



# GEF REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Quito, Ecuador

September 3-5, 2024



global  
environment  
facility  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



# AGENDA

## GEF REGIONAL WORKSHOP

September 3 (Tuesday)

September 4 (Wednesday)

September 5 (Thursday) – Field Visit



# AGENDA

## DAY 1 (Tuesday)

- Opening Session and Welcome Remarks
- Introduction to the workshop Agenda and working methods
- Overview of the GEF Family of Funds: Operations Policy Framework (I)

### Coffee Break

- Overview of the GEF Family of Funds: Operations Policy Framework (II)
- Operations Policy Framework and the GEF Instruments and their use in the GEF-8 Programing Cycle

### Lunch

- Panel Discussion: Experience Sharing amongst OFPs and Convention Focal points
- GEF Independent Evaluation Office

**RECEPTION – Ecuador National Museum**

# INTRODUCTION TO THE GEF TEAM



**Avril Benchimol**  
Senior Financial  
Specialist



**Charles Dixon**  
Social Specialist



**Emanuela Fernandes**  
Senior Learning Officer



**Esteban Bermudez**  
Climate Change  
Specialist



**Henry Salazar**  
Senior Operations  
Officer



**Ikuko Matsumoto**  
Knowledge  
Management



**Kettly Gousse**  
Program Assistant



**Nicolas Pizanelli**  
Operations Officer



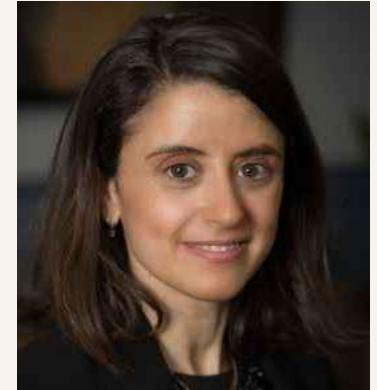
**Nitya Mehta Mehta**  
Communications  
Specialist



**Noemi Hernandez**  
Senior Country  
Officer and  
Secretary of the  
GEF Council



**Pascal Martinez**  
Senior Climate  
Change Specialist



**Patricia Marcos  
Huidobro**  
Climate Change and  
Latam Regional  
Coordinator



# WHAT IS THE GEF?

**MANDATE**

**GOVERNANCE**

**FINANCING**



# THE HISTORY OF THE GEF

Earth Summit -  
start of  
negotiations on  
the restructuring  
of the GEF

SGP Inauguration

Establishment of  
GEF CSO Network

**2 additional  
conventions:**

- 1. Stockholm
- 2. UNCCD

**CBIT**

**GBFF**

1991

1992

1994

1995

2001

2002

2011

2017

2019

2023

Pilot  
Program  
\$1B

Restructured GEF  
Instrument

Initial partners:

- 1. World Bank
- 2. UNDP
- 3. UNEP

Financial Mechanism :  
CBD  
UNFCCC

UN establishes  
the Least  
Developed  
Countries Fund  
(LDCF) and the  
Special Climate  
Change Fund  
(SCCF)

Nagoya  
Protocol

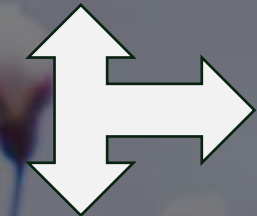
Minamata

**BBNJ**



**GEF ASSEMBLY**  
186 participants  
Meets every 3-4 years

**6 ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS**



Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)

**GEF COUNCIL**  
32 Members  
Meets twice a year

Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)

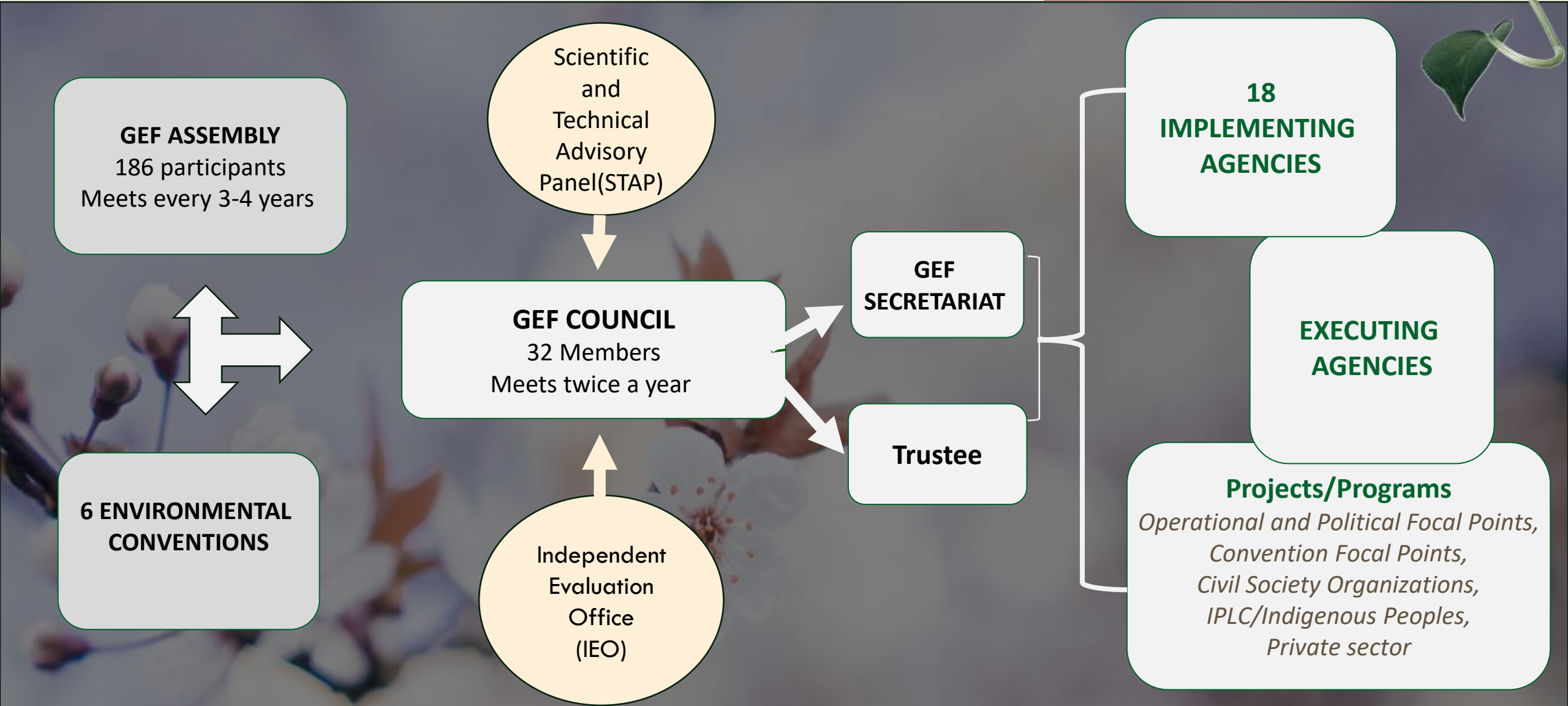
**GEF SECRETARIAT**

**Trustee**

**18 IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES**

**EXECUTING AGENCIES**

**Projects/Programs**  
*Operational and Political Focal Points, Convention Focal Points, Civil Society Organizations, IPLC/Indigenous Peoples, Private sector*



# A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



Largest environmental multi-donor trust fund

Financial mechanism of international environmental conventions



## 18 AGENCIES



# GEF-8 Resources

## GEF Trust Fund

Started in 1991 with Pilot Phase and was Restructured in 1994

**4-year**

replenishment cycle from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026

**\$5.33 billion**

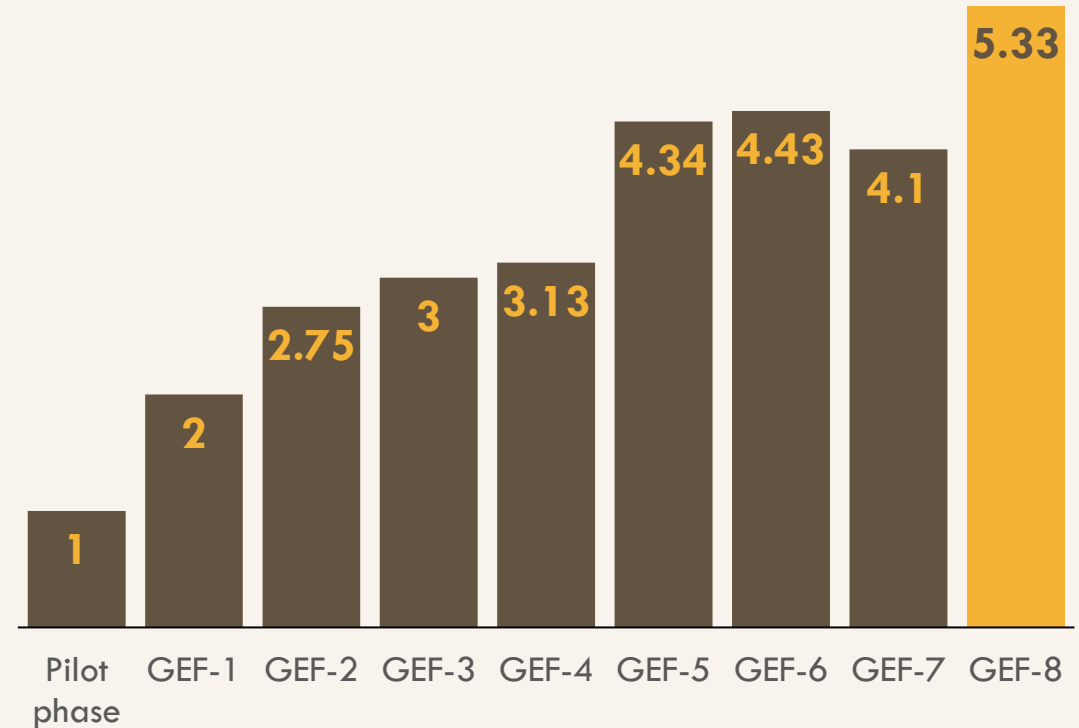
pledged by 39 donor nations

**493 million 'STAR' Resources**

allocated to the region

GEF-8 strategy responds to conventions and takes an **integrated approach to systems transformation**

