

IEO Evaluation Session

69th GEF Council
June 2025





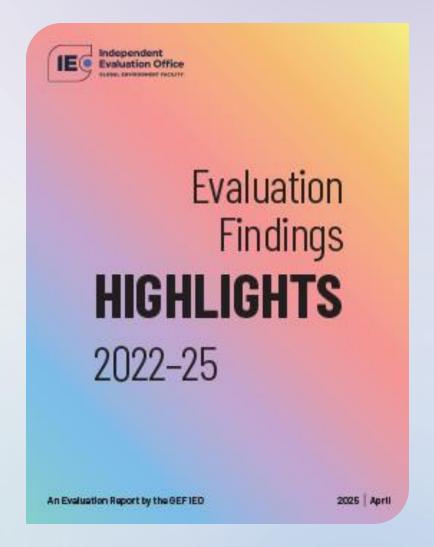
Introduction

Presentations in this Council

- **1** Annual Performance Report
- 2 International Waters Focal Area
- **Socio Economic Cobenefits**
- 4 Nature-based Solutions
- FY25 Work Program and Budget



OPS8:
Preliminary
Report





Annual Performance Report (APR) 2025

GEF Council 69

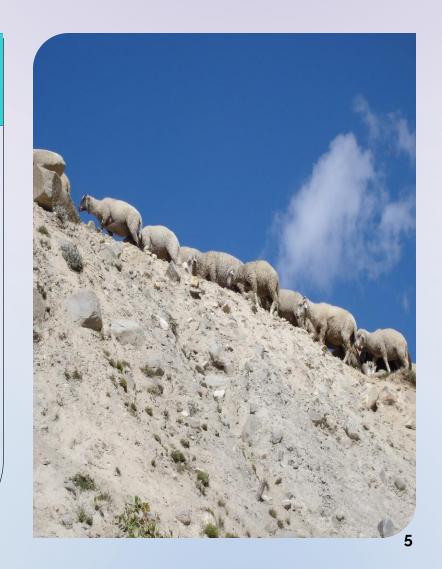




Introduction

Annual Performance Report 2025

- Performance of Completed Projects
 - Outcome and sustainability
 - Behavior change & broader adoption
 - Implementation and execution
 - M&E design and implementation
 - Realized Cofinancing
- Project Cycle Efficiency
- Terminal Evaluation Submission







Portfolio Description

Cumulative portfolio

2,384 projects, \$10.7 B in GEF funding, \$69.4 B in cofinancing mobilized

APR2025 cohort

250 projects, \$1.2 B in GEF funding, \$9.6 B in cofinancing mobilized

Terminal evaluations submitted in the GEF Portal through June 2024

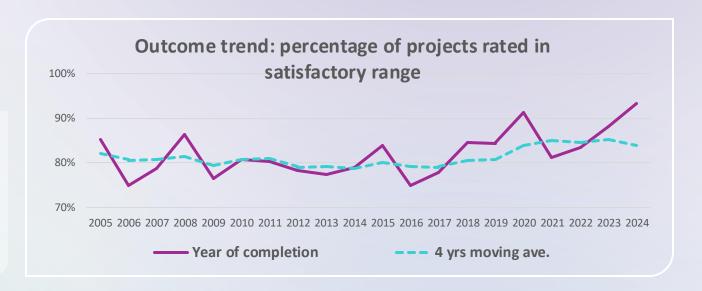


Outcome

Solid track record and improving

81%
Satisfactory
range
(cumulative)

87%
Satisfactory
range
(GEF-4 onwards)





- Strong performance: IW, Chemicals & Waste, ECA, Asia, global projects
- Weaker performance: Africa, LAC, SIDS, FCS
- Comparable performance: Standalone and childprojects



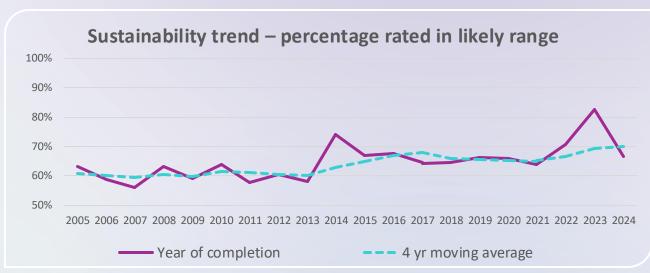
Sustainability

Improving but challenges remain

64% 68%

Likely Likely range range (cumulative) (GEF-4 onwards)





- Strong performance: Chemicals & Waste, IW, Global, Asia
- Weaker performance: Land Degradation, Africa, SIDS, LDCs, FCS
- Comparable performance: Standalone and childprojects



Behavior Change: Key To Sustainability

of both completed and active <50% projects had explicit behavior change indicators

MOST COMMON APPROACHES TO BEHAVIOR CHANGE

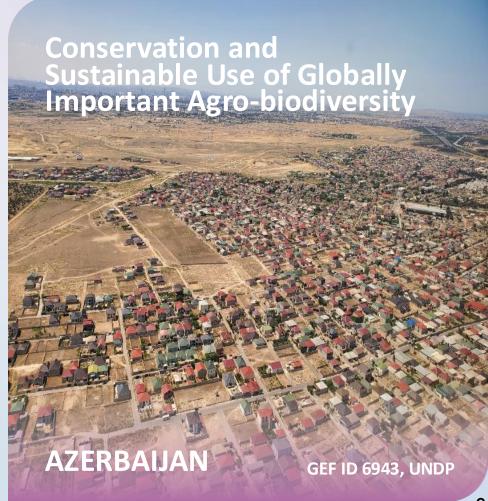


Skills-building (54%)



