

Terminal Evaluation Validation form, GEF Independent Evaluation Office

1. Project Data

Summary project data			
GEF project ID		612	
GEF Agency project ID		66241	
GEF Replenishment Phase		GEF-2	
Lead GEF Agency (include all for joint projects)		World Bank	
Project name		World Water Vision - Water and Nature	
Country/Countries			
Region		Global	
Focal area		International Waters	
Operational Program or Strategic Priorities/Objectives		OP10, Global Support Component	
Stand alone or under a programmatic framework		Standalone	
If applicable, parent program name and GEF ID			
Executing agencies involved		IUCN Canada	
NGOs/CBOs involvement			
Private sector involvement (including micro, small and medium enterprises) ¹			
CEO Endorsement (FSP) /Approval (MSP) date		4/25/1999	
Effectiveness date / project start date		6/17/1999	
Expected date of project completion (at start)		10/30/2000	
Actual date of project completion		12/7/2000	
Project Financing			
		At Endorsement (US \$M)	At Completion (US \$M)
Project Preparation Grant	GEF funding		
	Co-financing		
GEF Project Grant		0.7	0.7
Co-financing	IA own		
	Government		
	Other multi- /bi-laterals		
	Private sector		
	NGOs/CBOs		
	Other		
Total GEF funding		0.7	0.7
Total Co-financing		13.145	–
Total project funding (GEF grant(s) + co-financing)		13.845	–
Terminal evaluation validation information			
TE completion date		11/24/2014	
Author of TE		Not Specified	
TER completion date		12/20/2022	
TER prepared by		Nabil Haque	
TER peer review by (if GEF IEO review)		Neeraj Kumar Negi	

¹ Defined as all micro, small, and medium-scale profit-oriented entities, including individuals and informal entities, that earn income through the sale of goods and services rather than a salary. ([GEF IEO 2022](#))

Access the form to summarize key project features here: <https://www.research.net/r/APR2023>.

2. Summary of Project Ratings

Criteria	Final PIR	IA Terminal Evaluation	IA Evaluation Office Review	GEF IEO Review
Project Outcomes	—	S	—	S
Sustainability of Outcomes	—	MU	—	MU
M&E Design	—	—	—	NA
M&E Implementation	—	—	—	NA
Quality of Implementation	—	—	—	UA
Quality of Execution	—	—	—	UA
Quality of the Terminal Evaluation Report	—	—	—	MU

3. Project Objectives and theory of change

3.1 Global Environmental Objectives of the project:

The global environmental objective of the project is to ensure the water needs of aquatic ecosystems are met while simultaneously providing sustainability of many ecosystem goods and services, resulting in increased social, economic and environmental security (p.6 of Project Brief). The Vision for Water and Nature project will address issues of biodiversity, transboundary waters and the inter-sectoral approaches to the use and management of freshwater.

3.2 Development Objectives of the project:

The development objective of the project is to formulate a widely shared vision on the actions required to achieve a common set of water-related goals and commitment to carry out these actions (p.22 of Project Brief).

3.3 Were there any **changes** in the Global Environmental Objectives, Development Objectives, or project activities during implementation? What are the reasons given for the change(s)?

No changes were made to the development and environmental objectives or project objectives.

3.4 Briefly summarize project's theory of change – describe the inputs and causal relationships through which the project will achieve its long-term impacts, key links, and key assumptions.

With the overall objective of formulating a global vision for water, life and the environment, the project laid out three sub-objectives that translated into specific project outcomes. These sub objectives are – (i) raising awareness among general population and decision makers to tackle water issues systematically, (ii) developing a vision for water management in year 2025 that is shared with diverse stakeholders in the water sector, (iii) devising an implementation strategy with action steps to go from vision to action including suggestion for investment profiles for funding agencies. These objectives will be realized through producing nine specific outputs which include – vision message, vision structure, vision website, draft & final report, sector visions, regional visions, analysis report and communication outputs. Through the broad consultation of vision process and collaboration between professionals,

project is expected to generate better understanding of water supply and demand among all uses, and new approaches of tackling challenges through technology, policies and investment plans.

4. GEF IEO assessment of Outcomes and Sustainability

Please refer to the GEF Terminal Evaluation Review Guidelines for detail on the criteria for ratings.

The outcome ratings (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and overall outcome rating) are on a six-point scale: Highly Satisfactory to Highly Unsatisfactory. The sustainability rating is on a four-point scale: Likely to Unlikely.

Please justify the ratings in the space below each box.