**GEF Replenishment Cycles**  
(billion USD)





City 1



City 2



City 3



City 4



**City 1: What is the GEF and how does it work?  
(Nicolas)**



**City 2: How is the project cycle and what is the role of different stakeholders?**



**City 3: Implications of the increase from US\$2 million to US\$5 million in Medium-sized Projects (February 2024 Council)**



**City 4: Exchange with participants on how to improve the project cycle (June 2024 Council)**



# PROJECTS MODALITIES

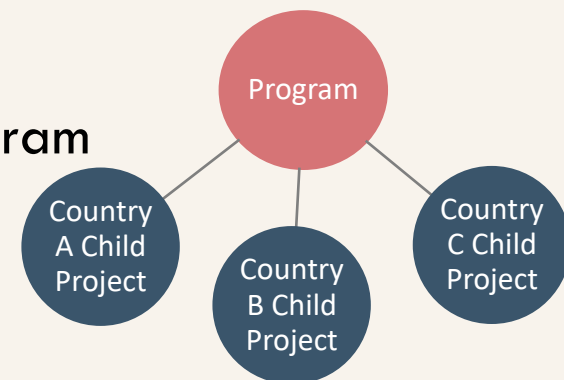
**Full-Sized Project (FSP):** over US\$5M in project financing (grant) amount  
**Approved by Council** (twice a year in their meetings & intersessional by mail)

**Medium-Sized Project (MSP):** up to US\$5M or less  
**Approved by GEF CEO** (on a rolling basis)

**Enabling Activities (EA)** entails the preparation of a plan, strategy or report to fulfill commitments under a Convention  
**Approved by GEF CEO** (on a rolling basis)

**Program:** a long-term/high impact strategic arrangement of interlinked child projects  
**Approved by Council** (twice a year)

**Child Project:** an individual project under Program

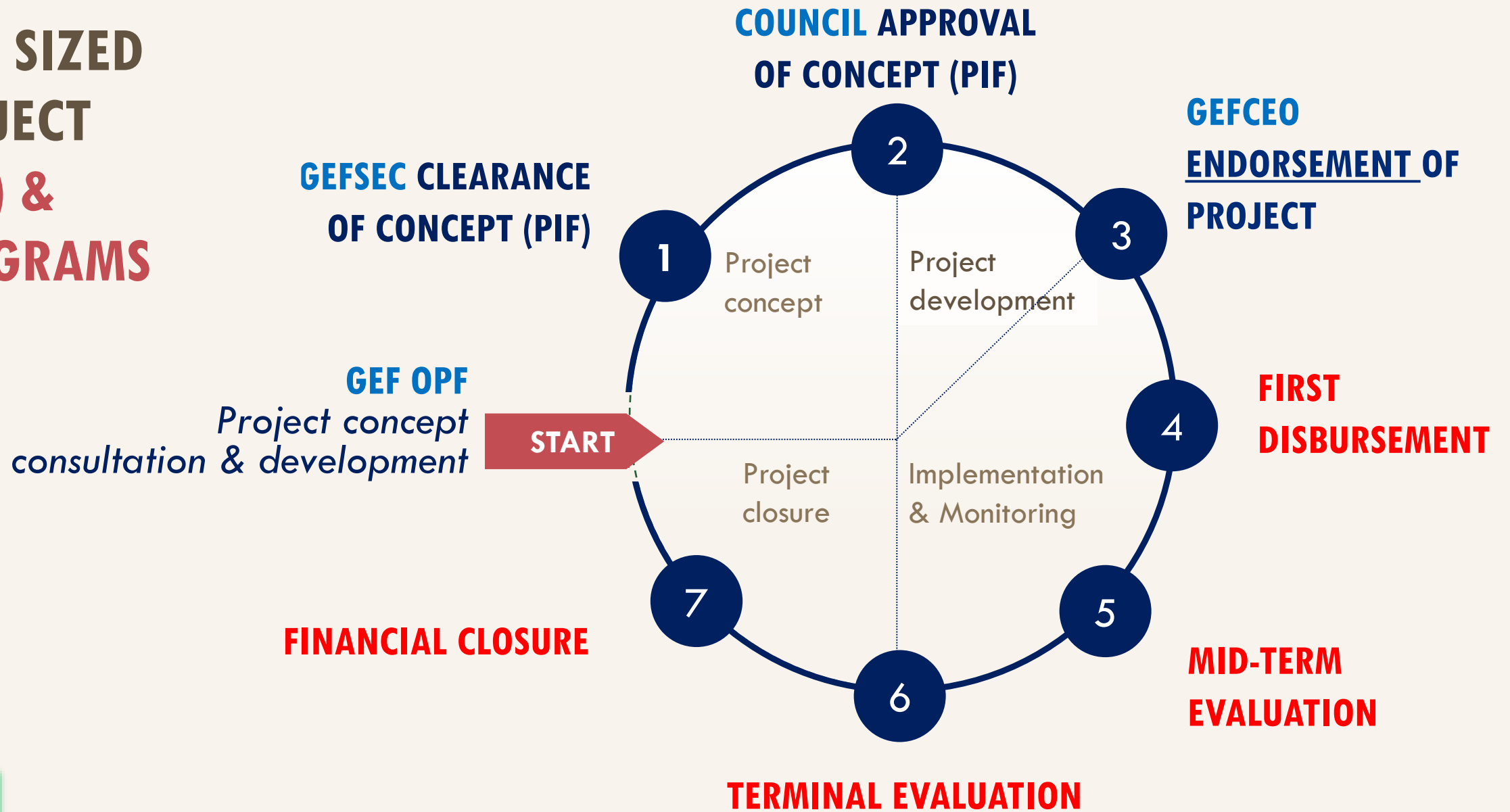




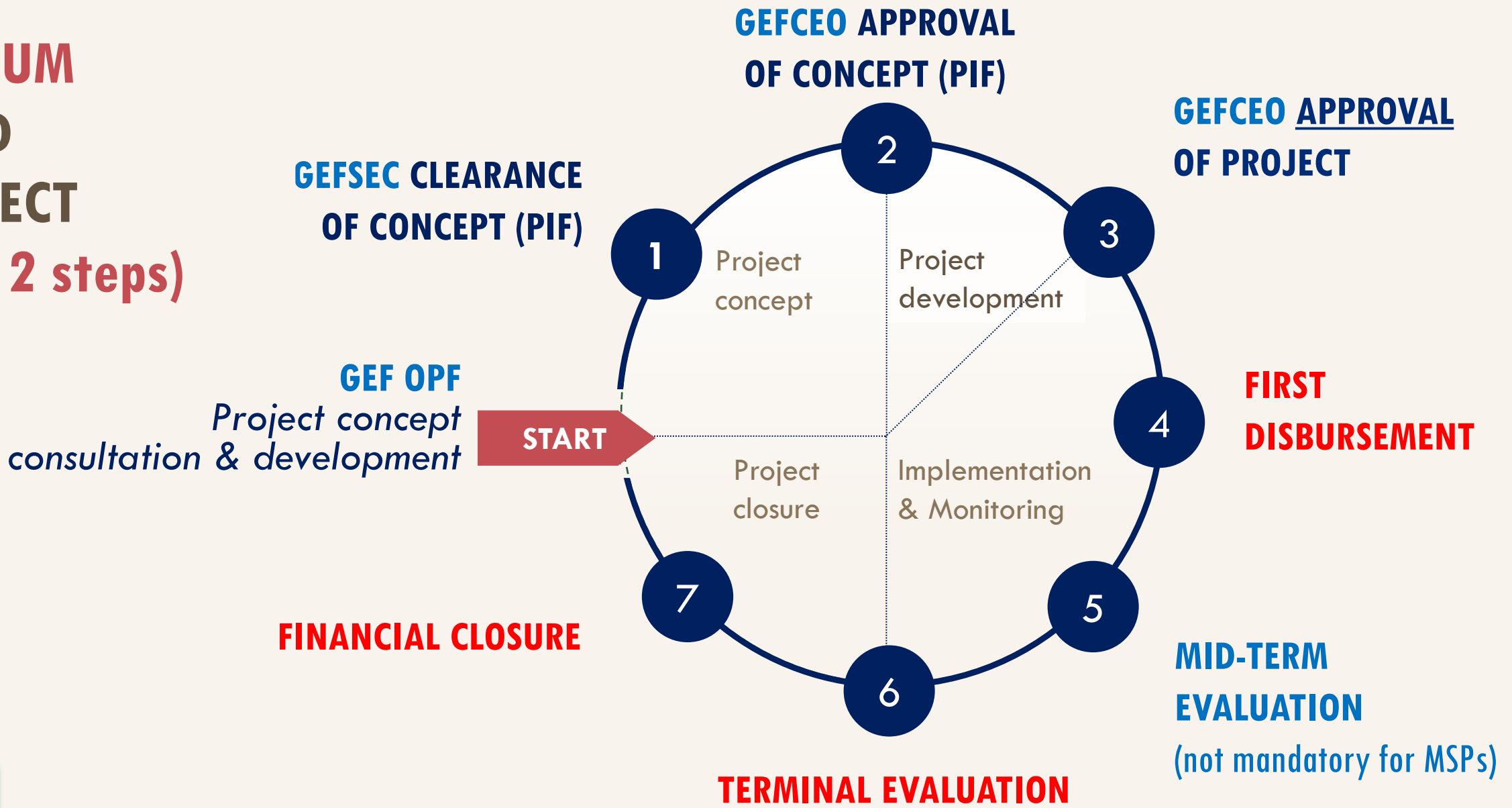
## How much has been approved by modality to date?