Policy & regulatory frameworks (49%)

GEF-8 projects more focused on stakeholder needs and institutional barriers





Factors Influencing Sustained Behavior Change

- 1. Access to capital
- 2. Continued institutional support
- 3. Lower perceived costs of adoption beyond the pilot demonstration



Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project
GEF ID 9213, World Bank



Broader Adoption of GEF-Supported Interventions

62%

of projects had interventions sustained, mainstreamed, replicated or scaled up by stakeholders at project end



Policy, legal, and institutional development (58%)



Capacity building (40%)



Interventions with direct environmental benefits (18%)

Mainstreaming was more often targeted (85%) and achieved (56%) than replication and scaling-up

17% of 253 GCF
projects aim for broader
adoption of GEF-funded
interventions



Scaling-up is most common form



Broader Adoption Post-Completion

Philippines: Implementation of SLM Practices to Address Land Degradation and Mitigate Effects of Drought

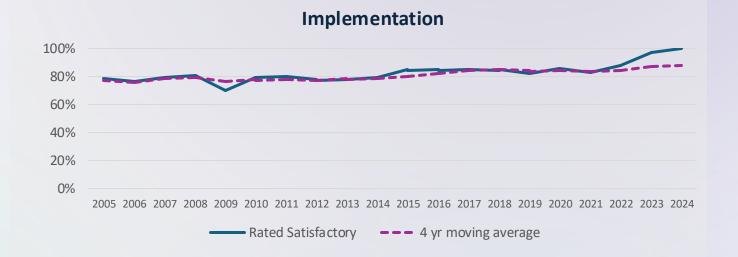
- Integration into land use planning guidelines and agricultural programs
- 2. Replication by local gvt
- 3. Longer term engagement



Implementation and Execution

	Implementation	Execution
GEF-4 Onwards	86%	83%
Cumulative Portfolio	82%	82%

- Some **improvement** in quality of **implementation**, but **little change** in quality of **execution**.
- Africa, FCS countries, and SIDS face execution challenges.







M&E

Substantial improvement in quality of M&E design; less so in M&E implementation

M&E M&E
Design Implementation

70%

GEF-4 **79%**

Cumulative 70% 66%

Lower satisfactory share in FCS M&E design (74%)

M&E implementation (62%)

