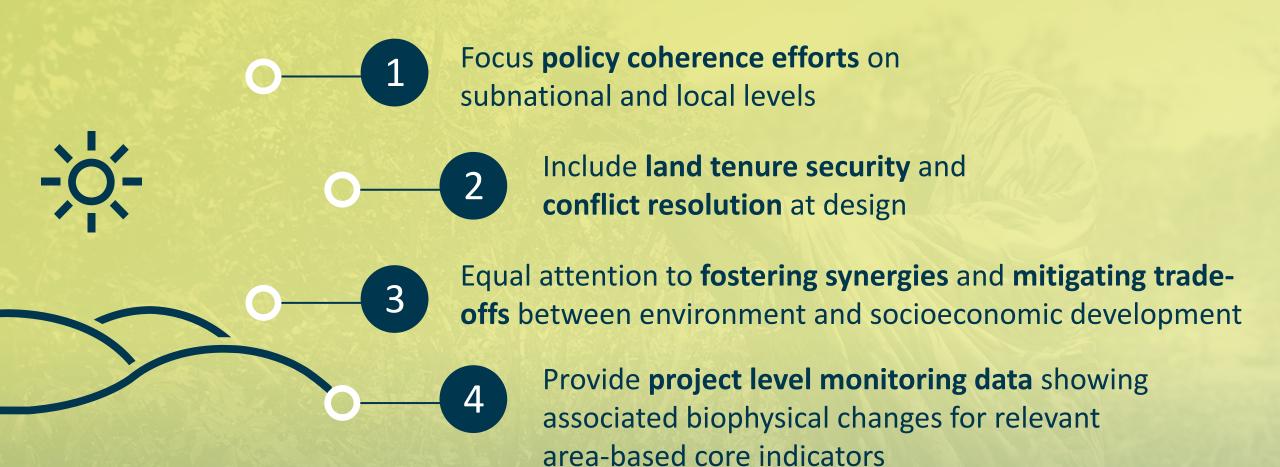
Restored about 154,000 ha of degraded farmland and communal land

Agroforestry and area closures led to a 5% increase in vegetation cover

> Gross primary production grew by 14% in project areas affected by severe droughts



Recommendations





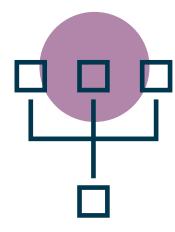
Coverage



GEF Support



Since GEF-4, increasing frequency through GEF-8



Whole of Society' approach in Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for GEF-8



GEF policies foster inclusion and prevent harm to stakeholders and the environment

Portfolio

Share of evaluation portfolio's GEF funding









Relevance

Present in:

Multilateral environmental agreements; GEF projects, programs, and policies; National priorities

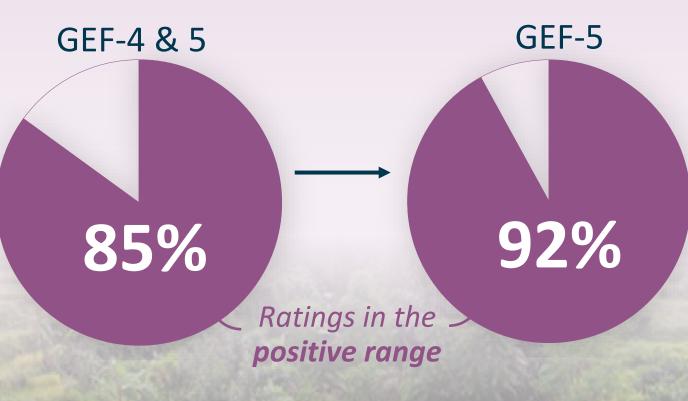
Community-managed forest near protected area in Indonesia, supported by GEF ID: 3279

Results and Performance



Better performance ratings

Achievement of socioeconomic co-benefits at project close



Results and Performance



Sustainability associated with behavior change, and to some extent alternative livelihoods



Activities related to capacity
building for ecological
monitoring sustained post
completion in most sites visited



Results and **Performance**

MRPA (GEF ID 3687)

MADAGASCAR

Decreased rates of mangrove deforestation and expansion of the forested mangrove area

The MRPA project:

- Strengthened community groups
- Fostered legitimacy through a participatory planning process
- Recognized community land tenure
- Community-selected livelihoods activities linked to private sector, supporting sustainability.