Modalities	Total approved	Participation
EA	942,118,761	4%
MSP	1,435,868,577	6%
Programs (Child)	6,117,623,387	24%
FSP	16,957,698,636	66%
<b>GBFF</b>	<b>110,440,817</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>25,563,750,178</b>	<b>100%</b>

# FULL SIZED PROJECT (FSP) & PROGRAMS



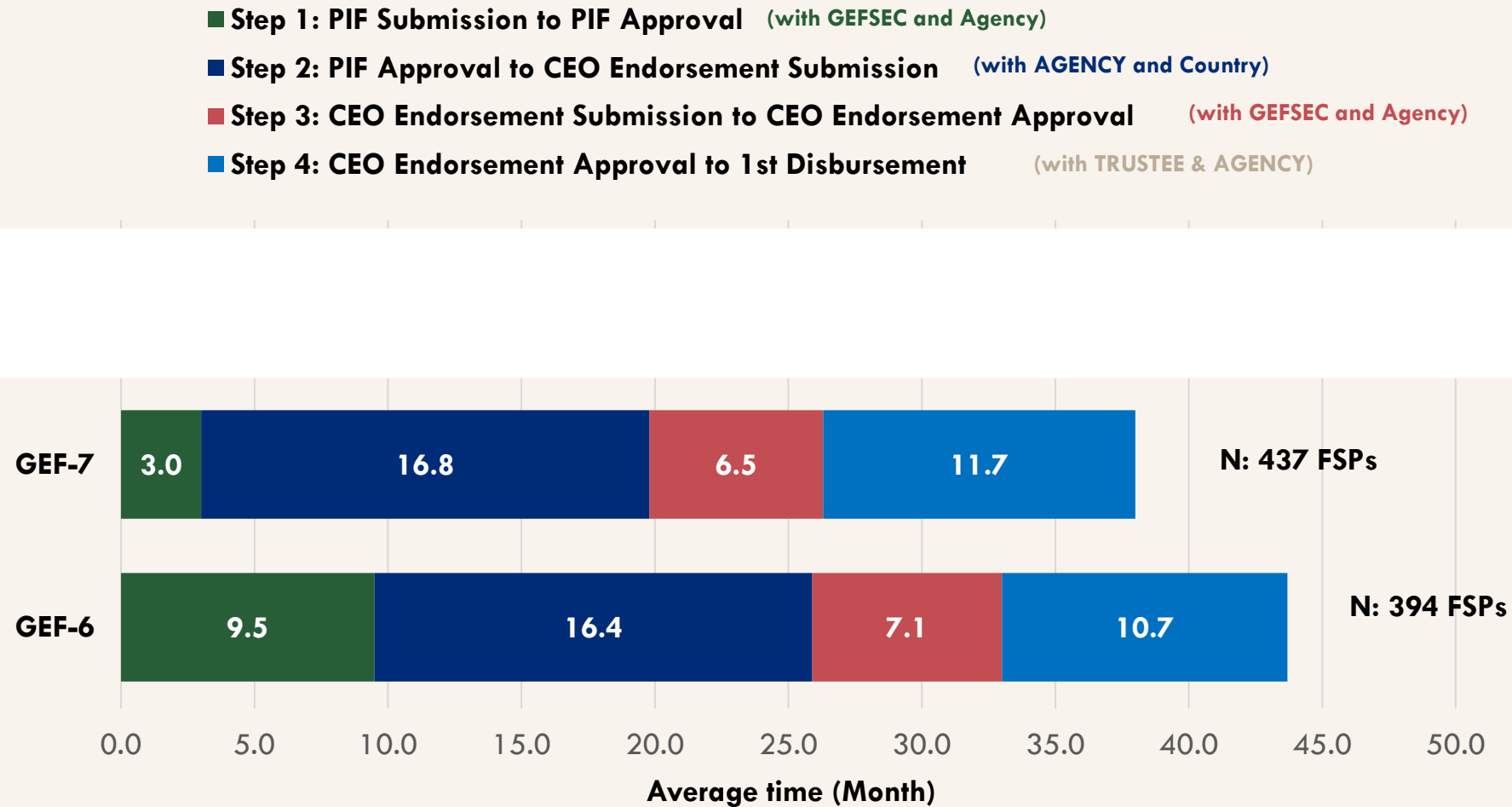
**MEDIUM  
SIZED  
PROJECT  
(MSP 2 steps)**



**From GEF-6 to GEF-7 (incomplete information for GEF-8), evidence shows that less average time is used from the submission of the Project concept to the first disbursement:**

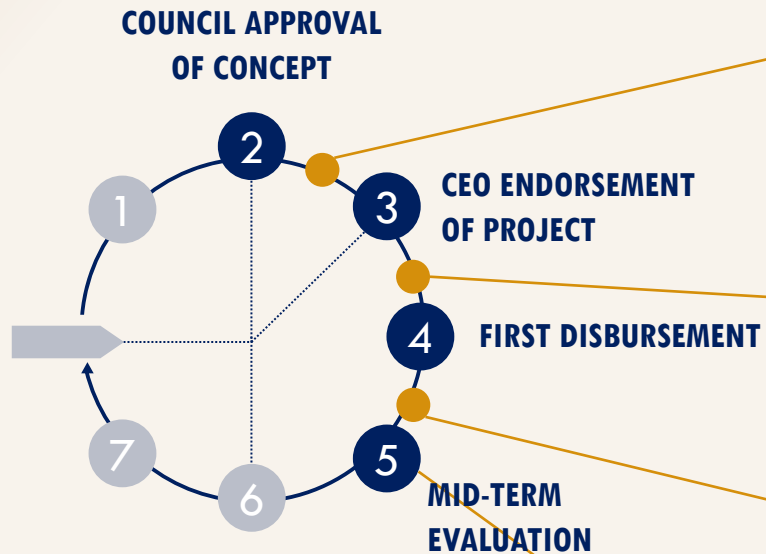
**(i) Noticeable reduction in PIF processing time (here is the biggest reduction).**

**(ii) Moderate improvement for CEO endorsement, and from there to the first disbursement.**



# Disbursement of Agency Fee

## FULL SIZED PROJECT (FSP)



### TRUSTEE

set aside GEF project funding  
disburse 20%

### TRUSTEE

disburse GEF project funding (in stages)

### TRUSTEE

disburse 50%

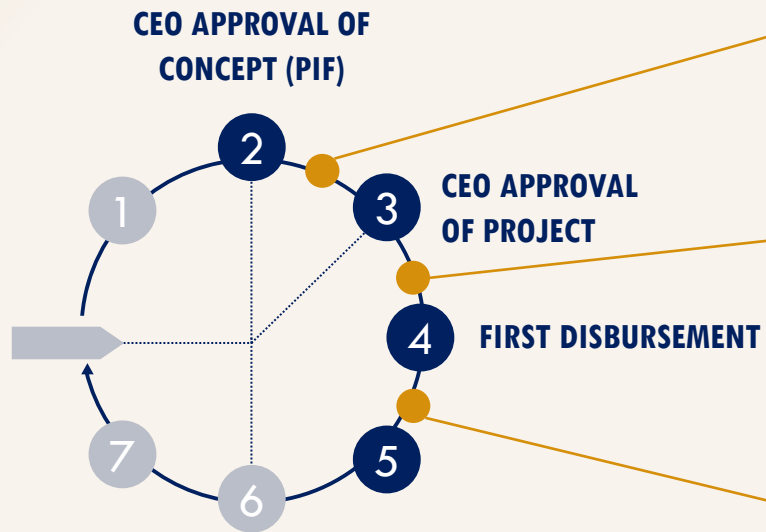
### TRUSTEE

disburse the remainder 30%



# Disbursement of Agency Fee

## MEDIUM SIZED PROJECT (MSP)



### TRUSTEE

*set aside GEF project funding*

### TRUSTEE

*disburse GEF project funding (in stages)*

### TRUSTEE

**disburse 100%**



# WHAT IS COVERED BY AGENCIES FEES? (1)

**Covers costs incurred in providing GEF-specific project cycle management services and corporate activities**

## **Project Concept Consultation and Preparation (PIF)**

- Consultations with Civil Society and Government Institutions
- Obtaining co-financing
- Identification (together with the Government) and assessment of the executing entity

## **Project Design**

- Assist the proponent in the development of the PPG (TORs and no objection to consultants)
- Supervise the preparation of the project in compliance with GEF requirements (preparation missions)

## **Internal approval of the Agency and start of the Project**

- Agree on implementation mechanisms with the executor –sign the contract with the Government that leads to the first disbursement.
- Assist in the setup of the Executing Unit (TORs) and participate in the kick-off workshop



# WHAT IS COVERED BY AGENCIES FEES? (2)

## Implementation and Monitoring

- Carry out at least one monitoring mission per year (PIR – MTR with the participation of the OFP) and provide technical guidance.
- Oversee procurement and financial management to ensure that execution is in line with the Agency's policies and deadlines.