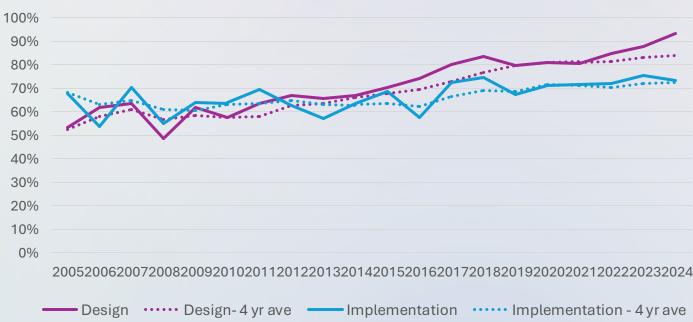


Chemicals & Waste shows most improvement



Land Degradation shows little change

M&E Design and Implementation



Cofinancing



\$60.6 B

2,380 projects



Cofinancing Realization

\$69.4 B

2,042 projects

55%

fully met or exceeded the cofinancing commitments

63%

of completed GEF-6 projects fully met or exceeded cofinancing commitments



Project Cycle Efficiency

Swift PIF approvals

PIF approval to CEO

Endorsement to first disbursement

 Implementation duration for MSPs



Child projects vs. stand alone

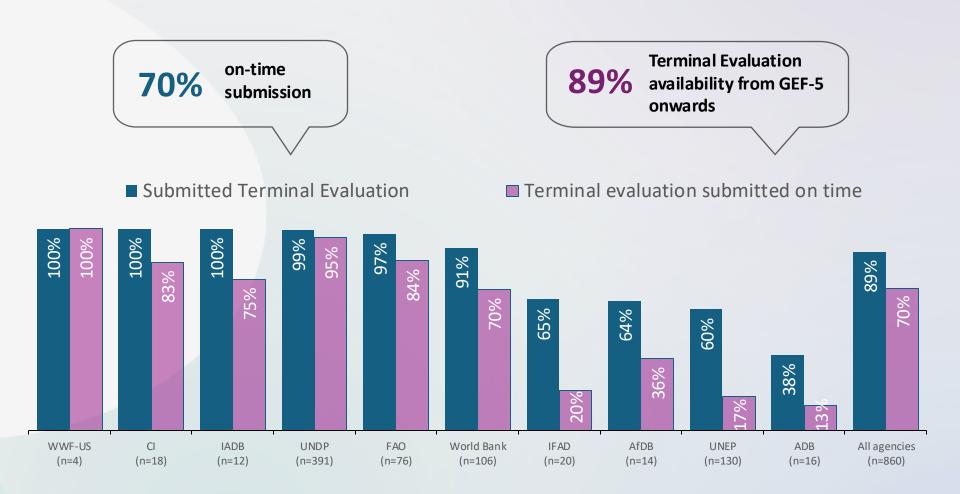
Shorter **preparation time**



Similar **implementation** duration



Submission of TEs



Variation among Agencies

Strong performance: WWF-US, CI, IADB, UNDP, FAO, WBG

Needs Improvement: IFAD, AfDB, UNEP, ADB



Recommendation





Timely submission of terminal evaluations



Thank You











JUNE 3, 2025





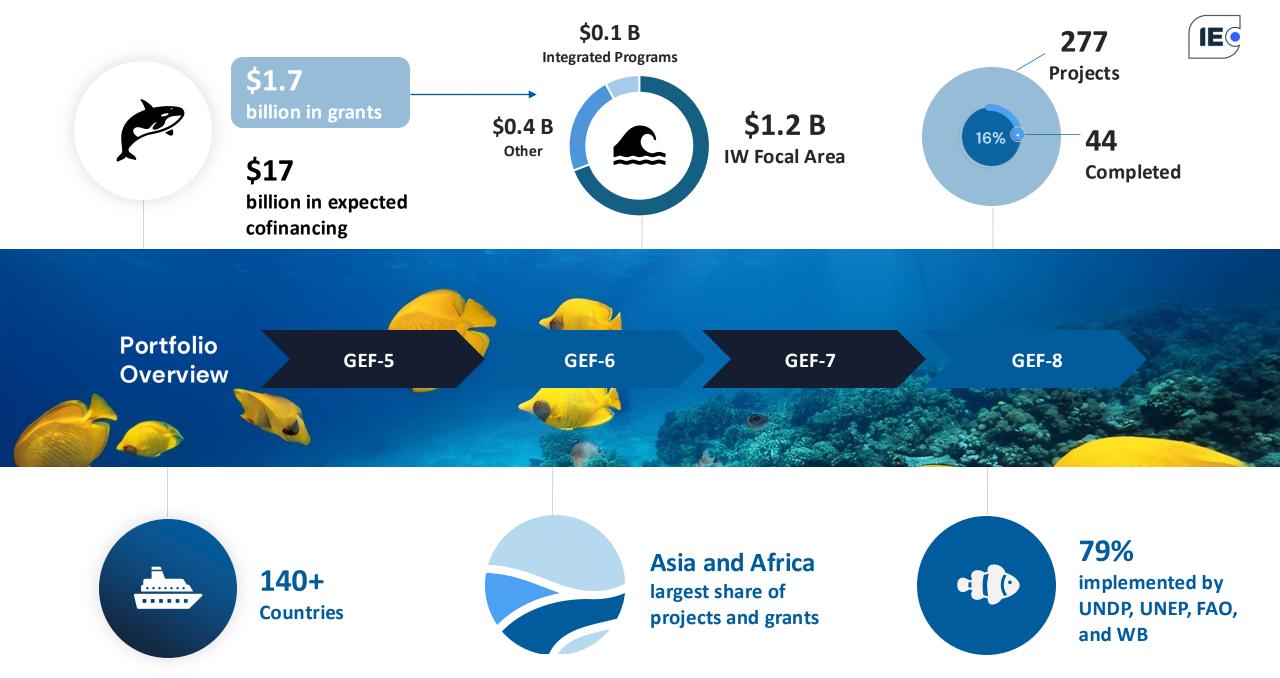


Key Areas of Evaluation Questions

01/ Integration
and Resource
Allocation

02/ Sustainability
Planning

03/ Performance and Impacts





BACKGROUND

Relevance



Balance between Marine and freshwater











Limited focus on groundwater

 Limited coverage of Transboundary water with the highest risks



IW Interventions





Pollution Reduction and Sustainable Fisheries



Use of integrated programming approaches (e.g. IWRM, ICM, Ridge to Reef)



BBNJ - Emerging Area of Work



A Strategic Shift in GEF-8

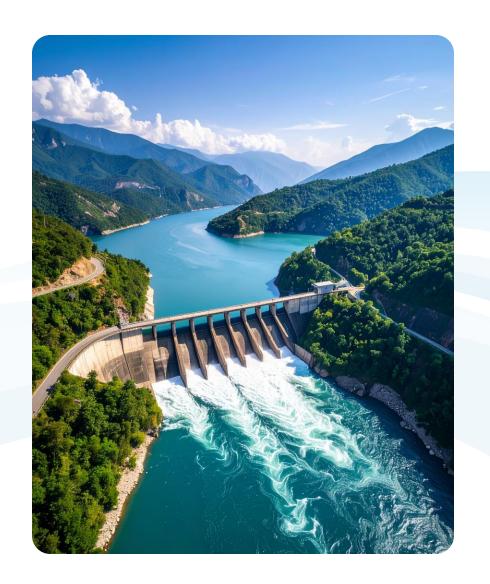


Opportunity

Generate
greater global
environmental
benefits

Risk

Dilute or reduce the IW focal area's principal focus on transboundary cooperation







PERFORMANCE

Good Performance



Sustainability ratings in the "likely range"



PROJECT CYCLE ★★★★★

Sustainability Plans

IWC Survey Findings

Development of detailed sustainability plans at project outset as a key to improve financial sustainability









Broader Adoption

Project: GloMEEP

Countries: Argentina, China, Georgia, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Morocco, Panama, Philippines and South Africa

Key Results:

- Finalization of National Maritime Energy Efficiency
 Strategies in all project countries
- Legislative frameworks and roadmaps developed to comply with the Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships

Public-Private Partnership:

- Sustainability: Creation of the Global Industry Alliance
- Replication: Project Voyage2050 supported by IMO and Norway

INTERNATIONAL WATERS

Socio-Economic Co-Benefits





- Increased employment in the fisheries sector
- Learning opportunities for women DRC Uganda

- Improved food security Botswana Zimbabwe
- Improved economic conditions for fisherfolk Indonesia



Knowledge Management

Learning exchanges



e.g. Twinning between the Yellow Sea LME project and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism





Knowledge Products

e.g. Experience
Note on
regional
dialogues
in Central
America

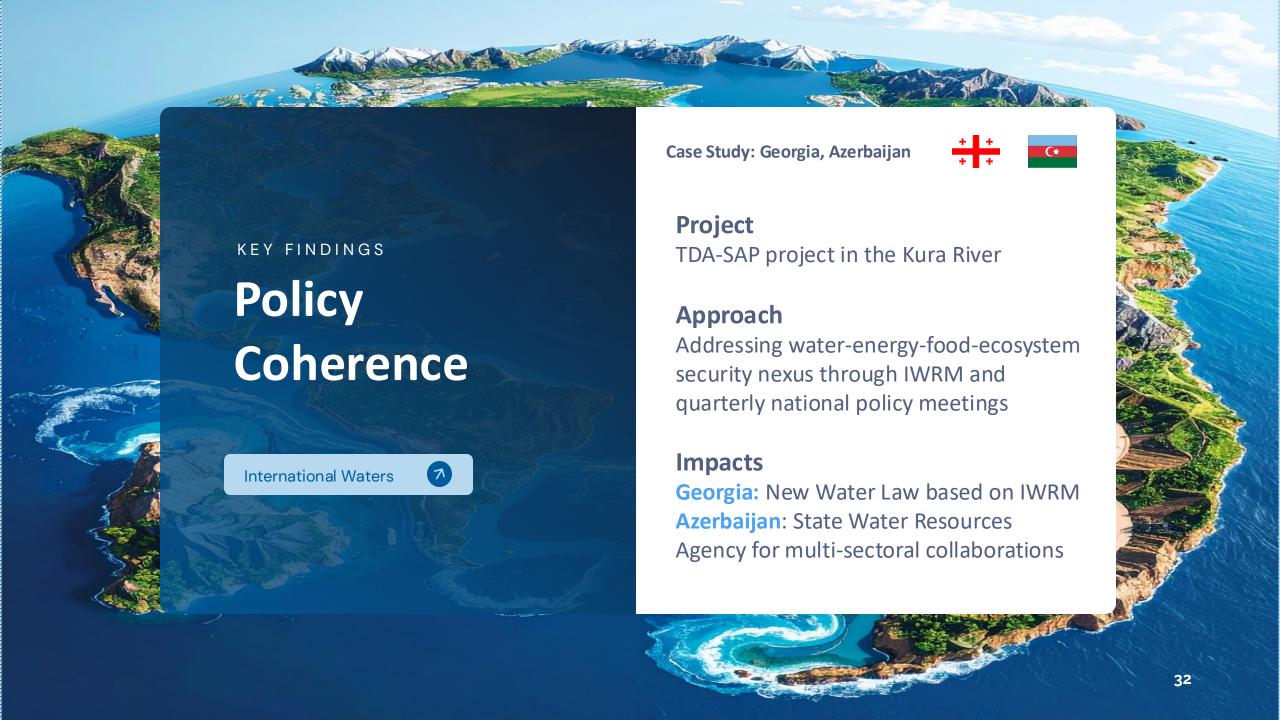
IWC10 in Uruguay





IW:LEARN









KEY FINDINGS

Stakeholder Engagement

Strength



Gender Inclusion & Mainstreaming in:

- Leadership roles
- Capacity building
- Knowledge dissemination

Weakness



Private sector engagement



Official Use Only







Impact Measurement

Lack of systematic measurement of IW impacts and socioeconomic benefits CONCLUSION

Key Challenges



Sustainability

Late project sustainability plan development



Quality vs. Efficiency

Balancing between the quality and efficiency of IW project planning and implementation



Knowledge Management

Limited knowledge sharing between child projects





Recommendations



Assess and balance investments between standalone IW and multi-focal area projects to ensure that its core mandate of transboundary cooperation remains central



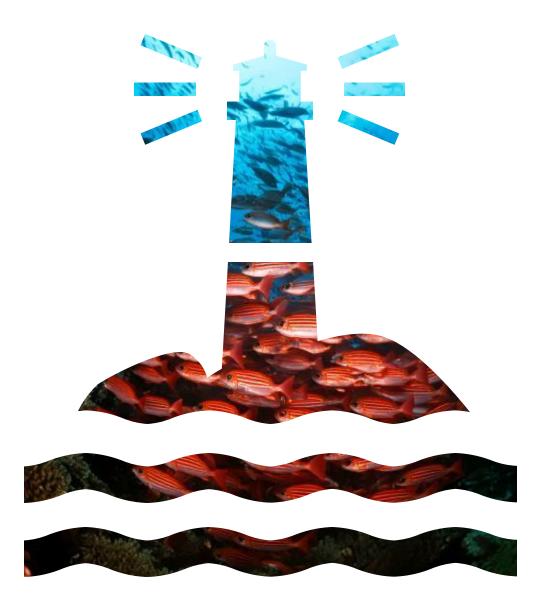




Recommendations



Support stakeholder training on innovative financing models and promote the development of comprehensive sustainability plans early in the project cycle







Recommendations



Further develop and refine IW indicators to more systematically assess the effectiveness of transboundary cooperation arrangements, socioeconomic co-benefits, and impacts on targeted water resources











What are

Socioeconomic Co-Benefits?