4.1 Relevance and Coherence	S
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The Vision exercise project is expected to change the way things are done in the water sector by generating new approaches through broad consultation. It was a global enabling activity aiming to enhance collaboration between professionals in the water and environment sector as well as other disciplines. Water scarcity, inequality and lack of access, the deteriorating quality of the environment and declining financial resources will be addressed by developing a Framework for Action that includes implementation of appropriate sector policies, and investment plans to meet the agreed needs. Connecting global ambitions to streamlined implementation of policies across countries lacks the connections judging by the details in Project Brief. This is aligned with the GEF Operational Program 10 on reducing and eliminating releases of persistent organic pollutants into the environment.

4.2 Effectiveness	S
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Although the terminal evaluation did not rate effectiveness of the project, comparing the project outputs and targets from the Project Brief and terminal evaluation shows that most of them have been fulfilled. 3 regional workshops on Water for Nature were held in Zimbabwe, Thailand and Costa Rica bringing together 77 participants from 55 countries. Three discussion papers were published on all aspects of social, economic and environmental security related to freshwater ecosystem management, including cross-sectoral and transboundary considerations. These papers along with other project reports were disseminated through the Water and Nature website that came online during the project. The draft Water and Nature Vision was produced, followed by a panel discussion to address a wide range of received comments. The final Vision for Water and Nature was presented at the 2nd World Water Forum held in 2020 at The Hague, Netherlands.

4.3 Efficiency	S
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The terminal evaluation did not rate the efficiency of this project. The expected outputs of the project were delivered and GEF grant was used as planned. There was a three-month delay in completion of the

project activities – but this is not substantial. The final figures on materialized co-financing were not provided.

4.4 Outcome	S
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Key outcomes of the project involve organization of regional and global workshops and forums to generate flagship knowledge products. Participants from 52 countries took part in these workshops, but it is unclear whether such participation resulted in capacity development or knowledge transfer. The Vision for Water and Nature was made available in three languages and disseminated broadly in print and electronic form. Although the vision was meant to guide enabling conditions of countries, the progress to such impact remain unmonitored. However, the knowledge products, outreach efforts and collaboration between professionals will likely yield the intended outcomes as planned.

4.5 Sustainability	MU
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The terminal evaluation did not assess risks or describe activities that would continue or build upon the project. It does note some limitations of the project outputs. The final vision for water and nature was presented at the 2nd World Water Forum in 2000. However, the ministerial declaration of that forum did not sufficiently include the recommendations of the vision placing ecosystem as central to human and environmental requirements for water. Although the terminal evaluation shares example of this one instance, it maintained some skepticism about the influence of project outputs on decision-makers. For all participating regions and countries, this will delay and impede progress in achieving a world in which human and environmental needs for water are in proper balance.

5. Processes and factors affecting attainment of project outcomes

Before describing the factors, you may choose to summarize reported outcomes and sustainability here: <https://www.research.net/r/APR2023>.

5.1 Co-financing. To what extent was the reported co-financing essential to the achievement of GEF objectives? If there was a difference in the level of expected co-financing and actual co-financing, what were the reasons for it? Did the extent of materialization of co-financing affect project's outcomes and/or sustainability? If so, in what ways and through what causal linkages?

The statement of receipts provided along with the project completion report only listed expenditures for the GEF funds received. There was no information presented on materialized co-financing at the end of the project.

5.2 Project extensions and/or delays. If there were delays in project implementation and completion, then what were the reasons for it? Did the delay affect the project's outcomes and/or sustainability? If so, in what ways and through what causal linkages?

The project had a no cost extension of two months which had no impact on implementation since all outputs were completed.

5.3 Stakeholder ownership. Assess the extent to which stakeholder ownership has affected project outcomes and sustainability. Describe the ways in which it affected outcomes and sustainability, highlighting the causal links.

The Project Brief had detailed information on stakeholder involvement noting that the World Water vision exercise fundamentally relied on stakeholder participation (p.13 of Project Brief). Although the terminal evaluation lacked details to assess stakeholder ownership, it pointed out that despite project's inclusive efforts, some local NGO's felt isolated in the vision exercise. It may have resulted due to the limited timeframe of the project, for which the evaluation suggested allowing time to build constituency.

5.4 Other factors: In case the terminal evaluation discusses other key factors that affected project outcomes, discuss those factors and outline how they affected outcomes, whether positively or negatively. Include factors that may have led to unintended outcomes.

The Project brief did not include any results framework. As a result it was difficult to understand some of the figures presented in the terminal evaluation as level of achievement. This includes 'number of downloads' for the knowledge products developed in the project. The report lacked the connection of this indicator with the outcome.