## Project Closure and Evaluation

- Oversee the preparation of the independent terminal evaluation (with the participation of the OFP), and send the report to the IEO of the GEF with a copy to the GEF
- Financial closure with the Trustee / report to the GEF

## CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

- (i) Contributions to the development of Policies; (ii) portfolio management; (iii) supervision and submission of M&E reports; (iv) participation in coordination activities (ECWs, Council); (v) support to IEO activities.





# SEPARATION OF IMPLEMENTATION AND EXECUTION FUNCTIONS

**Implementation** entails **oversight** of project execution to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards & requirements.

**Execution** refers to the **management & administration** of the day-to-day activities of projects in accordance with specific project requirements in an agreement with the GEF Agency responsible for implementation.



The **Minimum Fiduciary Standards & Agency Fee Policies** mandate that these functions should not be carried out by the same GEF Implementing Agency for two reasons:

- To avoid conflict of interest
- To support the development of countries' executing capacity building



# Implications of the increase from US\$2 million to US\$5 million in Medium Sized Projects (1)

Topics	Before (MSPs up to US\$ 2 million)	After (MSPs up to US\$ 5 million)
Circulation to the Council and STAP	Not mandatory	To Council: ALL MSPs To STAP: projects of more than US\$ 2 million and up to US\$ 5 million to STAP (same as for FSPs).
Mid-Term Review (MTR)	Not mandatory	Mandatory for projects over US\$ 2 million and up to US\$ 5 million (same as for FSPs).
Project Preparation Grant (PPG)	US\$ 50,000	Remains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- US\$ 50,000 –up to US\$ 2 millions</li><li>- US\$ 100,000 –from US\$ 2 up to US\$ 3 millions</li><li>- US\$ 150,000 –from US\$ 3 up to US\$ 5 millions</li></ul>
Project Management Costs (PMC)	10% of GEF Funding	Remains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- US\$ 10% –up to US\$ 2 millions</li><li>- US\$ 5% –from US\$ 2 up to US\$ 5 millions (same as for FSPs)</li></ul>



# Implications of the increase from US\$2 million to US\$5 million in Medium Sized Projects (2)

Topics	Before (MSPs up to US\$ 2 million)	After (MSPs up to US\$ 5 million)
Cancellation Policy for individual projects	Submission for CEO approval after 8 months of PIF –effective approval of the CEO after 12 months of PIF	No change
Cancellation Policy for Child Projects in Programs	Submission for CEO endorsement at 12 months of PFD –effective CEO endorsement after 12 months of PIF	No change
Disbursement of Agency fees	100% on first disbursement	Remains for one segment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 100% –up to US\$ 2 millions</li><li>- from US\$ 2 up to US\$ 5 millions (same as for FSPs):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* 20% approval of PIF/PFD</li><li>* 50% first disbursement</li><li>* 30% mid term evaluation</li></ul></li></ul>



# GEF REGIONAL WORKSHOP

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global  
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INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



**A longer-term vision for the GEF**

*To halt nature loss and ensure that the world is nature-positive by 2030 and carbon neutral and pollution-free by 2050*

# GEF-8: HEALTHY PLANET, HEALTHY PEOPLE

*Unified action towards 2030 Goals and Commitments*

## FOCAL AREAS

### STAR

Biodiversity

Climate Change  
Mitigation

Land Degradation

### No STAR

International  
Waters

Chemicals and  
Residues

## INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

### STAR & no STAR

Food Systems

Ecosystem Restoration

Sustainable Cities

Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes

Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution

Blue and Green Islands

Clean and Healthy Ocean

Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development

Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator

Wildlife Conservation for Development

Elimination of Harmful Chemicals from Supply Chains

## GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Mobilizing the Financial  
Sector for Environmental  
Goals through Blended  
Finance

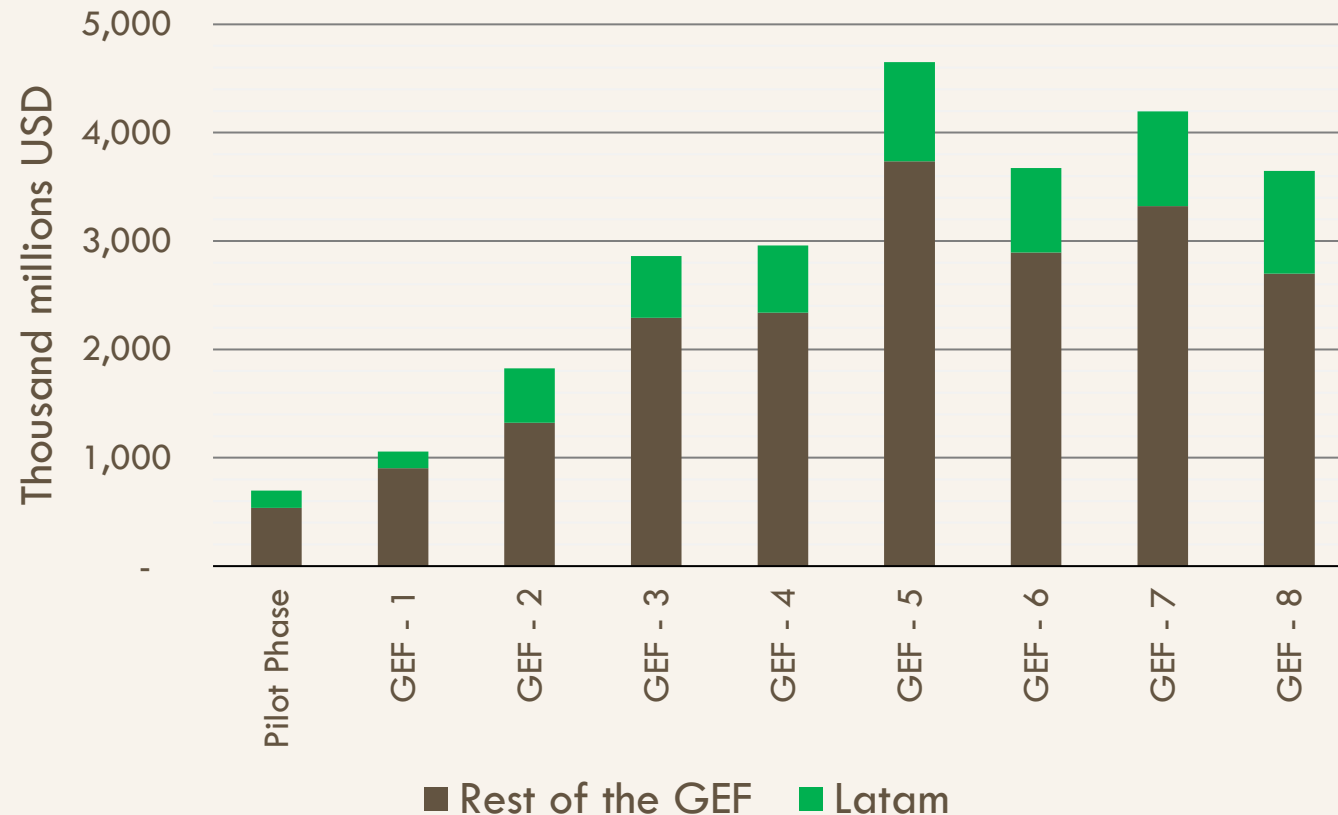
Community Action for  
Global Transformation -  
Small Grants Program  
and Beyond

## CROSS-CUTTING

Circular economy • Nature-based solutions • Gender responsiveness • Resilience • Private sector engagement

# Support provided by the GEF

Approved resources (by July 24, 2024) per GEF cycle



Latin America has received more than **\$3.9 billion** from the GEF since its inception

A landscape photograph showing a mountain range. The foreground features a stream with several mossy rocks protruding from the water. The middle ground consists of rolling hills covered in low-lying vegetation and scattered rocks. In the background, a prominent, jagged rocky peak rises against a pale sky. A green horizontal bar is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'FOCAL AREAS' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

# FOCAL AREAS

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## GOAL

*Support developing countries to make transformational shifts towards net-zero GHG emissions and climate-resilient development pathways.*

## Major objectives

### **1. Innovation, technology transfer, and enabling policies** for mitigation options with systemic impacts.

- 1.1. Accelerate the efficient use of energy and materials.*
- 1.2. Enable the transition to decarbonized power systems.*
- 1.3. Scale up zero-emission mobility of people and goods.*
- 1.4. Promote Nature-based Solutions with high mitigation potential.*

---

### **2. Enabling conditions to mainstream mitigation concerns** into sustainable development strategies.

- 2.1. Support capacity-building needs for transparency under the Paris Agreement through the CBIT.*
- 2.2. Support relevant Convention obligations and enabling activities.*

# GEF Support to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)



## Reports

Preparation  
of BTRs and NCs



## Capacity building

CBIT



## Global support

CBIT-GSP  
CBIT Forest 2  
CBIT AFOLU+

*Enhanced Support to Countries for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement*

# CHEMICALS AND WASTE

## GOAL

*Prevent pollution from harmful chemicals and waste particularly POPs and Mercury.*

## Major objectives

Policy reform to cleaner chemistry and eliminate existing waste.