Inclusion



More inclusive of women, IPLCs, and youth over time

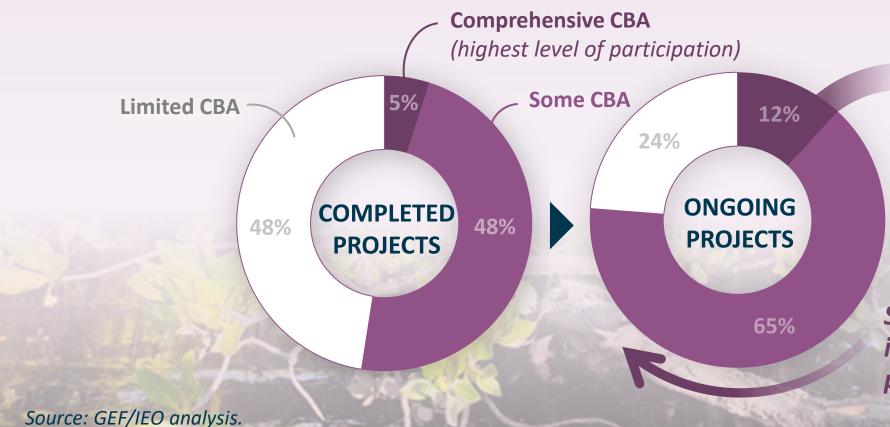


Community-based approaches in the GEF: Community Voices



Alignment with good practice

Comprehensiveness of community based approaches



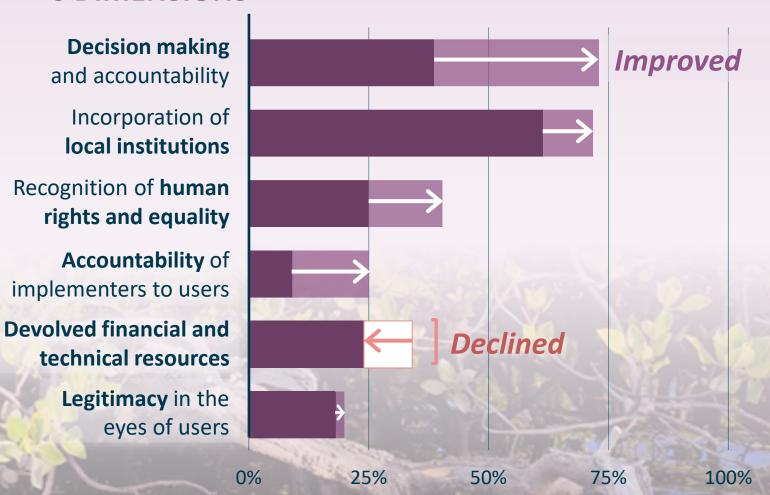
Funding has increased over time, but still a limited number of projects fully demonstrate good practice

Some improvements in recently designed projects

Alignment with good practice

Projects scoring in the top two categories for good practices

6 DIMENSIONS



Community engagement in design, implementation, and monitoring



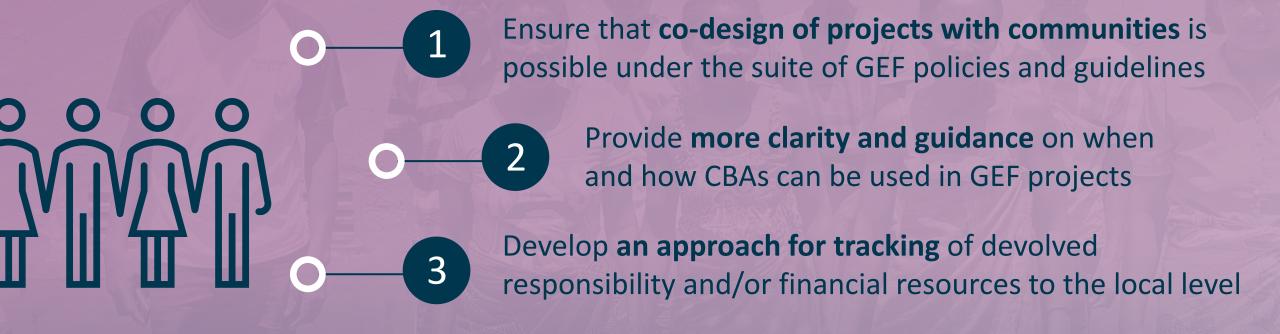
GEF project cycle presents challenges for implementing **CBA** projects



