Enhancing global environmental benefits through excellence in evaluation
Semi-Annual Evaluation Report
May 2017
Outline

1 Findings from completed thematic evaluations
2 Cross-cutting areas
3 OPS 6 status
4 Knowledge management
SECTION 1
Completed thematic evaluations
PORTFOLIO
Programmatic approaches

- Most programs are regional or global, child projects are country focused
- Most programs are multi-agency, child projects are single agency
- Most child projects financing delivered through multifocal programs

$1,486 million
38 programs
301 child projects
FINDINGS

Programmatic approaches

- Perform better than standalone projects, except in complex programs
- Programs address environmental drivers
- Designed for long term, not yet showing results
- Improved program/child coherence
FINDINGS

Programmatic approaches

Program ownership linked to degree of alignment with country priorities

Cost-effectiveness and efficiency declined with increased complexity

Better M&E design, but M&E implementation still challenging
RECOMMENDATIONS

Programmatic approaches

- Ensure programs are equipped to address their complexity
- Measure program performance, not just projects
- Ensure alignment of programs with country priorities
PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

Private sector portfolio

- Outcomes: 80%
- Sustainability: 61%
- Efficiency: 76%

Non-grant portfolio

- Outcomes: 78%
- Sustainability: 65%
- Efficiency: 88%
High co-financing ratio of **10:1** (vs 6:1 overall)

Technical Assistance plays a significant role in most non-grant projects

Refloows and requirement for returns

Range of non-grant instruments is needed

FINDINGS

Non-grant portfolio

91 projects

$732.6 million in GEF investments
FINDINGS

Private sector programs

High co-financing ratio of 8:1 (vs 6:1 overall)
Engages with wide variety of for-profit entities
Operational restrictions constrain engagement
Climate change investments feature heavily

460 projects
$2.5 million in GEF investments
STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE

Chemicals and waste

GEF-3
POP
ODS

GEF-4
+Sound chemicals management

GEF-5
Chemicals strategy
+Mercury

GEF-6
Chemicals and Waste Focal area

Satisfactory

Outcomes
Quality of implementation
Quality of execution
Sustainability
M&E implementation
M&E design

Factors behind success in POPs

Strong government ownership
Private sector commitment (incl. co-financing)
RECOMMENDATIONS

Chemicals and waste

Better planning towards scaling up and sustainability

More support for broad-based regulatory reform and sector-wide approaches

Better tracking tools, terminal results and consistent M&E resources

Ozone depletion programs have a new relevance

Better communication between GEF partners
PORTFOLIO

Land degradation

$3.364 billion
618 projects with an LD component
(58% multifocal)

Cofinancing 6.7:1

Shift towards integrated landscapes

$1:1.08

Africa, 37%
Latin America and Caribbean, 22%
Asia, 17%
Global, 15%
Europe Central Asia, 8%
Regional, 1%
FINDINGS

Land degradation

Lag time of 4.5 to 5.5 years for impacts to be observed

Access to electricity associated with higher impact

Higher impact observed in areas with poor initial conditions
RECOMMENDATIONS

Land degradation

- Assess climate risks and design responses
- Implement land degradation neutrality with an appropriate mix of interventions
- Consider complex contextual factors within an integrated approach framework
- Strengthen M&E tools, knowledge dissemination
SECTION 2
Cross-cutting areas
Legal and regulatory reform

Unrealistic expectations

Many factors influence implementation and success

Limited follow-up and evaluation of impacts

Wide range of activities to support governments

Often necessary, not always sufficient

FINDINGS

Legal and regulatory reform

Unrealistic expectations

Many factors influence implementation and success

Limited follow-up and evaluation of impacts
EXAMPLES
Transformational change

- **Uruguay**
  - Wind power
  - 2008: 0%
  - 2016: 33%

- **Africa**
  - 1.3 mln – quality solar lanterns; Private market transformed

- **Amazon**
  - 13.2 mln ha – strict protection
  - 10.8 mln ha – sustainable use

- **China**
  - Wind power
    - 2005: 1.3 GW
    - 2015: 129.3 GW

- **Namibia**
  - 98% PAs improved
  - Doubled # of wild dogs, leopards, cheetahs, lions (2004-12)

156 projects - nominated and screened
30 cases (49 projects) – first review round
13 cases (29 projects) – second review round
8 cases (13 projects) - selected

4 criteria:
- Relevant
- Deep/Systemic
- Large-scale
- Sustainable
SO WHAT?
Transformational change

LESSONS
✔ Level of ambition
✔ Effective transformational mechanism
✔ Quality of implementation and execution
✔ Harnessing market forces
✔ May be achieved by projects of different size

RECOMMENDATION
Develop and apply a framework for ex-ante assessments of projects/programs that are intended to be transformational
FINDINGS

Results-based management

Plays a strong role in supporting reporting, accountability and communications

GEF has not articulated clear theories of change for its programs

GEF is still tracking too many indicators

Gaps in the submission and availability of tracking tools, quality of info is often poor

Project Management Information System has not kept pace
RECOMMENDATIONS

Results-based management

- Update the GEF RBM framework
- Upgrade the PMIS to facilitate reporting on achievement of targets
- Address the shortcomings of the focal area tracking tools
FINDINGS

Safeguard policies

- Catalytic role in many GEF agencies
- Gaps in the GEF Minimum Standards
- Unsystematic tracking system means limited info on risks
- Identified a range of environmental and social risks in the GEF 6 Portfolio
- Less-developed experience in safeguard implementation and monitoring in some agencies
RECOMMENDATIONS

Safeguard policies

- Review the GEF Minimum Standards
- Improve safeguards monitoring and reporting
- Support capacity development, expert convening, and communications
FINDINGS

Gender

- Policy does not provide a clear framework
- Gender analysis = higher gender ratings
- Modest improvements
FINDINGS
Gender

Institutional capacity is insufficient

GEF Gender Partnership is slowly developing into a relevant and effective platform

GEAP has been a relevant and effective framework for policy implementation
RECOMMENDATIONS

Gender

Consider a revision of the policy

Develop an action plan for GEF-7

Resource these efforts adequately
SECTION 3

OPS6 Update
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<td>Project-Level Accomplishments/ Progress toward Impact</td>
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**OPS6**
SECTION 4
Knowledge management
UPDATE
Knowledge management

GEF IEO website
23 briefs for first replenishment
Recommended Council Decisions