Preventing a future build up of harmful chemicals and waste in the environment.

Eliminating harmful chemicals and waste in current waste streams and that are stockpiled in existing infrastructure and processes.

## Major contributions to GEBs and MEAs

Focus on gaps preventing sound management and to prevent a future buildup of chemicals in the environment

Harmonized approaches across jurisdictions to allow transparency in supply chains



# Chemicals and Waste

**8.0%** or \$64.2 million of the GEF-8 Chemicals and Waste allocation\* has been approved for the Latin American region

\*including contribution from the Integrated Program



# INTERNATIONAL WATERS



## GOAL

*Supporting nations in transboundary cooperation in shared marine and freshwater ecosystems through 3 step process:*

- *Assess ecological & socioeconomic conditions*
- *Agree on a regional strategic action program (SAP)*
- *Implement the SAP*

## Major objectives

Support **Large Marine Ecosystems** to accelerate Blue Economic Development.

Advance management in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (**ABNJ**).

Enhance water security in **freshwater** ecosystems.

## Major contributions to GEBs and MEAs

### GEBs:

New or improved marine protected areas (**MPAs**)

More sustainable **fisheries** and aquaculture

Reduced **pollution**, including from wastewater, agricultural run-off and plastics

Strengthened **collaboration** among countries with shared water body

# International Waters

**15.3%** or \$86.6 million of the GEF-8 International Waters' allocation\* has been approved for the Latin American region

\*including contribution from the Integrated Program



# BIODIVERSITY



## GOAL

*Globally significant biodiversity conserved, sustainably used, and restored.*

## Major objectives

To improve conservation, sustainable use and restoration of natural ecosystems.

To effectively implement the Cartagena and Nagoya protocols.

To increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity.

## Major contributions to GEBs and MEAs

Comprehensive implementation support for the Global Biodiversity Framework

Integrated landscape/seascape management.

Domestic resource mobilization.

# LAND DEGRADATION

## GOAL

*To avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation, desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.*

## Major objectives

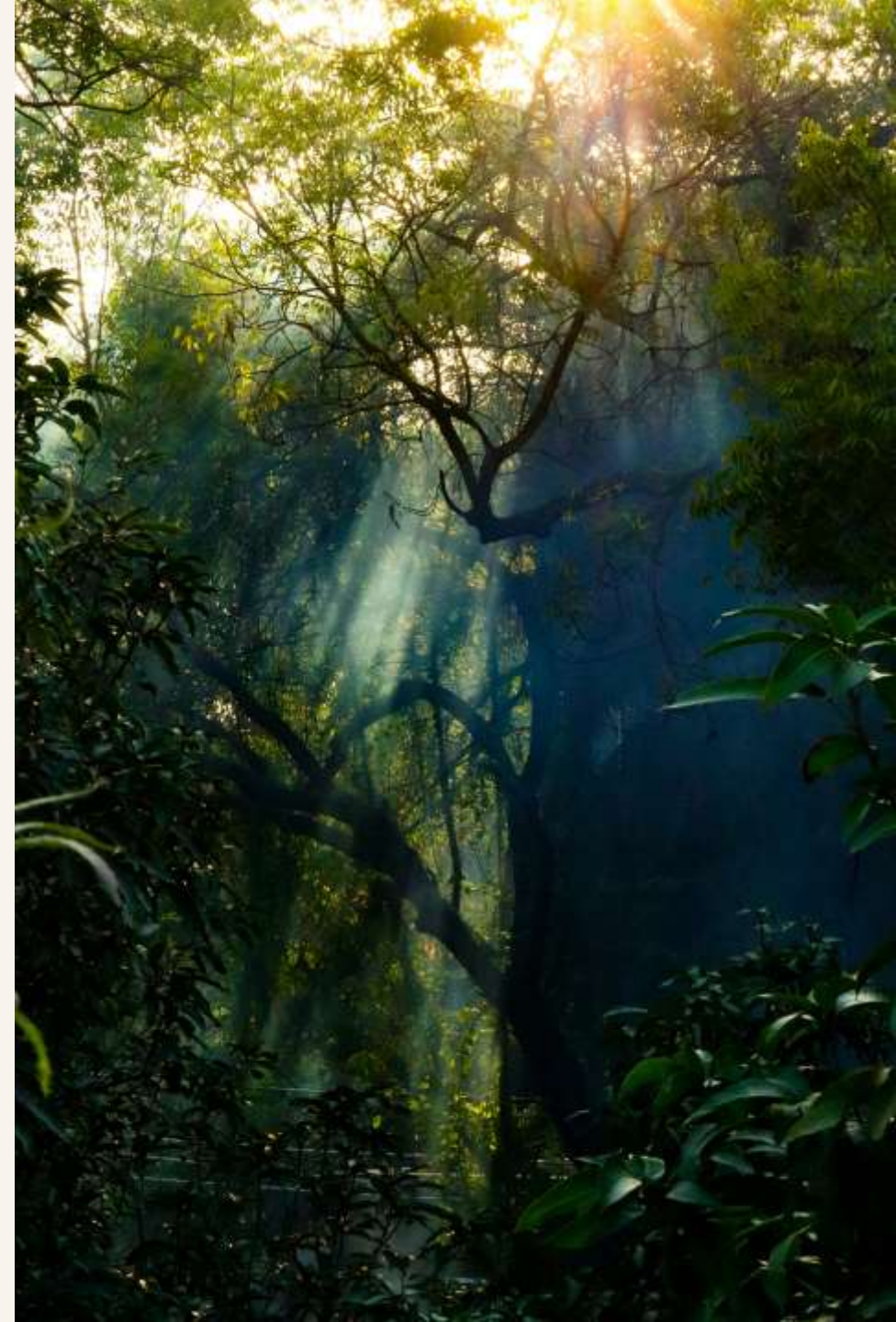
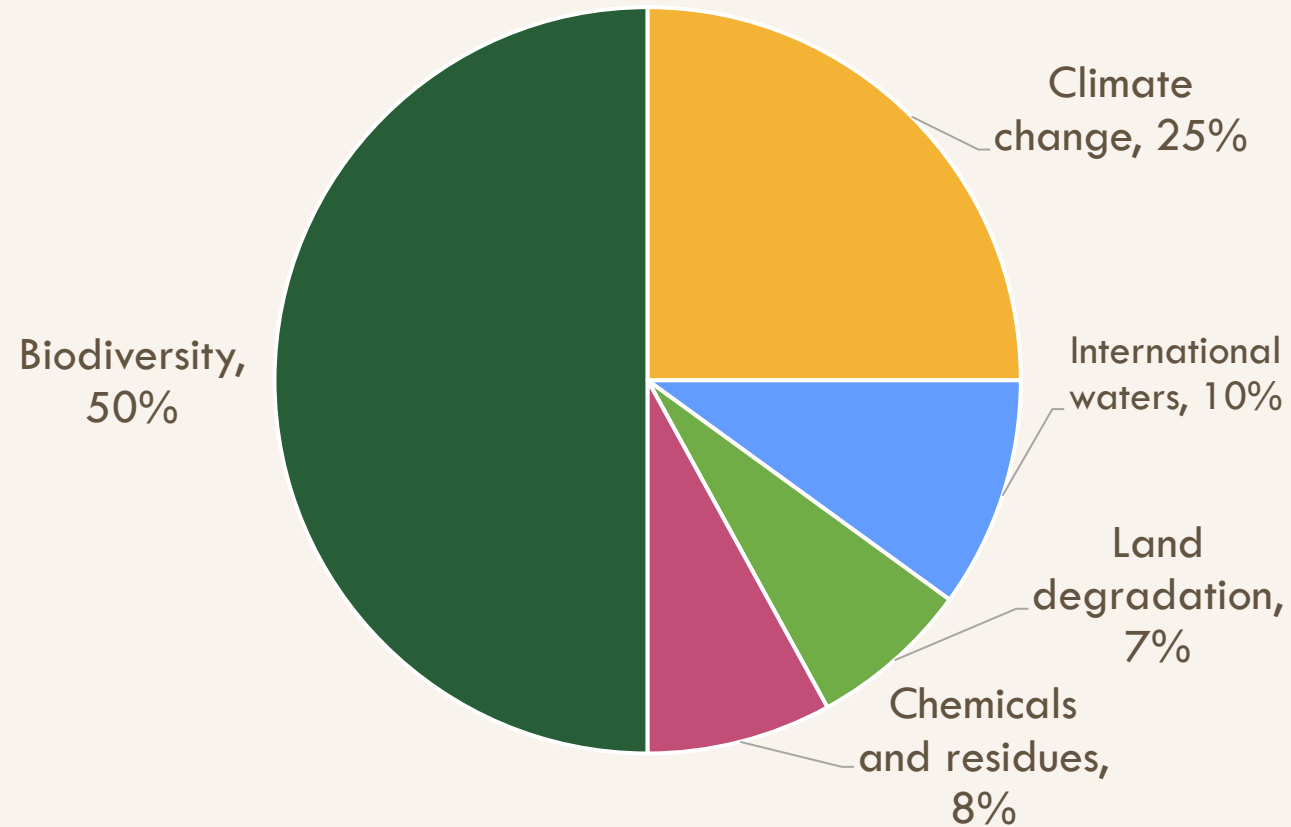
Sustainable land management.  
Landscape restoration.  
Address Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD), particularly in drylands.  
Improve the enabling policy and institutional framework for LDN.

