




Independent  
Evaluation Office  
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

SIXTH COMPREHENSIVE  
EVALUATION OF THE GEF

# 10 CONCLUSIONS

OPS6



The Independent Evaluation Office presents these **10 conclusions** based on evidence from **29 evaluations** conducted as part of the Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the Global Environment Facility (OPS6) — The GEF in the Changing Environmental Finance Landscape.

These conclusions formed the basis of the OPS6 recommendations for GEF-7, which have been considered in the replenishment process.

# 1

The changing landscape for environmental finance presents an opportunity for the GEF to build on its **COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE**

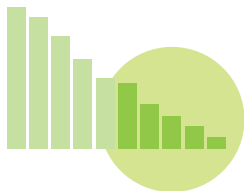
## SOURCES OF COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

Interlinkages and synergies across focal areas



Policy and regulatory reforms in countries for enabling environment to attract investment

Innovative financing models and risk-sharing approaches



Support to lower-income countries and small island developing states

# 2

The GEF has a **STRONG TRACK RECORD** in delivering overall good project performance, being catalytic, and driving transformational change



**79%** of the OPS6 cohort of 577 projects had satisfactory outcomes



**61%** of a sample of 415 projects had a catalytic role

Scaling up and market change had limited success



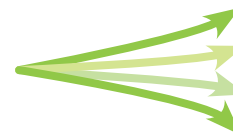
# 3

**PROGRAMMATIC APPROACHES AND MULTIFOCAL AREA PROJECTS** address drivers of environmental degradation; however, complex program designs have implications for outcomes, efficiency, and management



Most multifocal area projects generated multiple benefits

Multifocal projects have the potential to enhance synergies and mitigate trade-offs



Outcome performance, cost effectiveness and efficiency decline with increased complexity

4

The **INTEGRATED APPROACH PILOTS** are relevant to environmental issues, countries and cities and are designed with innovative knowledge components for long-term sustainability

Designed for scaling up, replication, and market transformation



Targets are inconsistently specified and measured

6

Policies and guidance on **SAFEGUARDS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES** have advanced GEF efforts in these areas, but gaps exist



Instrumental in advancing policies in agencies

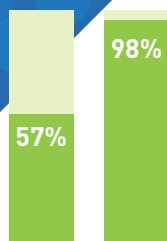
Most agencies comply with minimum standard on indigenous peoples



Limited guidance and monitoring of safeguards have implications for risks

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The new policy has made **GENDER MAINSTREAMING** more systematic, though its implementation remains unclear



BEFORE AFTER

Gender consideration in project design has increased

Only **14%** of projects at entry included a gender analysis



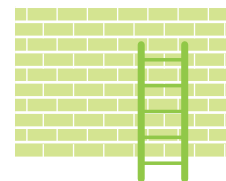
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GEF **FINANCING** has been constrained by exchange rate volatility



**15%** funding shortfall caused by exchange rate volatility

In-house expertise and size matter for nongrant instruments to be attractive

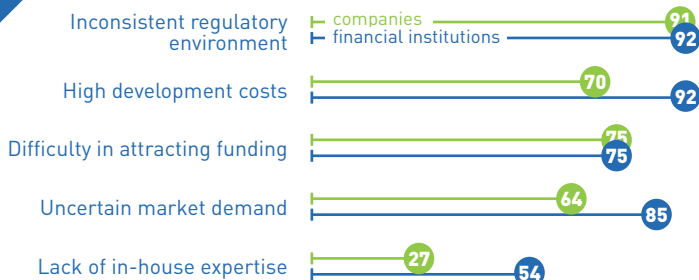


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Operational restrictions and lack of awareness of the GEF have resulted in limiting the potential for successful engagement with the **PRIVATE SECTOR**

#### HURDLES FOR GEF PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS

SHARE OF RESPONDENTS



9

Overall, the GEF partnership is well **GOVERNED**; concerns exist on matters related to representation, efficiency, accountability, and transparency



**73%** responded that the GEF is effectively governed

Inadequate clarity and communication of programming decisions



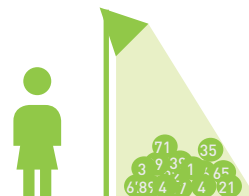
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Some progress has been made on GEF's **PROJECT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM**, results-based management system, and knowledge management



The availability and quality of information provided by the PMIS remains an area of major concern

On reporting, there is too much information with little focus on impact



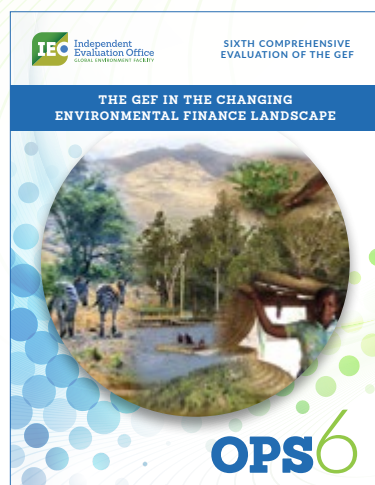
The results-based management system plays a strong role in accountability, but is limited in measuring program additionality

Knowledge generated is useful but is not consistently accessible



# RECOMMENDATIONS

The main recommendations of OPS6 for GEF-7 include: building on GEF's strategic position in addressing drivers of environmental degradation; promoting transformational change; continuing the focus on integration based on additionality; improving financial management; adapting the private sector strategy to engage the private sector more broadly than as a source of financing; promoting gender equality; reviewing and revising safeguard policies and rules of engagement with indigenous peoples to adjust gaps against good practices; strengthening operational governance across the partnership; and improving systems for data, monitoring, and knowledge.



**Download the full OPS6 at**  
[gefieo.org/evaluations/ops-period/ops6](http://gefieo.org/evaluations/ops-period/ops6)

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