

Terminal Evaluation Validation form, GEF Independent Evaluation Office

1. Project Data

| Summary project data | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|------------------------|
| GEF project ID | | 9795 | |
| GEF Agency project ID | | 640651 | |
| GEF Replenishment Phase | | GEF-6 | |
| Lead GEF Agency (include all for joint projects) | | FAO | |
| Project name | | Forest Resources Assessment and Monitoring to Strengthen Forest Knowledge Framework in Azerbaijan | |
| Country/Countries | | Azerbaijan | |
| Region | | Europe & Central Asia | |
| Focal area | | Multifocal Area | |
| Operational Program or Strategic Priorities/Objectives | | Strategic Objective/Organizational Result: Strategic Objective 2 - Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable Strategic Objective 3 - Reduce rural poverty | |
| Stand alone or under a programmatic framework | | Standalone | |
| If applicable, parent program name and GEF ID | | | |
| Executing agencies involved | | Forestry Department of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) | |
| NGOs/CBOs involvement | | NGO Hyeca through consultation and project execution | |
| Private sector involvement (including micro, small and medium enterprises) ¹ | | | |
| CEO Endorsement (FSP) /Approval (MSP) date | | 7/5/2017 | |
| Effectiveness date / project start date | | 1/1/2018 | |
| Expected date of project completion (at start) | | 9/30/2019 | |
| Actual date of project completion | | 12/31/2021 | |
| Project Financing | | | |
| | | At Endorsement (US \$M) | At Completion (US \$M) |
| Project Preparation Grant | GEF funding | 0.050 | 0.050 |
| | Co-financing | | |
| GEF Project Grant | | 1.484 | 1.484 |
| Co-financing | IA own | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| | Government | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| | Other multi- /bi-laterals | | |
| | Private sector | | |
| | NGOs/CBOs | | |
| | Other | | |
| Total GEF funding | | 1.534 | 1.534 |
| Total Co-financing | | 7.000 | 7.000 |
| Total project funding (GEF grant(s) + co-financing) | | 8.534 | 8.534 |
| Terminal evaluation validation information | | | |

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](#))

| | |
|---|--|
| TE completion date | 2/28/2022 |
| Author of TE | Mrs Nelly Dolidze, Evaluation Team Leader. 2. Mr Ruslan Salmanov, National Evaluation Consultant. |
| TER completion date | 12/15/2022 |
| TER prepared by | Ines Freier |
| TER peer review by (if GEF IEO review) | Neeraj Negi |

2. Summary of Project Ratings

| Criteria | Final PIR | IA Terminal Evaluation | IA Evaluation Office Review | GEF IEO Review |
|---|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Project Outcomes | S | S | | MS |
| Sustainability of Outcomes | | ML | | ML |
| M&E Design | | U | | U |
| M&E Implementation | | U | | U |
| Quality of Implementation | | MS | | MS |
| Quality of Execution | | MS | | MS |
| Quality of the Terminal Evaluation Report | | | | S |

3. Project Objectives and theory of change

3.1 Global Environmental Objectives of the project:

The Global Environmental Objective of the project is to introduce sustainable forest management into Azerbaijan in order to increase social and economic benefits from forests, to improve the quality of existing forests and to increase carbon sequestration. This project will support the implementation of the draft National Forest Policy and Azerbaijan's commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), where, the country committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 35% relative to its 1990 emissions (Prodoc p. 16)

3.2 Development Objectives of the project: Not mentioned separately

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)?

Changes in project component 2 from "Multifunctional Forest management leading to carbon sequestration, improvement in forest resources and their contribution to the improvement of social welfare of local communities" to "Forest Planning" (TE p. 23)

While the title of Component 2 was adjusted at the start of the project activities, its thematic focus (along with the titles and thematic focus of the other two components) remained intact throughout the project implementation. Along with the above-mentioned adjustment of Component 2, the project results framework underwent certain modifications, such as:

The final version of outcome 2.2 did not incorporate any reference to investigating the realization of income-generating activities.

Instead of Shemkir nursery, Absheron nursery was supported under outcome 2.3.1

The final version of output 2.3.2 did not incorporate any reference to the modernization of the Forest Development Department (as it stipulated at the design stage). (TE p. 30)

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.

The National Forest Assessment and Monitoring system leads to improved management of forest resources (Intermediate outcomes), better managed forest sequester more carbon (global environmental benefit / impact). Improved forest management plans, afforestation and refraining from grazing in forests lead to better practices for managing multifunctional forests (intermediate outcomes) which produce global environmental benefits, carbon sequestration and reduced land degradation. Key assumptions are that the outcomes by the project lead to an improved legal and institutional framework for managing forests for multiple ecosystem services and that measure are implemented to produce the planned results. (TE p. 21).