## Major contributions to GEBs and MEAs

Specific objective on addressing DLDD issues.  
Increased emphasis on land-based interventions for drought mitigation.



# Distribution of GEF-8 resources by focal area in Latin America

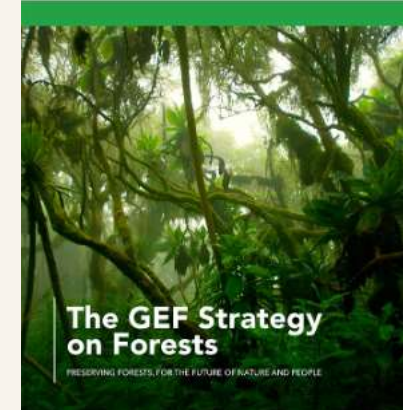


# Use of the STAR allocation in GEF-8

**84.6%** of the GEF-8 STAR allocation has been utilized by the Latin American countries

Description	Assigned (USD)	Approved (USD)
Biodiversity	391,644,594	325,958,517
Land Degradation	38,487,879	30,515,808
Climate Change	63,482,636	61,361,867
<b>Total</b>	<b>493,615,109</b>	<b>417,836,192</b>

# GEF's Strategy on Forests

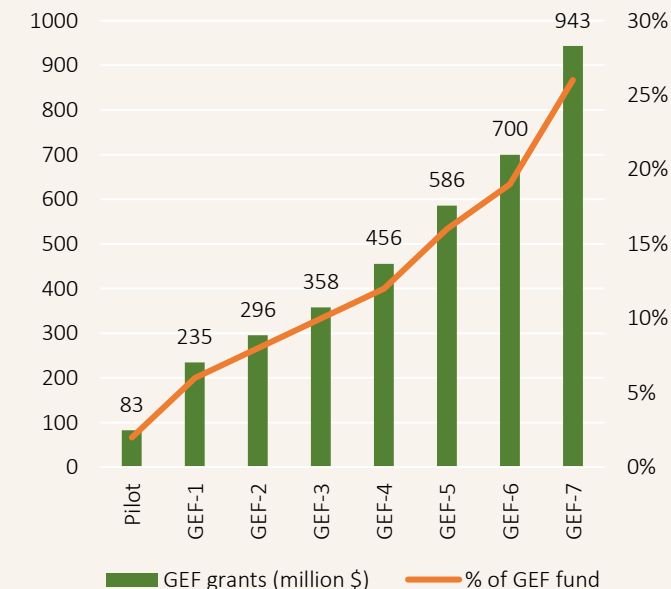


**Overarching goal:** to maintain, preserve, and restore the integrity and functioning of forest biomes, primarily in tropical areas.

Primary forests are at the core of the GEF strategy!



**Evolution of GEF's support to forests**



On GEF Website:

<https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/publications/gef-strategy-forests-preserving-forests-future-nature-and-people>

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense tropical forest covering a mountain slope. The trees are a mix of dark and light green, indicating a rich biodiversity. In the upper right, a layer of white mist or low clouds partially obscures the forest. A solid green horizontal banner is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the text 'INTEGRATED PROGRAMS' in white, bold, uppercase letters.

# INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

# GEF-8 INTEGRATED PROGRAMS

## *Pathway to Transformative Change for Blue and Green Recovery*

*Integrated programs are defined by sharing several of the following characteristics:*

1

**Integration** of focal areas and approaches

2

Deliver **multiple** global environmental benefits

3

Complement country-level investments with **transboundary** action and impact at regional or global scales

4

Promote a global **platform** for coordination and technical support to country projects

5

Provides incentives for **country** participation

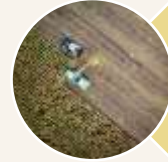
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Delivers more **outcomes** than individual projects on same topic

# Participation of Latin American countries in IPs



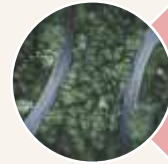
Amazon, Congo and Critical Forest Biomes



Food Systems



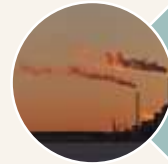
Clean and Healthy Oceans



Greening Infrastructure Development



Circular Solutions to Plastics



Net-Zero Nature-Positive



Ecosystem Restoration



Sustainable Cities



Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains

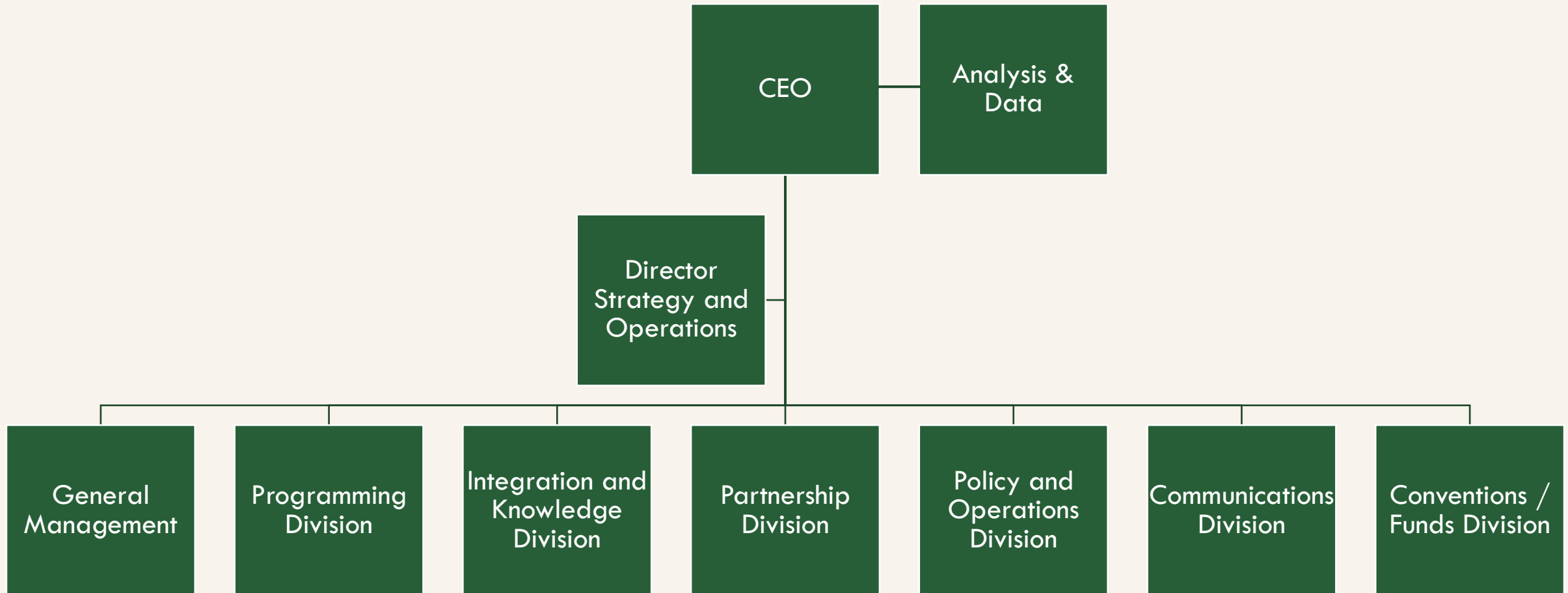


Wildlife Conservation Development

# Participation of Latin American countries in the IPs



# New GEF Structure





**GEF-9**

**What is next?**

A scenic mountain landscape featuring a snow-capped peak in the background, colorful hills in shades of brown, orange, and green, and purple flowers in the foreground. A wooden structure is visible on the left side of the image. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in white text in the center.

Questions?



**Experience sharing**

# Objective of the session

- To review roles/responsibilities of OFPs, Agencies (a quiz)
- To exchange experiences, good practices and challenges related to:
  - Coordination in project design and implementation within the government
  - Inclusion of civil society - youth, women, IPLCs, private sector



# Quiz: Role of OFPs (1)

**Q1: Which of the below is NOT a general responsibility of OFPs?**

1. Consult with CSO and other key stakeholders in the country on GEF matters and provide information on GEF activities, including project implementation, results and impacts.
2. Establish, if appropriate, and convene a National Steering Committee for GEF-related work as feasible and appropriate to the national situation.
3. Support mainstreaming of GEF objectives in national policy frameworks.
4. Follow and participate in projects only at PIF and CEO Endorsement stages.