Lack of indicators limits ability to adaptively manage



Recommendations





Background



80 percent

of completed GEF projects are successful

Evidence from less successful projects often

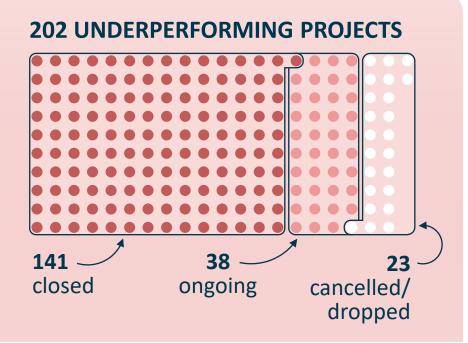
overlooked

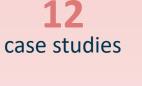
Enhance performance through learning from both

successes and failures

Purpose — objectives — data sources





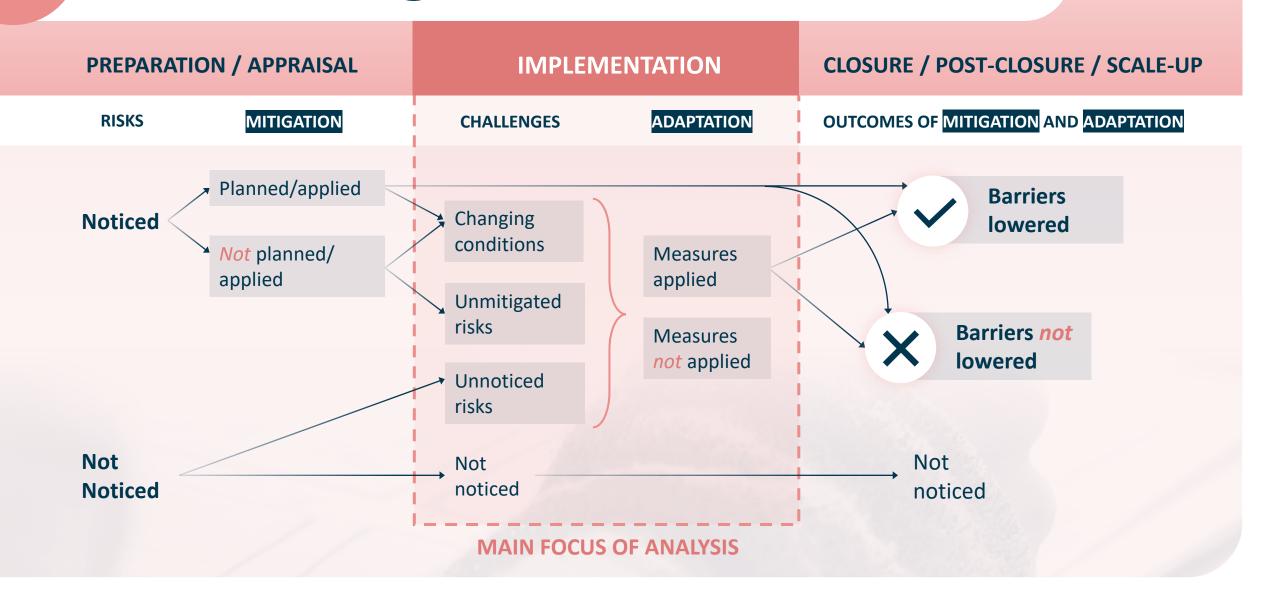






Interviews

Methodological framework



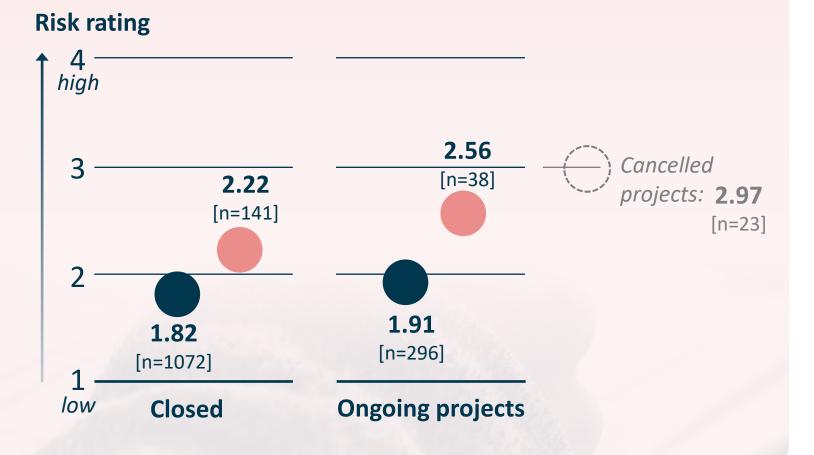
Risks

Underperforming

projects exhibit higher risk levels compared to

all GEF-supported

projects



GEF-8

Adaptive Management Measures

Improved projects

implemented comprehensive restructuring



Improved

projects adapted to

82% of challenges

Unimproved

projects adapted to

44% of challenges

Nonlinear, non-uniform impact trajectories

FACTORS

- Complexity
- Design characteristics
- Diligence in Implementation
- Known and unknown risks
- Adaptive management

LESSONS

- Something can be learned even from disappointing projects
- 2 Effective adaptive management can generate big wins
- Modest but thoughtful adaptive management can consistently deliver small wins



Moldova: "Unsatisfactory" performance



Transforming the market for Urban Energy Efficiency by introducing Energy Service Companies (ESCO)



CHALLENGES

- Low government ownership
- Corruption scandals
- Banking crisis and mistrust
- Inadequate policy and legal framework
- Overly ambitious objectives



ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Terminated the project



POST COMPLETION

 Design of a new project with similar objectives but a different approach

Paraguay: "Turned-around" performance



Improving the Conservation of Biodiversity in Atlantic Forest



CHALLENGES

- Political crisis
- Economic boom disincentivizing forest restoration
- Limited government support and capacity



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ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

- Shifted focus to Indigenous Communities
- Accounted for cultural specifics
- Changed execution arrangements



POST COMPLETION

- Catalyzed conservation of over 1 million hectares through new biosphere reserve
- Lasting partnership with Itaipu for further conservation

Liberia: "Turned-around" performance



Enhancing Resilience of Montserrado County Vulnerable Coastal Areas to Climate Change Risks



CHALLENGES

- Political transitions
- Increased coastal erosion
- Disagreement between partners
- Design and budget not based on projections



ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

- Focused on one critically vulnerable site
- Synergized with Green Climate Fund
- Increased government co-financing
- Addressed community concerns



POST COMPLETION

- Demonstrated feasibility of coastal defense structures
- Built local capacity and strengthened institutions
- Catalyzed replication and scaling up in other coastal regions