Positive impacts beyond environmental goals

Includes livelihoods, health, employment, gender equality, market access





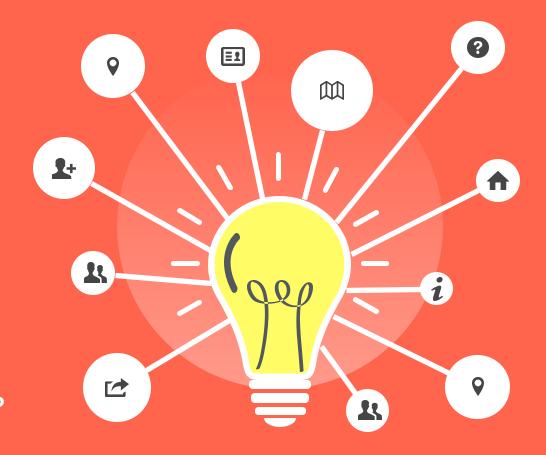




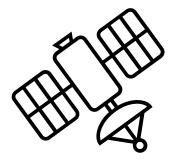
The Evaluation

*i*Key Questions

- 1. Evolution of concept in project design?
- 2. Evidence on Achievements?
- 3. Factors Influencing Sustainability?
- 4. Operational Arrangements?







Data Collection

GEOSPATIAL ANALYSIS, COMBINING SATELLITE IMAGERY WITH SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEYS 11 COUNTRIES, 111 GEF-FUNDED PROJECTS DESK REVIEW OF GEF PROJECT PORTFOLIO AND EVALUATIONS COMPLETED BY THE IEO UNDER GEF-8



COUNTRY CASE STUDIES IN CHAD, MEXICO, AND NEPAL INCLUDING INTERVIEWS AND FIELD VISITS







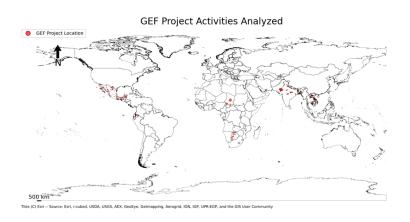


COMBINING SATELLITE DATA, SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEYS AND QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Innovative Approach



Satellite-based proxy
indicators for environment
and economic (vegetative
cover, night-time lights)





Matching satellite data with Living Standard and Demographic Health Survey to assess correlation of project presence with socioeconomic indicators

Relevance of project design in relation to the co-benefits

2 Typologies

Projects focused on natural resource protection (conservation NGOs and UN agencies)

Projects centered on socioeconomic benefits (IFIs) with environmental components financed by the GEF







Relevance of project design

in relation to the cobenefits GEF - 4

GEF - 5

GEF - 6

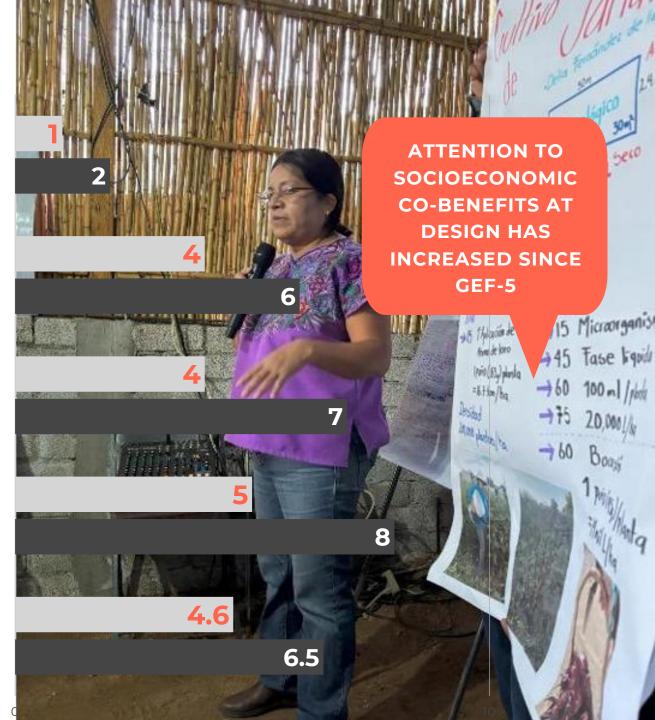
GEF-7

GEF - 8





Any Section









Co-benefit pathways unclear in project design

Conservation projects lacked strategies linking environmental and economic goals

Short-term negative impacts of conservation were rarely assessed

Some limitations in project design

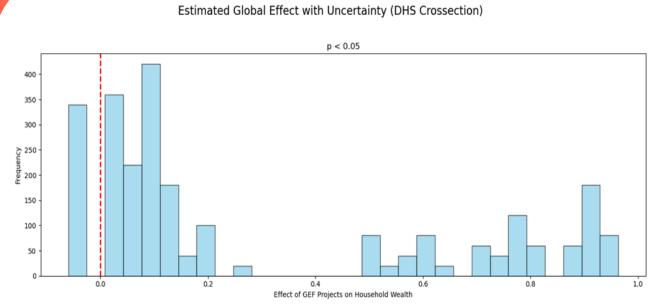


Compensatory measures were not adequately planned.