# Quiz: Role of OFPs (2)

**Q2: Which of the below is NOT an operational responsibility of OFPs?**

1. Work and coordinate with line ministries and stakeholders in choosing projects and programs, and the GEF Implementing Agency for each project.
2. Work with the Agencies in the preparation of the Project Identification Form (PIF) to request funding from the GEF and decide on whether to endorse a project before the Agencies submit the PIF to the GEF Secretariat.
3. Rely only on the GEF Website to track GEF projects and programs.
4. Collaborate on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) at project, program, and portfolio levels.

# Quiz: Role of Agencies

**Q3: Which of the below is NOT a recommended action by Agencies in their engagement with OFPs?**

1. Engage with OFPs throughout the project cycle including:
  - Early dialogue on ideas and options for projects, in the context of country strategies and needs.
  - Ongoing dialogue on ways to meet GEF policy requirements, including on stakeholder engagement.
2. Provide regular updates on status and milestones of the project.
3. Ensure coherent communication with governments from Agency headquarters and local offices.
4. Engage and work with consultants who know the country and its needs.



# ***ECUADOR GEF Funds***



***EL NUEVO  
ECUADOR*** 

Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua  
y Transición Ecológica



# *CALL FOR PROPOSALS*

## What are the GEF Call for Proposals in Ecuador?

- Through the GEF Call for Proposals in Ecuador agencies and organizations are invited to submit project proposals that address global environmental issues.
- These Call for Proposals are key to ensure that available funds are allocated to projects that truly generate a positive impact on the environment and that are aligned with global and national priorities.



EL NUEVO  
**ECUADOR**

Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua  
y Transición Ecológica

A close-up photograph of a purple starfish resting on a sandy beach. The starfish is the central focus, with its five arms clearly visible. The sand is light-colored and slightly out of focus. The image is partially obscured by a large, dark blue geometric shape that covers the right side of the frame.

*FUNDS*

## - **STAR Resources (System for Transparency Allocation of Resources)**

**Objective:** Ensure that developing countries receive an equitable share of GEF financial resources, based on environmental criteria and implementation capacities.

### **Focal Areas:**

- Climate Change
- Biodiversity
- Land Degradation

### **Additional Focal Areas (non STAR):**

- Chemicals and Waste
- Internal Waters



- **Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)**

**Objective:** Support the implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, mobilizing resources for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.

**Funding Sources:** The fund includes contributions from various sources, including governments, the private sector and multilateral organizations, to channel these resources to developing countries





# *CALL FOR PROPOSALS*

# Call for Proposals

Calls for Proposals are classified into different types depending on the focal areas they address and the type of project. Some examples include:

- **Biodiversity:** Projects that focus on the conservation of biological diversity.
- **Climate Change:** Initiatives that seek to mitigate the effects of climate change or help in adaptation.
- **Multifocal :** Projects that combine several areas, such as biodiversity and climate change.
- **Additional :** Open competitions for specific areas such as Chemicals and Waste or International Waters



EL NUEVO  
**ECUADOR**

Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua  
y Transición Ecológica

A hand is pointing to a form with a red border. The form has a checkbox and several lines of text. The background is white with a blue diagonal stripe.

*CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
APPLICATION FORMAT*

The application format for these calls follows a structured process:

1. Call for Proposals
2. Proposals Evaluation
3. Selection and Notification



A hand holding a coin over a stack of coins and a small green plant. The image is partially obscured by a blue geometric shape on the right side.

# *GEF FUNDING*

# PREVIOS PROJECTS

GEF financing has a significant impact on environmental projects. The following are examples of some of the biggest GEF-funded projects:

## 1. AFI Green-Blue Mechanism: Sustainability along the Agricultural Value Chains in the Americas:

Funding: \$18,203,000

Agency: CAF

Impact: The project has promoted sustainable agricultural practices, improved the conservation of water resources and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.



EL NUEVO  
**ECUADOR**

Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua  
y Transición Ecológica

## 2. WWF Impact: Catalytic Investments in Early-Stage, High Impact, Climate and Nature Solutions

GEF Funding: \$8,938,000

Agency: WWF-US

Impact: The project has helped catalyze investments in startups developing innovative solutions to environmental problems, such as biodiversity loss and climate change.



Regenerative  
Agriculture



Food  
Circularity



Aquaculture  
Advancement



Sustainable  
Forestry



Natural  
Capital



*EL NUEVO*  
**ECUADOR** 

The text "EL NUEVO ECUADOR" is written in a bold, italicized sans-serif font. To the right of the word "ECUADOR" is a stylized graphic of the Ecuadorian flag, consisting of three vertical stripes: yellow on the left, blue in the middle, and red on the right.

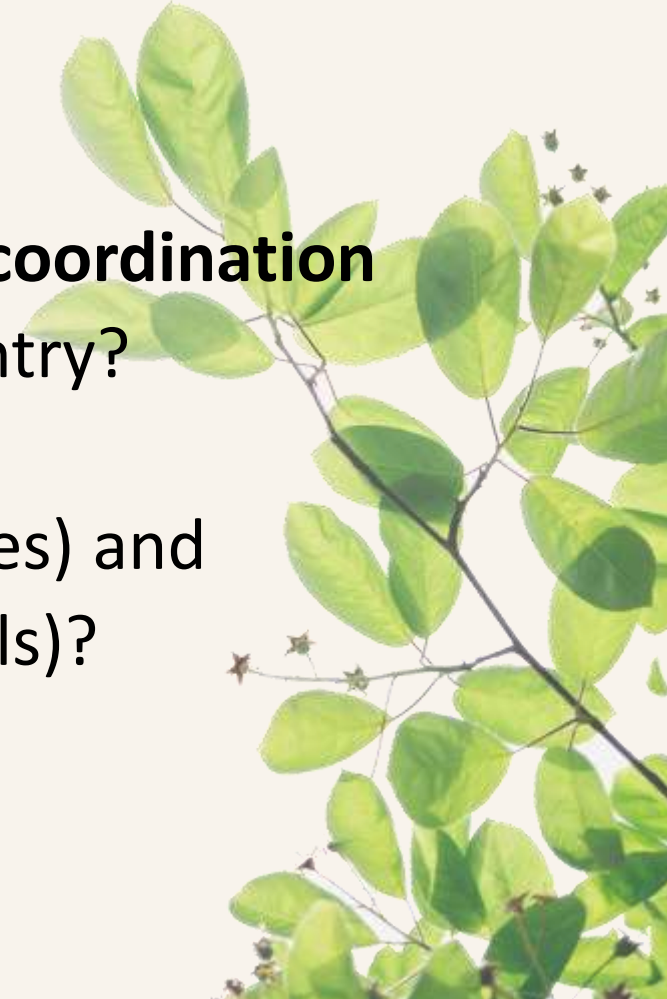
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# Coordination at country level

**Q1: Does your country have a National Steering Committee for GEF-related work?**

**Q2: What are good practices/challenges related to coordination for project design and implementation in your country?**

- Both horizontal (across departments, ministries) and
- Vertical (national, sub-national, and local levels)?



# Inclusion of CSOs, youth, women, IPLCs , and private sector

**Q3: How are other stakeholder groups (private sectors, CSOs, youth, women's groups, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), academics, and others) included in these different levels of coordination?**

What are **good practices** and/or **challenges** in your country related to the inclusion of CSOs, youth, women, IPLCs, and most vulnerable groups in the preparation and implementation of the GEF projects?



# Open discussion related to partnership

Q4: What happens after the OFPs sign the endorsement letter?

Q5: Are OFP involved in M&E?

Q6: how can the GEF support OFP?



# Reference

## Practical Steps to Improve Coordination and Workflow in the GEF Partnership

<https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/publications?topic=&agency=&title=practical+steps>



INTRODUCTION TO THE



Independent  
Evaluation Office  
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Ecuador | September 2024