Becoming a stronger learning organization-Guiding Principles



Engaging with complex problems through experimentation



Regarding monitoring as a **learning tool**



Establishing conditions under which outcomes can/cannot be expected



Strategic pursuit of ambition and innovation



Setting realistic expectations aligned with problem complexity



Ensuring sustained legal and political support



Ensuring that decisions are informed by contextual analysis

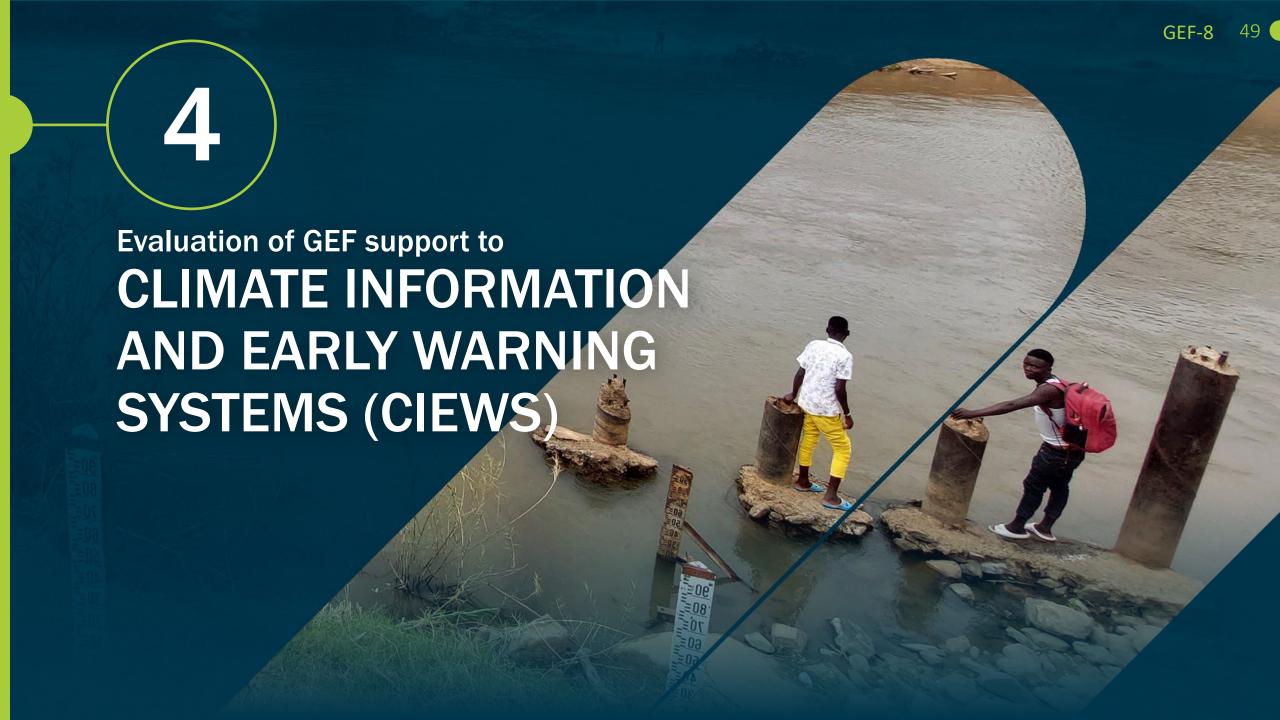


Developing credible measures of the extent to which problems were solved

Recommendation



Reflect and apply the lessons/guiding principles relevant to the GEF, in the detailed action plans for knowledge and learning



Background and definitions

Fundamentals of

Climate Information and Early Warning Systems (CIEWS)

Observations of weather data, and simulations of both past and future forecasting

Timely and **effective information** to take action

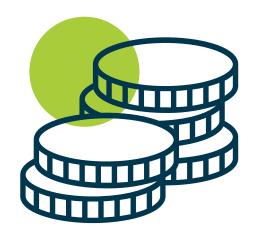


Combined systems to collect, analyze, interpret, and disseminate information about climate patterns and trends to provide timely warning of hazards