Effectiveness in achieving co-benefits

Broad finding

Positive correlation between the presence of a GEF-funded intervention and household welfare indicators



Quasi-observational propensity score matching analysis illustrates the positive correlation of GEF activities with household wealth





Human Capital Development



NEPAL

Acquiring specific skills (e.g. biofertilizers, crop management)



CHAD

More accurate factbased representation of climate change effects



MEXICO

Combining traditional approaches to natural resource conservation and new IT applications





Strengthened Social Capital



Strengthened community bonds and governance mechanisms

Strengthened ties with external actors (e.g., universities, local government) to enhance natural resource management

Built human and social capital to drive lasting behavior change and resource stewardship









income
sources
(ecotourism,
PES, carbon
credits,
NTFPs)

Diversified



Enabling
environment
for local
enterprise and
innovation



Health and nutrition co-benefits under-documented



Some
unintended
drawbacks (e.g.,
reduced farm
income in Chad,
human-wildlife
conflict in
Nepal)







Economic Benefits





Sustainability

- Motivation from communities and grassroots to continue activities
- Short support duration; followup and consolidation strategies often lacking
- Little attention to enterprise viability and market access





>> Sustainability

Institutional Challenges



Limited exchanges between GEF-funded projects in the same country and with other projects

2

Incomplete / unclear arrangements on coordination responsibilities

Conclusions

- 1. Evidence of socioeconomic co-benefits
- 2. Specific attention at design is key enabler
- 3. Engaging communities and local institutions is critical
- 4. Sustaining benefits requires consolidation strategy
- 5. Need tracking of co-benefits to capture full range of project results





Recommendations



RECOMMENDATION



Define at design the pathways to generating co-benefits. Identify risks and mitigation measures











Strengthen country portfolio coordination to promote sustainability and scaling-up of cobenefits





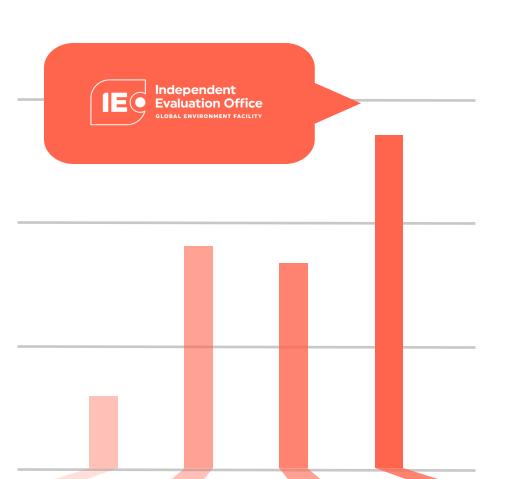
RECOMMENDATION

Track co-benefits during project implementation and at completion





Thank You





Evaluation of GEF Support for Nature-based Solutions





NbS at the GEF

Inclusion of NbS in global agreements and GEF's recognition of its integrative value, have boosted its prominence





Proposed GEF 9

Strong focus on NbS within Policy Coherence, IPs and NGI



Before GEF 5

Multiple approaches such as SLM, EbM, ICZM



GEF 6 & 7

Explicit in Programming Documents



GEF 8

Cross cutting, Key Theme for the LDCF and SCCF







Recommendation 01

Develop NbS-specific guidance for integration, tracking, and adaptive management

Scale private sector engagement through blended finance for NbS



Recommendation 02









Recommendation 03

Support NbS implementation in countries through inclusive capacity building and coherent policies







Recommendation 04



Thank You

Evaluation of GEF Support for Nature-based Solutions







FY2026 Work Program and Budget





Introduction

Agenda

- OPS8 Status and Evaluation Work in Progress
- 2 Management Action Record
- **3** Knowledge Management and Learning
- 4 Budget and Human Resources







Status Update

Eighth
Comprehensive
Evaluation
of the GEF

Theme: Integration



Programming Strategy & Institutional Issues





Relevance of the GEF (to global environmental challenges, countries, conventions)



Design and implementation of the GEF-8 programming strategy



Implementation of GEF policies (gender; safeguards; stakeholder engagement, civil society, the private sector, and indigenous peoples)



Institutional processes including results-based management and knowledge and learning



The GEF Country Engagement Strategy



The GEF's **flexibility** to adapt and respond to crises



The GEF's policies focus on a whole of society approach

GEF Performance, Impact and Sustainability



- Overall Performance
 (Outcomes, longer-term
 Sustainability, Behavior
 Change)
- GEF performance and impact in Integrated and Impact Programs

Catalytic Role of the GEF for Transformational Change - Innovation, Risk, Nature Based Solutions

Focal area & Country
Cluster Performance,
Impact,
(special themes), SGP
and
LDCF/SCCF

GEF Role in enabling Policy Coherence

- GEF Role in
 Catalyzing Finance
 and Partnerships to
 scale interventions
- Generation of
 Socio Economic
 Co-Benefits through
 GEF Interventions





Stakeholder consultations

Frequency

During OPS8

In dissemination and outreach

During the approach paper preparation

Quality Assurance

5 external advisers



Hasan Tuluy



Stefano Schwager



Patricia Rogers



Vinod Thomas



Monika Weber-Fahr

Component evaluations

Peer reviewers and reference groups



OPS8: Preliminary Report

Highlights Evaluation Findings 2022-2025

Purpose

- Provide early evidence for GEF-9
- Assess performance, policies and systems
- Identify potential areas for improvement
- Support decision making with evidence