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 | HS |
|------------------------------------|----|

The relevance of the project is assessed as highly satisfactory due to its alignment with GEF objectives, national forest and climate policies in Azerbaijan and the mandate of FAO.

The project is aligned with GEF objective Climate Change Objective-2 and sustainable land use – Land Degradation-2, related to forest landscapes. It contributes to GEF Strategic Objective 2 - Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable and Strategic Objective 3 - Reduce rural poverty.

The project is in line with FAO Country Programming Framework:

- Strategic Objective -2: Make agriculture, fisheries and forestry more productive and sustainable;
- Strategic Objective -3: Reduce rural poverty; and
- Strategic Priority-6: Sustainable, equitable, and efficient forestry, land, and water resources management.

The project objective and outcomes were consistent with the country's priorities and policies like the National Forest Program (forest policy statement and action plan) and National Forest Policy (2015-2030), support Azerbaijan's commitments under the UNFCCC, in which the country pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 35 percent by 2030 relative to its 1990 emissions. It is noteworthy that in 2019, Azerbaijan joined the international Bonn Challenge on forest landscape restoration and committed to restoring 170 000 ha of forest by 2030. The project was also aligned with the National Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (NBSAP) for 2017–2020

The project design is suited to achieve the project objective however the project outputs and activities are too broad for the small volume of the project (TE p. 25-27). The planned project duration of two years is too short for income generating activities and restoration of pastures and forests (Component 2).

The TE refers to several projects of FAO being implemented in the country and supporting / co-financing the project (TE p. 8). This project was the only one supporting the creation of a systematic national-level forest inventory and National Forest Policy (NFP) through the introduction of appropriate methodology and guidelines and building the institutional and individual capacity of the relevant government stakeholders (legal entities and their staff). (TE p. 46). Pasture and forest rehabilitation activities had not been implemented in the targeted regions by other international organizations. (TE p. 45)

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| 4.2 Effectiveness | MS |
|--------------------------|----|

The effectiveness of the project is rated as moderately satisfactory because it established pilots for a working forest monitoring and information system in the country which is highly relevant for the country. The project fully achieved three out of seven outcomes and 11 out of 20 outputs. All other outputs / outcomes were partially delivered like afforestation and pasture restoration.

All outputs of component 1 Forest Resource Information Management, were delivered leading to the outcomes that a methodological mechanism for data collection, assessment and reported was developed (outcome 1.1.) and an operational National Forest Assessment and Monitoring System provided reliable and up to date information on forest resources (outcome 1.2.).

Outcome 2.1. Improved forest management planning in two areas was fully delivered.

The project only partially achieved outcome 2.2. Income generation activities for local smallholders by rehabilitation of pastures. Outcome 2.3. Carbon stocks enhanced in degraded and deforested areas was only partially achieved because not all planned land rehabilitation and afforestation activities took place.

Outcome 3 was project monitoring and capacity building: results were partially achieved for upscaling sustainable forest management through provision of up-to-date information on forest resources and their trend and dissemination of lessons learned and good practices. A set of manuals for dissemination of improved practices, measures, and technologies, were also produced. (TE p. 33-46)

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 4.3 Efficiency | MS |
|-----------------------|----|

The efficiency of the project is rated as moderately satisfactory because the project implementation was subject to two no-cost extensions caused by internal and external factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic and design shortcomings. The project was efficient in producing results given the scope and budget. (TE p. 46)

The project was prone to delays due to the short implementation time which is too short for any physical work like forest restoration, rehabilitation of grazing land or setting up nurseries and seed

banks. According to key stakeholders, preparatory work and the project's kick-off phase took extra time, and activities started in February 2018 (the project was officially launched in January 2018). The workplan and budget was revised several times to deliver more focused results. Other reasons for delays were approval procedures within the Ministry, long procurements processes of FAO for local consultants, the imposition of martial law in the country and COVID-19.

| | |
|-------------|----|
| 4.4 Outcome | MS |
|-------------|----|

Given the high relevance of the project results and the efficiency and the effectivity of the project, its outcome is rated as moderately satisfactory.

Summarize key outcomes related to environment, human well-being, and enabling conditions (Policy, Legal & Institutional Development; Individual & Institutional Capacity-Building; Knowledge Exchange & Learning; Multistakeholder Interactions), as applicable. Include any unintended outcomes (not originally targeted by the project), whether positive or negative, affecting either ecological or social aspects.