GEF Support



Elevated to one of the four priority themes in the 2022-2026 strategy



Investments in CIEWS for climate-related hazards

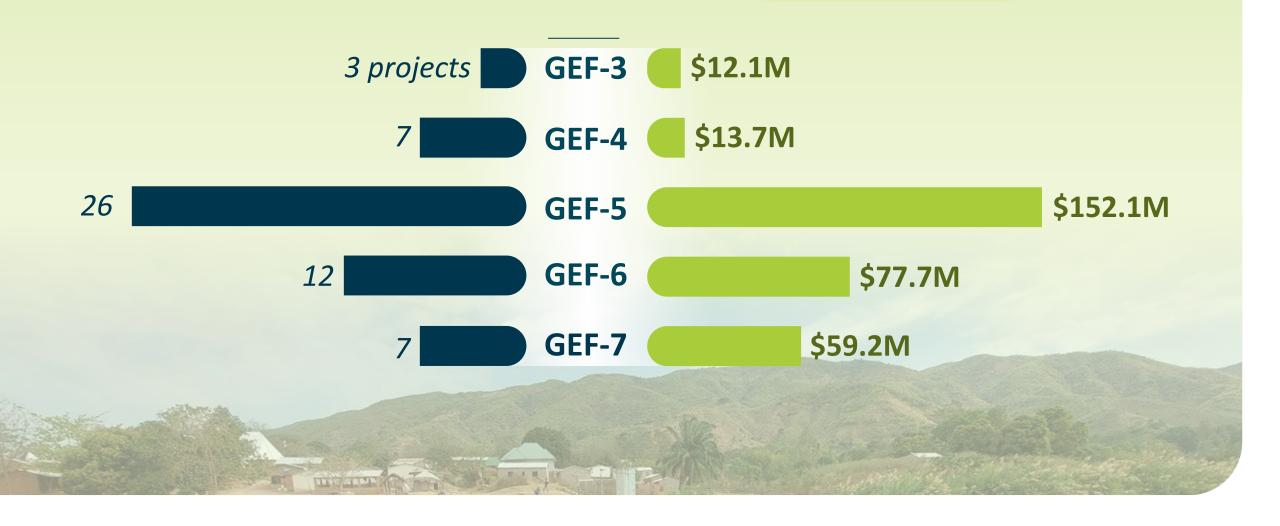


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Portfolio

CIEWS evaluation portfolio by

GEF period



CLIMATE INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS, FINDINGS

Portfolio

Share of CIEWS evaluation portfolio's funding by

Region

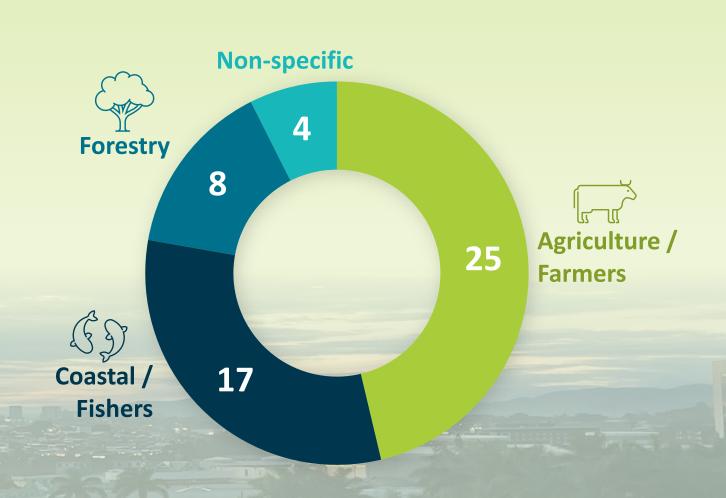


Relevance



Relevance

Main beneficiaries concentrated within the agricultural and fisheries sectors



Effectiveness

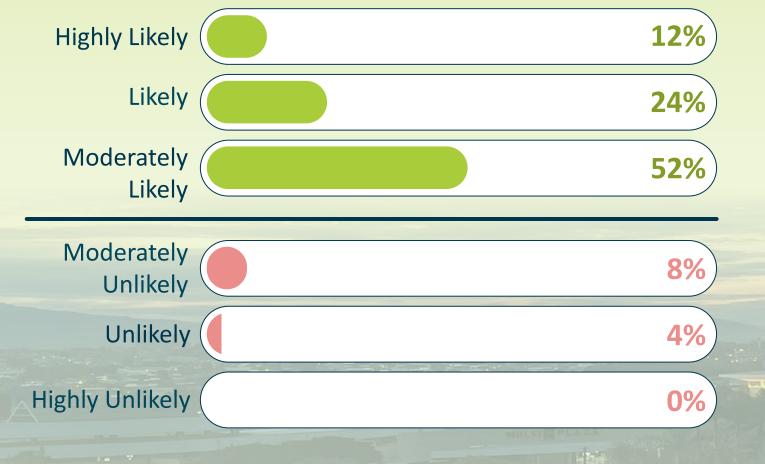