6. Assessment of project's Monitoring and Evaluation system

Ratings are assessed on a six-point scale: Highly Satisfactory to Highly Unsatisfactory.

Please justify ratings in the space below each box.

6.1 M&E Design at entry	NA
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In section 10 of the Project Brief (p. 20), a monitoring and evaluation plan was presented which briefly assigned institutions the responsibilities for auditing progress and offering advice during the process. For an enabling activity project that developed a global report, the scope of monitoring and evaluation was limited to progress of report development and completion of workshops for that purpose.

6.2 M&E Implementation	NA
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Given the narrow focus of project activities on preparation of a report, an elaborate M&E plan is not essential to keep track of activities. Therefore, assessment of M&E implementation is less useful in this case.

7. Assessment of project implementation and execution

Quality of Implementation rating is based on the assessment of the performance of GEF Agency(s). Quality of Execution rating is based on performance of the executing agency(s). In both instances, the focus is upon factors that are largely within the control of the respective implementing and executing agency(s). A six-point rating scale is used (Highly Satisfactory to Highly Unsatisfactory), or Unable to Assess.

Please justify ratings in the space below each box.

7.1 Quality of Project Implementation	UA
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The terminal evaluation had no information to assess the quality of project implementation.

7.2 Quality of Project Execution	UA
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The terminal evaluation had no rating or information to assess the quality of project execution.

8. Lessons and recommendations

8.1 Briefly describe the key lessons, good practices, or approaches mentioned in the terminal evaluation report, including how they could have application for other GEF projects. Lessons must be based on project experience.

- i. For a project defining a global Water vision, it is better not to have separate sectoral water resource management documents under the same project without having an integrated structure. Without having this structure, this project produced sector and some regional visions that in some cases were contradictory to key messages of the *Vision for Water and Nature*.
- ii. More initiatives and resources are needed to secure political commitments for the vision. As political decision makers have the power to facilitate or stymie efforts to realize the vision, communication strategies can be focused on them instead of covering affected groups.

8.2 Briefly describe the recommendations given in the terminal evaluation.

No recommendations were given in the terminal evaluation.

9. Quality of the Terminal Evaluation Report

Before rating the quality of the terminal evaluation, click here to summarize your observations on the sub-criteria: <https://www.research.net/r/APR2023>.

A six-point rating scale is used for each sub-criteria and overall rating of the terminal evaluation report (Highly Satisfactory to Highly Unsatisfactory)

Criteria/indicators of terminal evaluation quality	GEF IEO COMMENTS	Rating
1. Timeliness: terminal evaluation report was carried out and submitted on time?	The terminal evaluation was submitted in 2014, whereas the project ended in December 2000.	U
2. General information: Provides general information on the project and evaluation as per the requirement?	The Project Brief and more information about the project compared to the terminal evaluation. As a separate document, the context was missing.	U
3. Stakeholder involvement: the report was prepared in consultation with – and with feedback from - key stakeholders?	It was unclear from the terminal evaluation if a stakeholder consultation took place. This is related to the criticism of the evaluation not presenting a methodology.	MU
4. Theory of change: provides solid account of the project's theory of change?	There was no theory of change presented.	U
5. Methodology: Provides an informative and transparent account of the methodology?	The terminal evaluation lacked description of a methodology and limitations.	U
6. Outcome: Provides a clear and candid account of the achievement of project outcomes?	Although the achievements and outputs were compared with those set in Project Document, the details provided were not adequate.	MS
7. Sustainability: Presents realistic assessment of sustainability?	The report was candid about the sustainability of the project outcomes.	MS
8. M&E: Presents sound assessment of the quality of the M&E system?	There were elements of M&E performance, but it could have been structured better.	MU
9. Finance: Reports on utilization of GEF funding and materialization of co-financing?	There was a separate statement attached that only listed the expenditures made on GEF funding only.	MU

10. Implementation: Presents a candid account of project implementation and Agency performance?	Nothing in the report covered project implementation challenges and agency performance.	U
11. Safeguards: Provides information on application of environmental and social safeguards, and conduct and use of gender analysis?	Environmental and social safeguards did not apply to this visioning project, and information on gender analysis was not presented.	NA
12. Lessons and recommendations are supported by the project experience and are relevant to future programming?	The lessons were based on project experience but those were short of details. There were no recommendations provided.	MS
13. Ratings: Ratings are well-substantiated by evidence, realistic and convincing?	No ratings were provided in the terminal evaluation.	U
14. Report presentation: The report was well-written, logically organized, and consistent?	The report had no structure, and it was difficult to locate information.	MU
Overall quality of the report		MU

10. Note any additional sources of information used in the preparation of the terminal evaluation report (excluding PIRs, TEs, and PADs).