Some of the key outcomes achieved through the project are as follows:

Pilot projects for forest inventory and multifunctional forest management plans: The Forest Development Department reported that it continued to apply Forest Management Plans methodology in other regions of the country (outside the project's pilot zones). The long-term impact of the investment in seed laboratory, nursery, and pasture rehabilitation and afforestation work, were not observable in the course of this evaluation, and their potential impact (although subject to state funding and support) was positively rated by the key stakeholders (TE p. 62).

The pilots for the National Forest Assessment and Monitoring System provided reliable information about the state of the forest and the delivery of global environmental benefits in the country. The TE states that the project piloted the National Forest inventory and Forest Management Plans have the potential to scale up. (TE p. 46). According to the feedback of key stakeholders, any progress made towards the long-term impact is linked to the capacity of the country to sustain and extend the project's achievements. The representatives of the Government of Azerbaijan reported scaling up the project results and carrying out a Forest Management Plan in the Lankaran and Masalli regions of Azerbaijan. Thus, the Forest Development Department reported implementing Forest Management Plans for a total area of 400 882 ha in seven regional forest economy centres (RFECs) in 2018–2021 (TE p. 62)

Where applicable, note how both intended and unintended outcomes have positively and/or negatively affected marginalized populations (e.g., women, indigenous groups, youth, persons with disabilities), and where some stakeholder groups have benefited more/ less than others.

Positive Unintended results of the project were mainly associated with the capacity-development (individual and institutional) activities under the Triangular Cooperation Protocol between the Forest Development Department of Azerbaijan and Turkey where capacities of the participating individuals from Azerbaijan were improved. Moreover, within the framework of the Triangular Cooperation Protocol, the GIS laboratory was provided with the Forest Management Planning Programme (APP), which was developed and used in Turkey. Turkish experts provided technical support in the adaptation

(customization) of the APP to the specifics of Azerbaijan’s forestry and APP database. Furthermore, the Triangular Cooperation Protocol was subject to renewal and depended on the interest and need of the Government of Azerbaijan to scale up Forest Management Plans in other regions of the country (outside the pilot areas).

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| 4.5 Sustainability | ML |
|--------------------|----|

The sustainability of the project is assessed as moderately likely because the activities of the GIS Forest Inventory will be continued as well as the Forest Management Plans.

The TE assessed the institutional and financial risk to the sustainability as low. However, the staff turnover is high in the Forest Department but the GIS Forest Inventory Lab is likely to be run by the Forest Department. The triangular co-operation between the General Directorate of Forest of Turkey and the Department of Forest in Azerbaijan will be continued to ensure the institutional sustainability of the forest management plans.

The socio-political risk is assessed as low because the ownership of the Forest Department over the project results is high.

The TE does not envision any issues associated with the institutional framework or financial resources which might undermine the results of pasture rehabilitation and fruit tree plantations. (TE p. 56)

Note any progress made to sustain or expand environmental benefits beyond project closure, using stakeholder (rather than project) resources, e.g. through replication, mainstreaming or scaling-up of GEF-supported initiatives. Examples would be farmers adopting practices using own funds, follow-on replication projects, development of plans for scaling, inclusion in local or national legislation, and allocation of government budgets or private sector investments for institutional adoption.

The TE shows how the results of the outcome 1 will be institutionalized: the evaluation team was informed that the Forest Development Department expected an official decree from the Ministry that would increase awareness and broaden the uses of the data across the relevant state agencies. Some key stakeholders pointed out that this project was expected to serve as an impetus for legal adjustments. For example, Forest Management Plans should incorporate forest functions (social and economic functions or ecosystem services). (TE p. 54). The representatives of the Government of Azerbaijan reported scaling up the project results and carrying out a Forest Management Plan in the Lankaran and Masalli regions of Azerbaijan. Thus, the Forest Development Department reported implementing Forest Management Plans for a total area of 400 882 ha in seven regional forest economy centres (RFEs) in 2018–2021 (TE p. 62)

5. Processes and factors affecting attainment of project outcomes

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 reported co-financing was essential to obtain the project results mainly for outcome 1 and 2 and ensure their sustainability because co-financing was up to 91% for specific activities. The TE states that about 68% of the co-financing was delivered in June 2020 (TE p. 61). The project reports delivery of 4.755 Mio US Dollar co-financing per June 2021, grant disbursement was 1.34 Mio US Dollar.