Outcome ratings of CIEWS projects



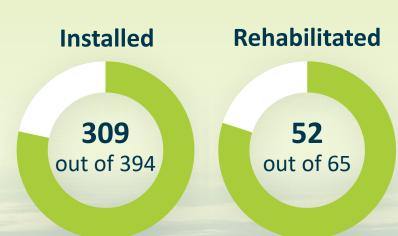
TANZANIA METEOROLOGI AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 3056 DSM.TE
AUTOMATIC WEATH
UNDP/CIRDA PE
STATION NAME-LYAMUNG
LATITUDE O3745 LV
ELEVATION- 12.68

Sustainability















Impact (Example)

(SCCF, GEF ID 6945) Costa Rica: Strengthen capacities to address climate change risks

- Early Warning System implemented to mitigate the risk of floods in a region inhabited by a population of 55,000
- High level of **decentralization**



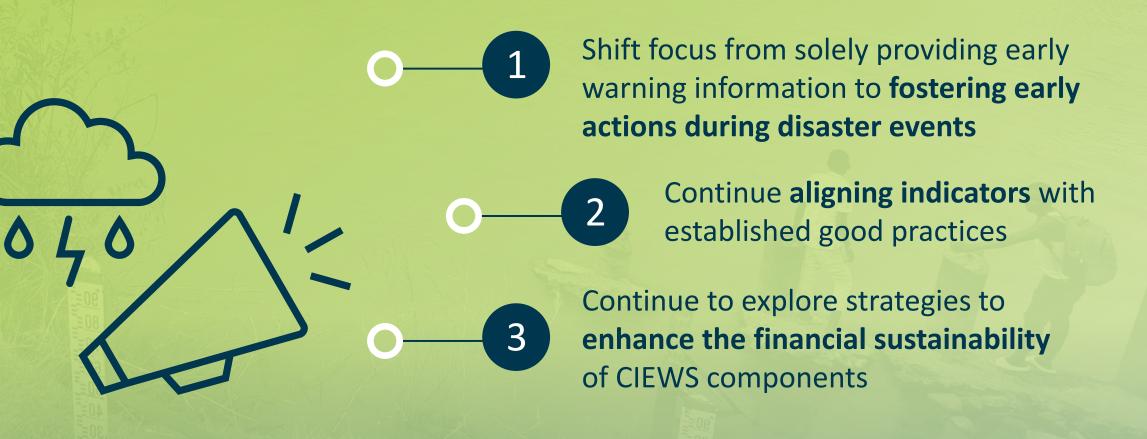
Impact (Example)