ANNEX 1. GEF IEO THEORY OF CHANGE FRAMEWORK

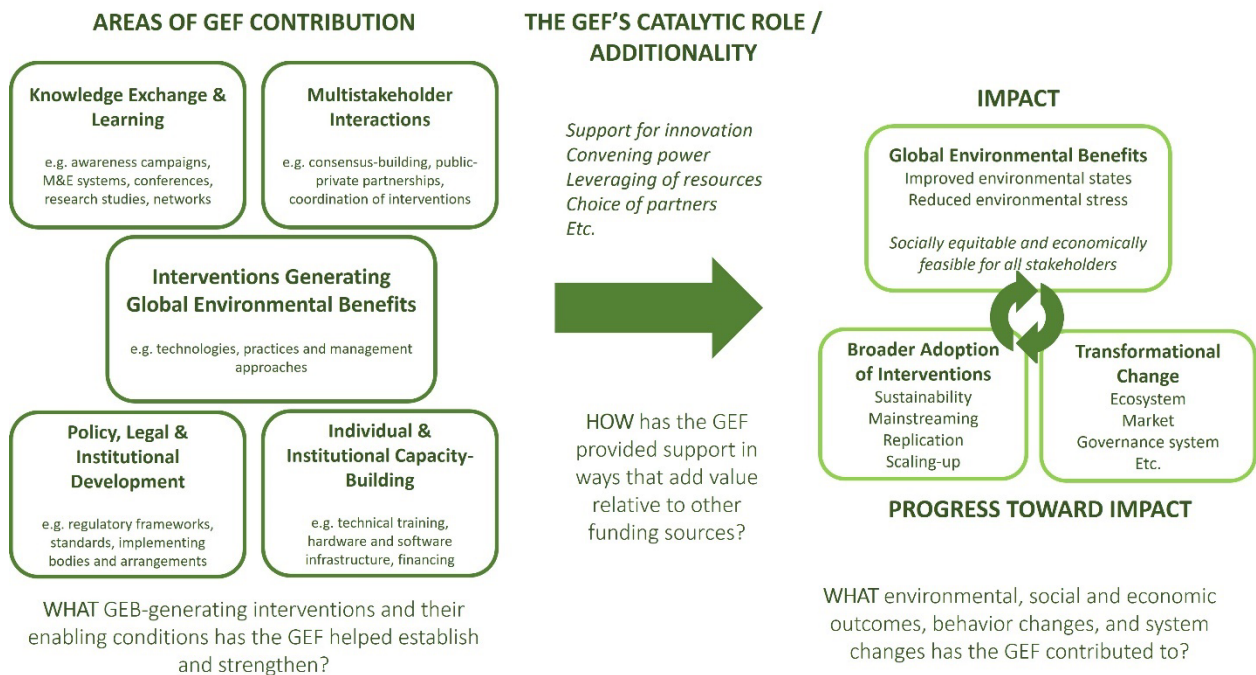


Figure 1. The GEF IEO's updated Theory of Change Framework on how the GEF achieves impact

The general framework for the GEF's theory of change (figure 1) draws on the large amount of evaluative evidence on outcomes and impact gathered over the years by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office. The framework diagram has been updated to reflect the IEO's learning since OPSS5 (GEF IEO 2014, p. 47-50) about how the GEF achieves impact, as well as the evolution of the GEF's programming toward more integrated systems-focused and scaled-up initiatives.

The framework outlines the three main areas that the IEO assesses in its evaluations: a) the GEF's contributions in establishing and strengthening both the interventions that directly generate global environmental benefits, and the enabling conditions that allow these interventions to be implemented and adopted by stakeholders, b) the GEF's catalytic role or additionality in the way that the GEF provides support within the context of other funding sources and partners, and c) the environmental, social and economic outcomes that the GEF has contributed to, and the behavior and system changes that generate these outcomes during and beyond the period of GEF support.

The circular arrow between impact and progress toward impact, as before, indicates how bringing about positive environmental change is an iterative process that involves behavior change (in the form of a broader group of stakeholders adopting interventions) and/or systems change (which is a key characteristic of transformational change). These three areas of change can take place in any sequence or simultaneously in a positively reinforcing cycle, and are therefore assessed by the GEF IEO as indicators of impact.

Assessing the GEF's progress toward achieving impact allows the IEO to determine the extent to which GEF support contributes to a trajectory of large-scale, systemic change, especially in areas where changes in the environment can only be measured over longer time horizons. The updated diagram in particular expands the assessment of progress towards impact to include transformational change, which specifically takes place at the system level, and not necessarily over a long time period.

