Semiannual Evaluation Update

GEF Council 59
December 2020
Presentation outline

1. Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS7) – Progress to date
2. Managing evaluations during COVID-19
3. Recently completed evaluations and knowledge products
4. Agenda Item 9 – Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations
5. Agenda Item 10 – Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector
6. Agenda Item 11 – Medium-Sized Projects
7. Agenda Item 12 – Knowledge Management
Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS7) – Progress to date

Independent Evaluation office
Global Environment Facility
OPS7: Purpose

A. Provide evidence for GEF-8 replenishment

B. Assess to what extent the GEF is achieving its objectives of enhancing global environmental benefits

C. Identify potential areas for improvement

D. Assess the GEF’s progress in implementation and achievement of the GEF 2020 Strategy
Schedule

2020
- **OPS7 approach paper**

2021
- **Summaries of all component evaluations**
- **Completion of all component evaluations**
- **Delivery of draft OPS7 report**
- **Delivery of final OPS7 report**
# Ongoing work

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Managing IEO evaluations during COVID-19

Independent Evaluation office
Global Environment Facility
Adapting evaluation process during COVID-19

- Mixed methods approach
- Using socio-economic data, such as World Bank’s household surveys (LSMS)
- Conducting remote interviews and surveys

- Applying geospatial data to measure relevance, effectiveness, efficiency
- Hiring local consultants for field verification (Costa Rica, Mozambique, Philippines…)
- Mining IEO case studies
Evaluation lessons for COVID-19
Recently completed evaluations and knowledge products

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Global Environment Facility
Recently completed evaluations and knowledge products

Independent Evaluation office
Global Environment Facility
Terminal evaluations

Findings

- The establishment of minimum evaluation requirements have led to improvements in evaluation quality standards
- 92% evaluations rated in satisfactory range for quality (2017-2020)
- Aligned with good practices criteria
- Variations in the evidence presents challenges for consistency in evaluative judgments
Terminal evaluations

Findings

- Credible evidence and few data gaps

- UNIDO, FAO, and IFAD are well positioned to graduate and not require 100 percent TE validation by IEO

6% disconnect between the GEF-IEO validations and TEs submitted
Terminal evaluations

Final remarks

IEO should perform fewer validations for Agencies that meet quality standards.

IEO should share more information on the validation process and guidelines with the Agencies.

IEO should provide targeted guidance and capacity building to newer Agencies.

IEO could develop a searchable qualitative database (on findings, recommendations, lessons learned).

IEO should continue to validate TEs as part of other evaluations (country, thematic, strategic country clusters).
IEO Knowledge Products
Agenda Item 9
Evaluation of GEF Support in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations

Independent Evaluation office
Global Environment Facility
Conflict hotspots and location of GEF interventions
Majority of GEF projects are in fragile and conflict-affected situations

Share of GEF projects in countries affected by major armed conflict

- **by $ value**
  - Conflict: 29% ($4 billion)
  - Mixed: 15%
  - Non-conflict: 45%
  - Not specified: 11%

- **by number of projects**
  - Conflict: 33% ($4 billion)
  - Mixed: 11%
  - Non-conflict: 49%
  - Not specified: 7%
Portfolio

4,136 GEF projects

Case studies across seven conflict and fragile situations

Evaluation methods
- document analysis
- statistical analysis
- remote sensing
- interviews

GEF Case Study Situations and Conflict (1989-2020)
Fragility Findings

Key pathways by which conflict and fragility affect GEF projects

- Physical insecurity
- Social conflict and mistrust
- Economic drivers
- Political fragility and weak governance
- Coping strategies
Main Findings

- Inconsistent identification of conflict-related risks

The GEF has so far not developed conflict-sensitive safeguards, policies, and guidance necessary to systematically manage these risks

Half of the GEF Agencies have developed policies, strategies, and toolkits
Fragility Impacts

The shift in priorities associated with conflict can negatively affect the relevance of projects.

Increased likelihood that a project will be cancelled and dropped.

Conflict impacts human rights, indigenous peoples, gender and GEF’s ability to engage with the private sector.

Increases the duration of a project’s delays.

Negatively affects outcomes, sustainability, implementation, execution, monitoring.
Risk management strategies

- Acknowledgement
- Avoidance
- Mitigation
- Peacebuilding
- Learning
Fragility

Case: Liberia

Liberia: SAPO National Park

Percentage of forest loss

- Liberia
- 30 km buffer
- 15 km buffer
- SAPO NP
Fragile and conflict affected situations

Recommendations

1. The GEF Secretariat should use the project review process to provide feedback to Agencies to identify conflict- and fragility-related risks to a proposed project and develop measures to mitigate those risks.

2. To improve conflict-sensitive programming while also providing flexibility to Agencies and projects, the GEF Secretariat could develop guidance for conflict-sensitive programming.

3. To improve conflict-sensitive design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of GEF projects, the GEF Secretariat together with the Agencies should leverage existing platforms for learning, exchange, and technical assistance.

4. The current GEF Environmental and Social Safeguards could be expanded to provide more details so that GEF projects address key conflict-sensitive considerations.