Evaluation Findings HIGHLIGHTS

2022-25

An Evaluation Report by the GEF1ED



Evidence Base: 34 Evaluations 23 completed

- 1. Impacts of COVID on GEF Interventions
- 2. Evaluation of GEF Support Water Security
- 3. Information and Early Warning Systems
- 4. Report on the GEF Management Action Record
- 5. Least Developed Countries Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation
- 6. Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation: Drylands
- 7. Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation: Lower Mekong River Basin
- 8. Evaluation of GEF Support to Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+
- Evaluation of GEF Interventions in International Waters
- Evaluation of GEF Interventions in Chemicals and Waste
- 11. Review of Portfolio Level Risk in the GEF
- 12. Evaluation of GEF Programs in the Pacific SIDS

- 13. Evaluation of Cofinancing In the GEF
- 14. Evaluation of GEF Support to Community Based Approaches
- 15. Evaluation of GEF Support to Nature Based Solutions
- 16. Evaluation of Components of the Results Based Management System
- 17. Evaluation of Socioeconomic Co-Benefits of GEF Interventions
- **18.** Annual Performance Report **2023**: GEF Support to Behavior Change
- 19. LDCF/SCCF Annual Evaluation Report 2023
- **20.** Evaluation of the Global Wildlife Program
- 21. Learning from Challenges In the GEF
- 22. Annual Performance Report 2025
- 23. LDCF/SCCF Annual Evaluation Report 2025



Coming To Council FY2026 11 ongoing

- 1. Evaluation of the GEF Country Engagement Strategy
- 2. Evaluation of the Inclusion of Marginalized groups in Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations
- 3. Evaluation of the Sustainable Cities Program
- 4. Evaluation of GEF Support to the Amazon
- 5. Evaluation of the GEF Integrated Food Systems Program
- 6. Evaluation of Innovation and Application of Technologies in the GEF
- 7. Evaluation of the Small Grants Programme
- 8. Evaluation of the GEF's Engagement In the Private Sector
- Evaluation of the GEF's Interventions In Climate Change

- 10. Evaluation of GEF Support to Policy Coherence
- 11. An Assessment of the Competitive Advantage of the GEF





Timing

1. Drafting Report: June-August 2025

Final Report: September 2025

3. Presentation 2nd replenishment meeting: October 2025

Presentation to GEF Council: December 2025





Council endorses

the Management Response and Action Plan **Management specifies**

level of agreement, develops an action plan with timelines



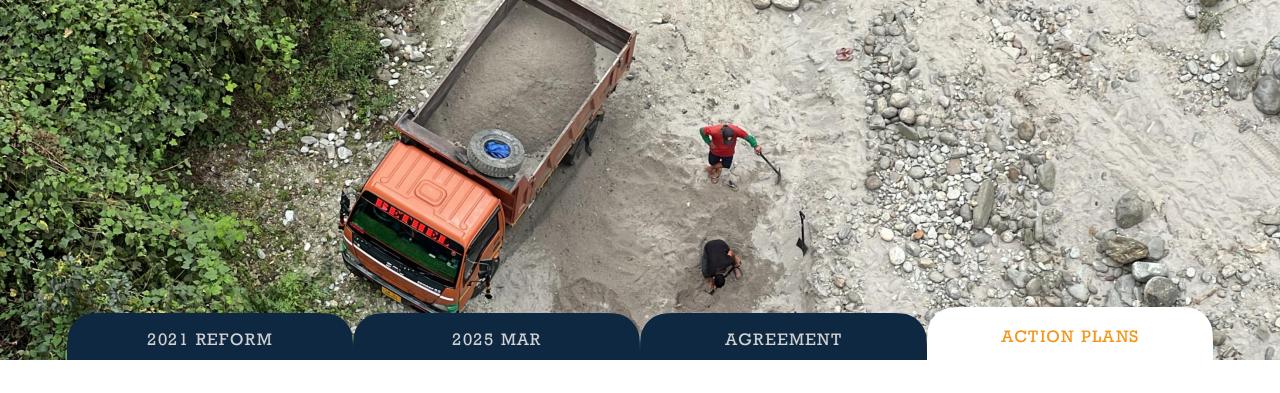


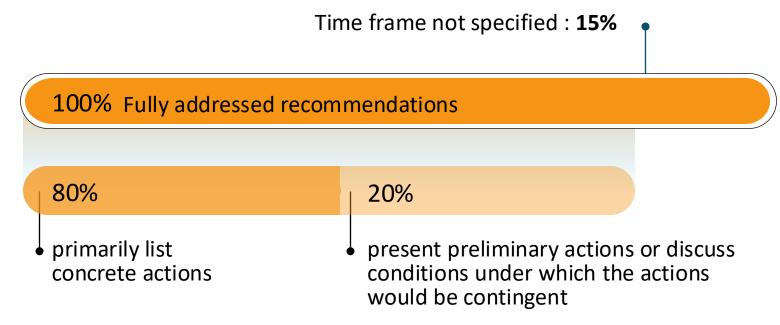
Based on 63 recommendations from 23 evaluations