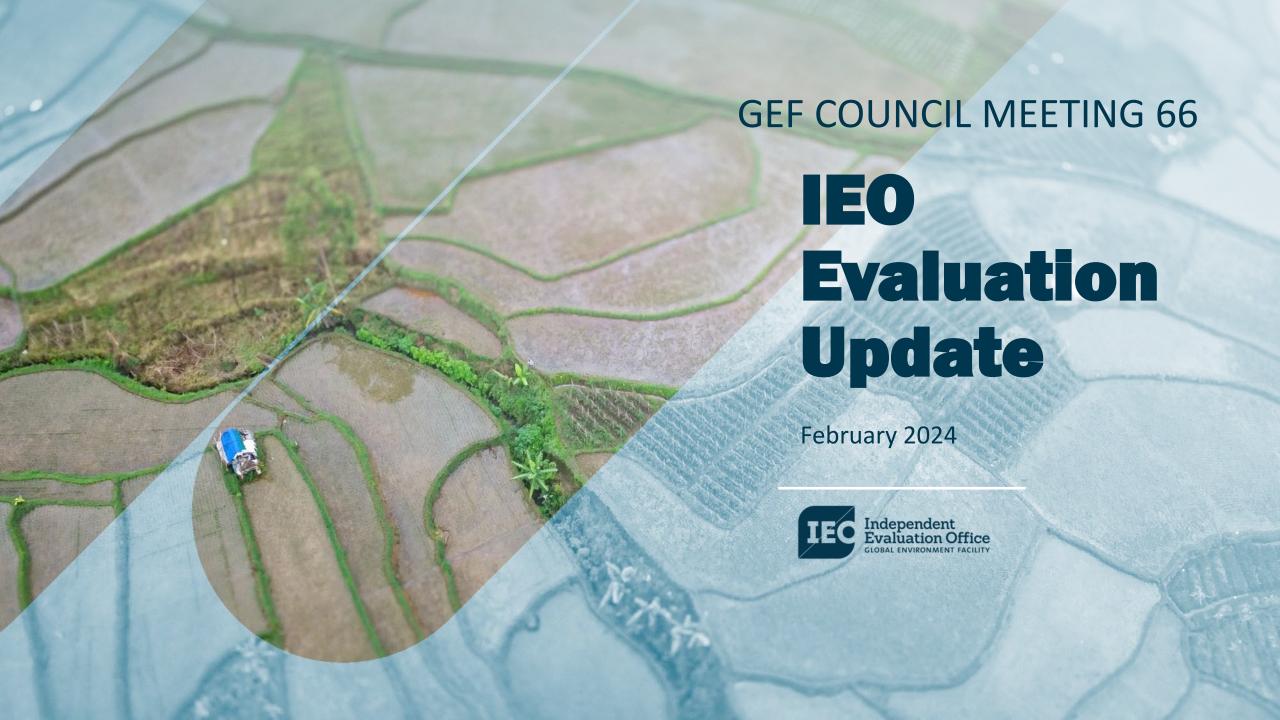
LDCF, GEF ID 4991 Tanzania: Strengthen the climate monitoring capabilities and early warning systems

- Installation of automatic
 weather stations increased
 the accuracy, quality, and
 timeliness of data
- Farmers increased
 their income



Recommendations





What's coming next



Co-financing in the GEF



Assessment of Portfolio Risk in the GEF



Evaluation of the Global Wildlife Conservation Program



Approach
paper to the 8th
Comprehensive
Evaluation of
the GEF



Private Sector Engagement in the GEF-Evidence from the Commodities and Sustainable Cities Programs



GEF IEO Work
Program and
Budget for FY 25