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 was prone to delays due to the short implementation time which is too short for any physical work like forest restoration, rehabilitation of grazing land or setting up nurseries and seed banks. According to key stakeholders, preparatory work and the project's kick-off phase took extra time, and activities started in February 2018 (the project was officially launched in January 2018). The workplan and budget was revised several times to deliver more focused results. Other reasons for delays were approval procedures within the Ministry, long procurements processes of FAO for local consultants, the imposition of martial law in the country and COVID-19 (TE p. 46) Delays did not directly affect project outcomes.

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.

Sustainability: Different stakeholders possessed different levels of ownership over the project results. At the national level, the Forest Development Department proved its intellectual ownership over the National Forest Inventory and Forest Management Plans-related work. At the local level, ownership perceptions varied depending on the stakeholder priorities. (TE p. 3). The high ownership of the Forest Department led to the scaling up of Forest Management Plans.

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 triangular co-operation under the FAO-Turkey forest partnership has positively affected project outcomes due to the use of knowledge from Turkey.

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 | U |
|------------------------------------|---|

The M&E design at entry is rated as unsatisfactory.

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system of the project demonstrated severe shortcomings in design and implementation. It lacked a structured M&E plan. The results framework indicators were not “SMART”. Moreover, the results framework did not include the GEF 6 Core Indicators. (TE p. 7).

In some cases, there was a conceptual inconsistency between outcome and output indicators. For example, outcome 2.2 (“Income-generating activities for local small farm holders demonstrated”) encompassed one output, namely output 2.2.1 (“Pastures in two selected sites are planned and rehabilitated”). However, the output indicators and target were focused only on the number of hectares of land rehabilitated, while the outcome indicator incorporated the number of hectares of land rehabilitated and income-generating activities demonstrated for the beneficiary farmers. (TRE p. 57)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 6.2 M&E Implementation | U |
|-----------------------------------|---|

The M&E implementation is rated as unsatisfactory.

An M&E plan was never developed. Desk research also showed that the project reporting was guided by the indicators and targets designed at inception and incorporated into the results framework of the project document.

The project lacked a systematic and consistent reporting of GEF-funded interventions under the project. Furthermore, the M&E system did not incorporate a framework for validating the results of the activities implemented through co-financing. In some cases, M&E reporting was not aligned with the targets set, and yet the project perceived some results to be achieved and the results were reported accordingly. (TE p. 56)

The results reported under GEF Core Indicator 6 (“greenhouse gas emissions mitigated”) were not directly attributable to the project activities. The project’s M&E framework did not incorporate soil management indicators to inform reporting on changes in soil quality after pasture rehabilitation and afforestation work. (TE p. 7)

Furthermore, the evaluation found no evidence of the terminal report being produced two months prior to the completion of the project as requested. In addition, the evaluation was unable to assess the extent to which the supervisory missions were aligned with the M&E plan and if the project had collected and submitted all supervisory mission reports. (TE p. 57)

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 | MS |
|--|----|

The quality of project implementation is rated as moderately satisfactory due to the shortcomings in the project design, especially M&E and the limited project supervision regarding reporting of results. (TE p. 77). FAO provided guidance to the project in project steering committee meetings on GEF implementation guidelines.

The support to the Terminal evaluation could have been better because it was the first decentralized terminal evaluation carried out by the Office for Europe and Central Asia. The evaluators did not receive the last PIR and the terminal evaluation report from the project.

| | |
|---|----|
| 7.2 Quality of Project Execution | MS |
|---|----|

The quality of project execution is regarded as moderately satisfactory due to the full achievement of strategic activities and outcomes and partial achievement of others; shortcomings in M&E and co-financing validation. (TE p. 56) The TE did not assess the project execution in a separate chapter but included the assessment of performance in the efficiency chapter.

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.

Triangular co-operation between Turkey and Azerbaijan under the FAO-Turkey partnership programme with exchange visits to Turkey, support by Turkish colleagues in use of software and mentoring of staff in Azerbaijan.

8.2 Briefly describe the recommendations given in the terminal evaluation.

- Narrow the scope and focus of the project and gradually scale up the project activities in similar strategic dimensions. In this regard, instead of merging different topics (such as National Forest Inventory, Forest Management Plans, income generation, and pasture rehabilitation), it is highly recommended to keep focused on one specific strategic dimension (for example, focusing on only National Forest Inventory-related work and scaling it up to cover other regions of the country, or focusing only on Forest Management Plans work and scaling it up).
- Taking up sustainable soil measurement protocols,
- Set up technical task force meetings with experts from the country on technical issues,
- Improved participation of relevant staff in cross-country or regional technical working groups,

- invitation to other Ministries to take part in Project Steering Committee meetings and technical task force,
- validate co-financing,
- setting up proper M&E systems,
- continue Dialogue between FAO and Government of Azerbaijan to update Forest Code and scale up project results. (TE p. 68)