The updated diagram also more explicitly identifies the link between the GEF's mandate of generating global environmental benefits, and the GEF's safeguards to ensure that positive environmental outcomes also enhance or at the very least do not take away from the social and economic well-being of the people who depend on the environment. Thus the IEO assesses impact not only in terms of environmental outcomes, but also in terms of the synergies and trade-offs with the social and economic contexts in which these outcomes are achieved.

ANNEX 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Intervention	Any programmatic approach, full-sized project, medium-sized project, or enabling activity financed from any GEF-managed trust fund, as well as regional and national outreach activities. In the context of post-completion evaluation, an intervention may consist of a single project, or multiple projects (i.e. phased or parallel) with explicitly linked objectives contributing to the same specific impacts within the same specific geographical area and sector. https://www.gefio.org/evaluations/gef-evaluation-policy-2019
Activity (of an intervention)	An action undertaken over the duration of an intervention that contributes to the achievement of the intervention's objectives, i.e. an intervention is implemented through a set of activities. E.g. training, (support to) policy development, (implementation of) management approach.
Outcome	An intended or achieved short- or medium-term effect of a project or program's outputs. https://www.gefio.org/evaluations/gef-evaluation-policy-2019
Impact	The positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by a project or program, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. https://www.gefio.org/evaluations/gef-evaluation-policy-2019
Environmental outcomes	Changes in environmental indicators that could take the following forms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stress reduction: reduction or prevention of threats to the environment, especially those caused by human behavior (local communities, societies, economies) • Environmental state: biological, physical changes in the state of the environment http://www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/ops5-final-report-eng.pdf
Social and economic outcomes	Changes in indicators affecting human well-being at the individual or higher scales, e.g. income or access to capital, food security, health, safety, education, cooperation/ conflict resolution, and equity in distribution/ access to benefits, especially among marginalized groups.
Synergies	Multiple benefits achieved in more than one focal area as a result of a <i>single intervention</i> , or benefits achieved from the interaction of outcomes from at least two separate interventions in addition to those achieved, had the interventions been done independently.

	http://www.gefio.org/evaluations/evaluation-multiple-benefits-gef-support-through-its-multifocal-area-portfolio-map-2016
Trade-offs	A reduction in one benefit in the process of maximizing or increasing another benefit. http://www.gefio.org/evaluations/evaluation-multiple-benefits-gef-support-through-its-multifocal-area-portfolio-map-2016
Broader adoption	The adoption of GEF-supported interventions by governments and other stakeholders beyond the original scope and funding of a GEF-supported intervention. This may take place through sustaining, replication, mainstreaming, and scaling-up of an intervention and/or its enabling conditions (see definitions below). http://www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/ops5-final-report-eng.pdf
Sustainability	The continuation/ likely continuation of positive effects from the intervention after it has come to an end, and its potential for scale-up and/or replication; interventions need to be environmentally as well as institutionally, financially, politically, culturally and socially sustainable. https://www.gefio.org/evaluations/gef-evaluation-policy-2019
Replication	When a GEF intervention is reproduced at a comparable administrative or ecological scale, often in different geographical areas or regions. http://www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/ops5-final-report-eng.pdf
Mainstreaming	When information, lessons, or specific aspects of a GEF initiative are incorporated into a broader stakeholder initiative. This may occur not only through governments but also in development organizations and other sectors. http://www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/ops5-final-report-eng.pdf
Scaling-up	Increasing the magnitude of global environment benefits (GEBs), and/or expanding the geographical and sectoral areas where they are generated to cover a defined ecological, economic, or governance unit. May occur through replication, mainstreaming, and linking. http://www.gefio.org/evaluations/evaluation-gef-support-scaling-impact-2019
Transformational change	Deep, systemic, and sustainable change with large-scale impact in an area of major environmental concern. Defined by four criteria: relevance, depth of change, scale of change, and sustainability. http://www.gefio.org/evaluations/evaluation-gef-support-transformational-change-2017
Additionality	a) Changes in the attainment of direct project outcomes at project completion that can be attributed to GEF's interventions; these can be reflected in an acceleration of the adoption of reforms, the enhancement of outcomes, or the reduction of risks and greater viability of project interventions. b) Spill-over effects beyond project outcomes that may result from systemic reforms, capacity development, and socio-economic changes. c) Clearly articulated pathways to achieve broadening of the impact beyond project completion that can be associated with GEF interventions. https://www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/ieo/council-documents/files/c-55-me-inf-01.pdf