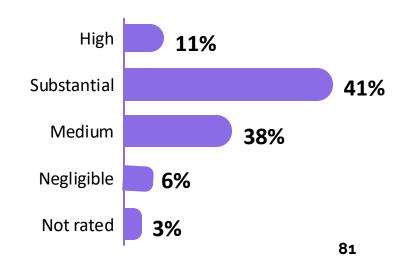
Level of agreement was expressed for all recommendations







GEF IEO's ratings in 2025 for implementation progress



GEF IEO's ratings matched with Management's self-assessment in 55% of cases

IMPLEMENTATION

SELF-ASSESSMENT

Management's ratings in 2024

Not

Management Action Record

			High	Substantial	Medium	Negligible	rated
	GEF IEO's ratings in 2024	High	7	16	0	0	0
		Substantial	9	12	0	0	1
		Medium	0	6	12	0	0
		Negligible	0	0	3	0	1
		Not rated	0	0	2	0	0

KM & Communications





Expanded Constituency Workshop - Southern Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa



GEF Technical Advisory Group Meetings, Washington DC



Workshop on Learning from the Sustainable Cities Program, Paris, France



12th Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, Geneva, Switzerland



Expanded Constituency Workshop, Malabo, **Equatorial Guinea**



IEO Participation in the GEF Interagency Retreat, Washington, D.C



Induction Training for New GEF Staff. Washington, D.C



Four Climate Funds Meeting & Webinar on **AI/Climate Evaluations** Washington, D.C

nsformational Change in ilateral Climate Funds February 2025

Workshop: Advancing Transformational Change in Multilateral Climate Finance, Washington, D.C. ON AI



Workshop on Artificial Intelligence in Evaluation, Washington, D.C.

KM & Communications





United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Annual General Meeting, Tokyo, Japan



INTEVAL Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C



Workshop on Climate Evaluation and Learning Initiative, Rockefeller Foundation, New York



Annual meeting of the **Amazon Sustainable** Landscapes (ASL), Georgetown, Guyana



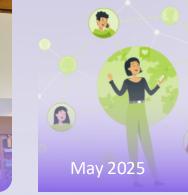
Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG) of the **Multilateral Development** Banks, Rome, Italy



GEI/CLEAR virtual seminar on gendersensitive climate actions



International **Development Evaluation Association Conference**, Rome, Italy



Canadian Evaluation Association 2025 Virtual Conference



Integrating for Sustainability: Evaluation Across Environmental and Socioeconomic Domains





Beta Launched May 2025 Full Launch October 2025

Current Website Statistics

11,199

Total Website Views

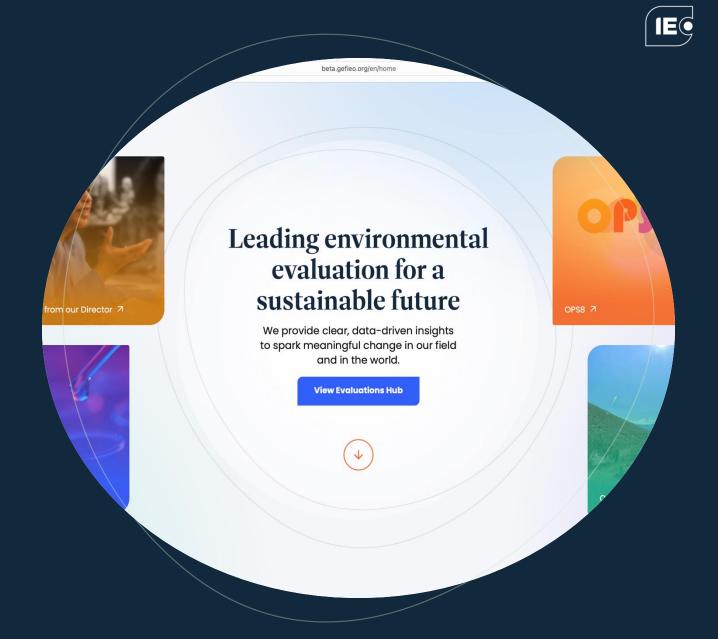
Between December 2024 - March 2025

Inclusion

TE Guidelines

Top Viewed Evaluation (2024)

Top Downloaded Evaluation (2023)



Social Media & Content

Between January 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025



54,185 Total Impressions



11,304Members reached



1,035 Engagements



2,613 Total followers

On average, up 12% vs. prior 150 days



Similar growth across Twitter/X



EvalVision

GWP, Chemicals & Waste, NbS



WebVR

4 Evaluations covered in Mexico



Budget Utilization FY2025



Department

IEO

Calendar

FY25

Fixed cost

Variable cost

* Including:

Office Lease

WB 11% indirect costs

\$5.693

US\$ millions

\$2

\$0.34

\$0.846

Total

\$8.88

Overall Budget Use



Budget Request FY2026



Department

IEO

Calendar

FY26

US\$ millions

Fixed cost

Variable cost

* Including:

Office Lease

WB 11% indirect costs

\$5.803

\$1

\$0.34

\$0.748

Total

\$7.891

Total Budget



Human Resources





Recommended Council Decision



Date

June 2025

The Council, having reviewed the "FY 2026 Work Program and Budget of the Independent Evaluation Office," acknowledges the progress made by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) in the reporting period. The Council approves the annual IEO budget for FY26 for a total of \$7.891 million, which includes the 11% Indirect overhead charge in accordance with the decision made by the GEF Council at its 64th Session in June 2023.





Thank You