5. The GEF Secretariat could consider revising its policies and procedures so that GEF-supported projects can better adapt to rapid and substantial changes common in fragile and conflict-affected situations.
Agenda Item 10
IEO Evaluation of GEF Interventions in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector
Independent Evaluation office
Global Environment Facility
GEF Portfolio in ASGM

Global Mercury Project

Minamata IAs and NAPs

Other projects

GEF-5 medium-sized projects

Minamata adopted

Minamata comes into force

GEF GOLD

Today
Artisan and small-scale gold mining

Findings: post-completion evaluations

GEF-5 pilot MSPs achieved sustained mercury use reductions in some cases

Formalization gained momentum after Project closure
Artisan and small-scale gold mining

Example

“Sin Mercurio” project in Ecuador and Peru

Material ready for cyanidation process in processing plant in Ecuador.
Artisan and small-scale gold mining

Lessons learned from past projects

Miners need **access to finance** to transition to non-mercury technologies.

Access to finance is GOLD program’s largest component.

- **Formalize** miners through improved policy and streamlined bureaucratic process.
- With formalization, miners will have **more access to financial products** and markets to invest in non-mercury technologies.
- With access to finance, miners will **shift away from mercury** towards other, cleaner technologies.
- **Disseminate lessons learned to other areas** and miners not involved in GOLD to further reduce mercury use.
Artisan and small-scale gold mining

Findings: project design in ongoing projects

GOLD program aligned to Minamata Convention and covers many top mercury use countries
Artisan and small-scale gold mining

**Findings: ongoing project design**

- Targets for mercury reductions will be difficult to monitor and verify, partially due to a scarcity of high-quality baseline data.
- Shift to working with downstream supply chain stakeholders, including private sector.
- Global project promotes strong program collaboration and learning.
- Addresses policies and safeguards through the planetGOLD Criteria and gender through project level gender analyses.
- Programs very focused on mercury reductions and few projects include interventions to address associated environmental issues.
- Majority of mercury reductions expected through broader adoption and replication.
Recommendations

1. Encourage more large mercury users to become involved in Minamata Convention

2. Promote interventions that assist governments in implementing ASGM policies

3. Seek opportunities for multi-focal area ASGM co-benefits and interventions.

4. Further the use of the planetGOLD website to disseminate lessons learned from previous projects and communicate status of projects.
Agenda Item 11
Evaluation of the Role of Medium-Sized Projects (MSP) in the GEF Partnership

Independent Evaluation office
Global Environment Facility
**Medium-sized projects**

**Evaluation scope: GEF-4 and onwards**

819 (80%) of the 1,024 MSPs

$958 million (77%) of the $1.24 billion in MSP grants

$5.1 billion (86%) of the $5.9 billion in MSP planned cofinancing

Data as of September 15, 2020
Medium-sized projects

Portfolio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Projects</th>
<th>GEF Grant + PPG ($US million)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>404</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate Change Mitigation</td>
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<td>382</td>
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<td>Multi Focal Area</td>
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<td>Land Degradation</td>
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<td>101</td>
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<td>Chemicals and Waste</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>95</td>
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<td>International Waters</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate Change Adaptation</td>
<td>36</td>
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Medium-sized projects

Findings

A broad representation of CSO executing agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSP</th>
<th>FSP</th>
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<tr>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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MSPs remain **relevant** to the GEF partnership

An entry point into the GEF

Used for capacity building and developing knowledge products

Address funding gaps

Perform on par with or slightly higher than FSPs

A catalyst for financing innovation and scaling up

Approval process is efficient

The $2 million limit seems appropriate for smaller agencies and countries

Use of modality affected by the STAR allocation system
Medium-sized project

Example

Payments for Environmental Services and Sustainable Financing Schemes in the Danube Basin
Medium-sized projects

Recommendation

The medium-sized projects should continue to be primarily used for developing innovative projects. Midterm and final evaluations should be conducted on MSPs designed as innovative or transformative, to provide lessons for scaling up or replication.
Agenda Item 12
Evaluation of Knowledge Management in the GEF (2020)

Independent Evaluation office
Global Environment Facility
Knowledge management at the GEF

Progress in each step, several new products

Knowledge capture

Knowledge development

Knowledge sharing

Knowledge application

- Portal & PMIS
  - Very useful
  - Moderately
  - A little
  - Not aware
  - Not useful

- Good practice) briefs

- E-learning

- Kaleo
Knowledge management at the GEF

Challenges remain

Capturing data and information from GEF projects and programs

Limited ability of GEF Portal to aggregate and extract lessons

Need for detailed KM project-level guidance and examples

KM Strategy and partnership members’ roles

Absence of KM strategy and clear role of KM Advisory Group and other members of partnership

Capacity to connect with GEF Agency systems and platforms
Knowledge management at the GEF

Programmatic approaches incorporate knowledge and learning

- Program-level approaches to KM facilitate knowledge sharing across projects, countries, and agencies
- Systematic KM approaches and consistent set of KM indicators absent in some programs

Central knowledge and learning platforms are not limited to programs:

Focal areas:
- IW:LEARN

Cross-cutting themes:
- GEF Gender Partnership

GEF-6 and GEF-7 examples
- Integrated Approach Pilots
- Impact Programs
- GOLD Program
- Coastal Fisheries Initiative
Knowledge management at the GEF

Recommendations

1. The GEF partnership should develop a clear KM strategy.

2. The GEF partnership should invest in a technical solution that strengthens the KM system.
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