9. Quality of the Terminal Evaluation Report

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? | yes | S |
| 2. General information: Provides general information on the project and evaluation as per the requirement? | yes | S |
| 3. Stakeholder involvement: the report was prepared in consultation with – and with feedback from - key stakeholders? | Not part of FAO evaluation process | MU |
| 4. Theory of change: provides solid account of the project's theory of change? | No description of ToC only diagram | MS |
| 5. Methodology: Provides an informative and transparent account of the methodology? | yes | MS |
| 6. Outcome: Provides a clear and candid account of the achievement of project outcomes? | Very detailed | HS |
| 7. Sustainability: Presents realistic assessment of sustainability? | yes | S |
| 8. M&E: Presents sound assessment of the quality of the M&E system? | yes | S |
| 9. Finance: Reports on utilization of GEF funding and materialization of co-financing? | <i>Yes on the base of data provided</i> | S |
| 10. Implementation: Presents a candid account of project implementation and Agency performance? | Too short, not in a separate chapter | MS |

| | | |
|---|--|----|
| 11. Safeguards: Provides information on application of environmental and social safeguards, and conduct and use of gender analysis? | yes | S |
| 12. Lessons and recommendations are supported by the project experience and are relevant to future programming? | yes | S |
| 13. Ratings: Ratings are well-substantiated by evidence, realistic and convincing? | yes | S |
| 14. Report presentation: The report was well-written, logically organized, and consistent? | Could be better organized. Some information can be found in a different chapter than requested | MS |
| Overall quality of the report | | S |

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

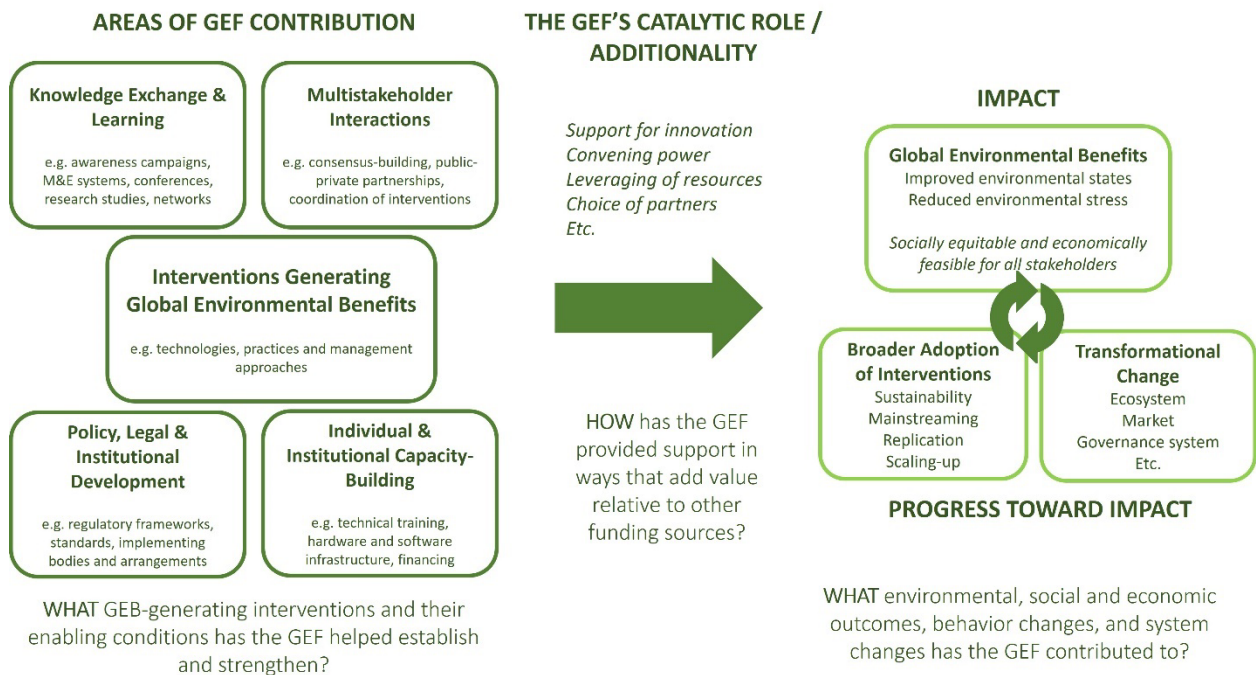


Figure 1. The GEF IEO's updated Theory of Change Framework on how the GEF achieves impact

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 |