# Message from our Director

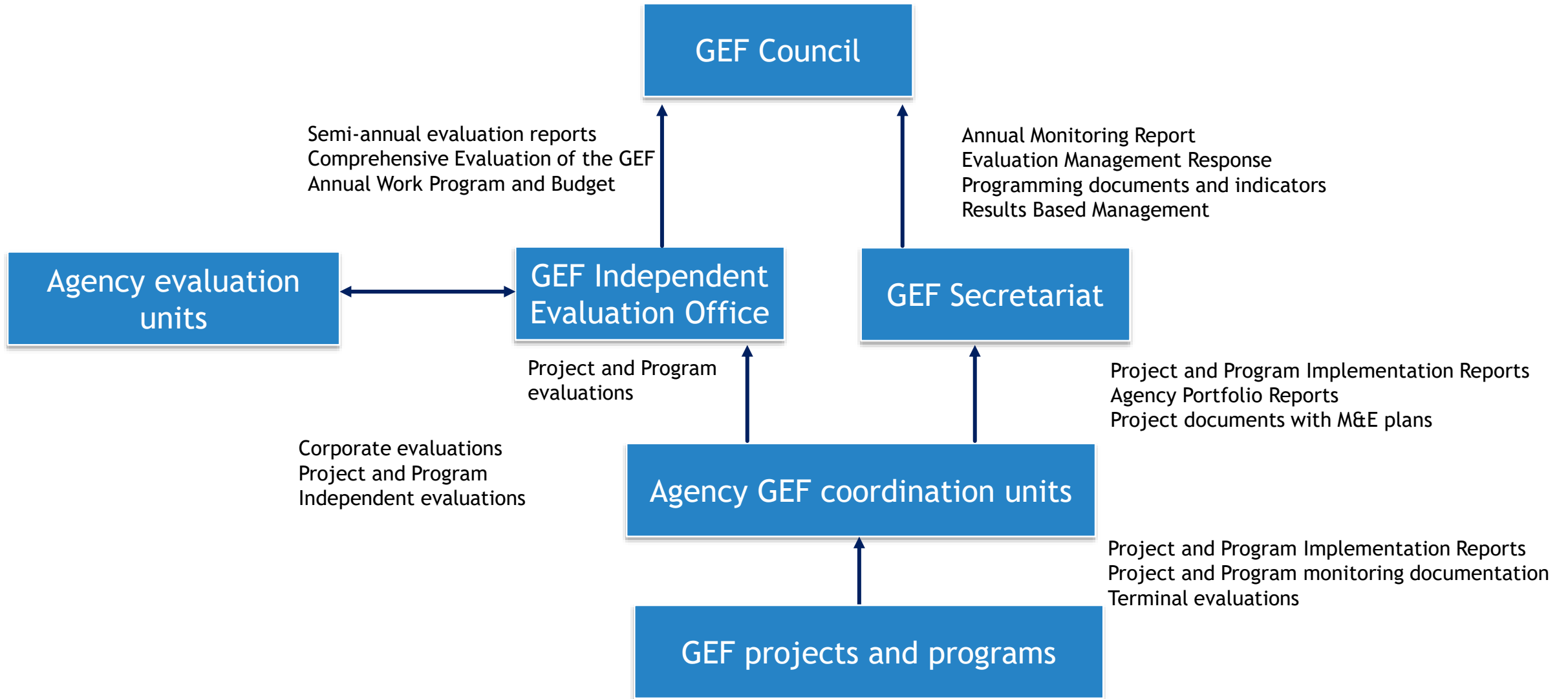


**Geeta Batra**  
Director GEF IEO

Thank you for joining us today as we introduce the work of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office. Our mission is to ensure that the Global Environment Facility's initiatives are effective and impactful by providing independent, credible evaluations. Through our work, we offer insights that help guide environmental actions, ensuring that we meet global challenges with innovation and purpose.



# Evaluation in the GEF



# We are the GEF IEO



## Accountability

To ensure transparency and impact



## Innovation

To help address evolving environmental challenges with evidence from fresh solutions



## Learning

To foster continuous improvement



Independence is the cornerstone of the IEO's role within the GEF and refers to the IEO's autonomy and freedom from external influence, ensuring unbiased evaluations of GEF performance and operations.



# Our mandate

- + We evaluate GEF programs, corporate strategies and processes
- + We report to the Council on evaluation findings and lessons from GEF Interventions
- The IEO evaluates the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and institutional performance, providing critical insights that **guide strategic direction** and **inform funding decisions** during the replenishment process.



Balancing **Accountability** and **Learning** at the GEF



# 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



”

*The GEF Council approves the terms of reference for the creation of a Monitoring & Evaluation Office.*

**Office Established**  
by GEF Council

20  
03

est

Evaluation recommendations feed into  
4-year replenishment process

20  
23



ANNIVERSARY

Office celebrates two decades of  
influence and use of evaluations

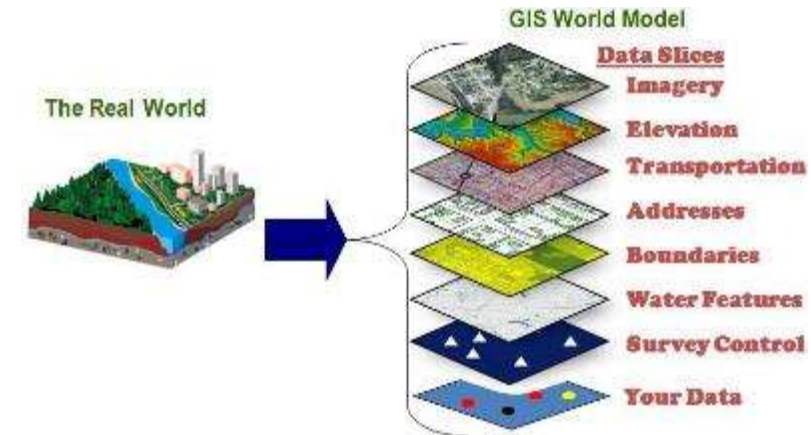


# How we do it?

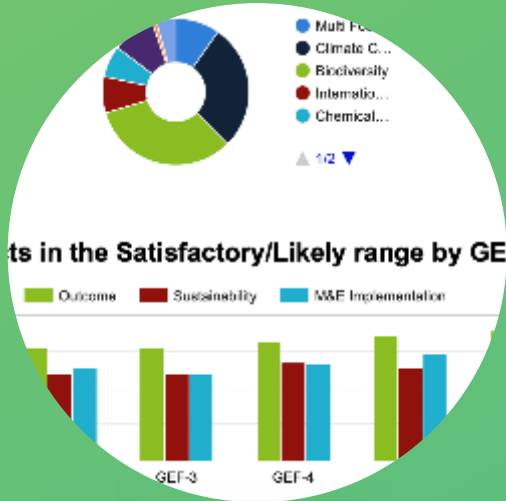


## Methodological Approaches

- ✓ Qualitative through portfolio reviews, case studies
- ✓ Quantitative including GIS, Remote Sensing, Big Data Analytics
- ✓ Complex Systems



# Evaluations



## Data & Ratings



## Online Training

# OPS



## Learnings



## Books & Academic Papers



# What we do?



# Communicating Evaluation Findings



+ A picture is worth a thousand words

15+

Videos  
Since 2021

EvalVision series  
showcasing evaluation  
results



Engaging storytelling

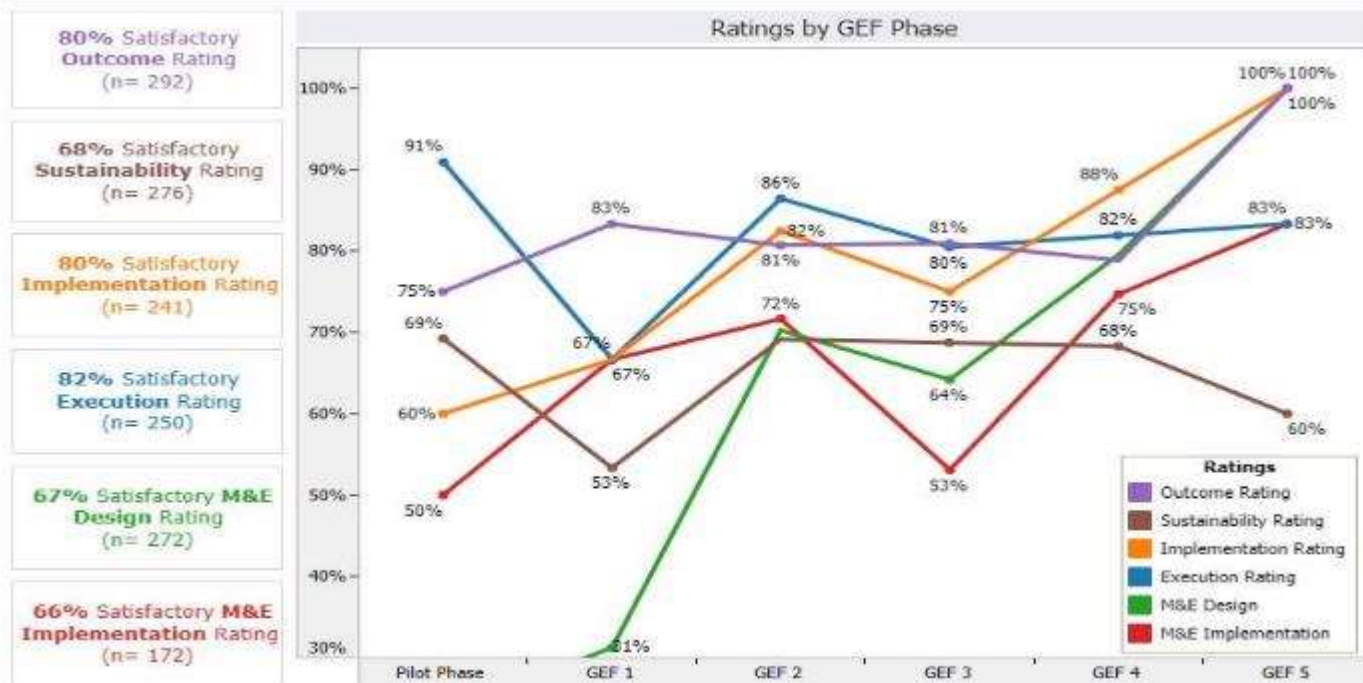


# Data by Country and other resources on the IEO website

[www.gefio.org/data-ratings](http://www.gefio.org/data-ratings)



*Disclaimer: Country borders or names do not necessarily reflect the GEF IEO official position. This map is for illustrative purposes and does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the GEF IEO, concerning the legal status of any country or territory or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.*



**80% Satisfactory Outcome Rating**  
(n= 292)

**68% Satisfactory Sustainability Rating**  
(n= 276)

**80% Satisfactory Implementation Rating**  
(n= 241)

**82% Satisfactory Execution Rating**  
(n= 250)

**67% Satisfactory M&E Design Rating**  
(n= 272)

**66% Satisfactory M&E Implementation Rating**  
(n= 172)



# What's Next?

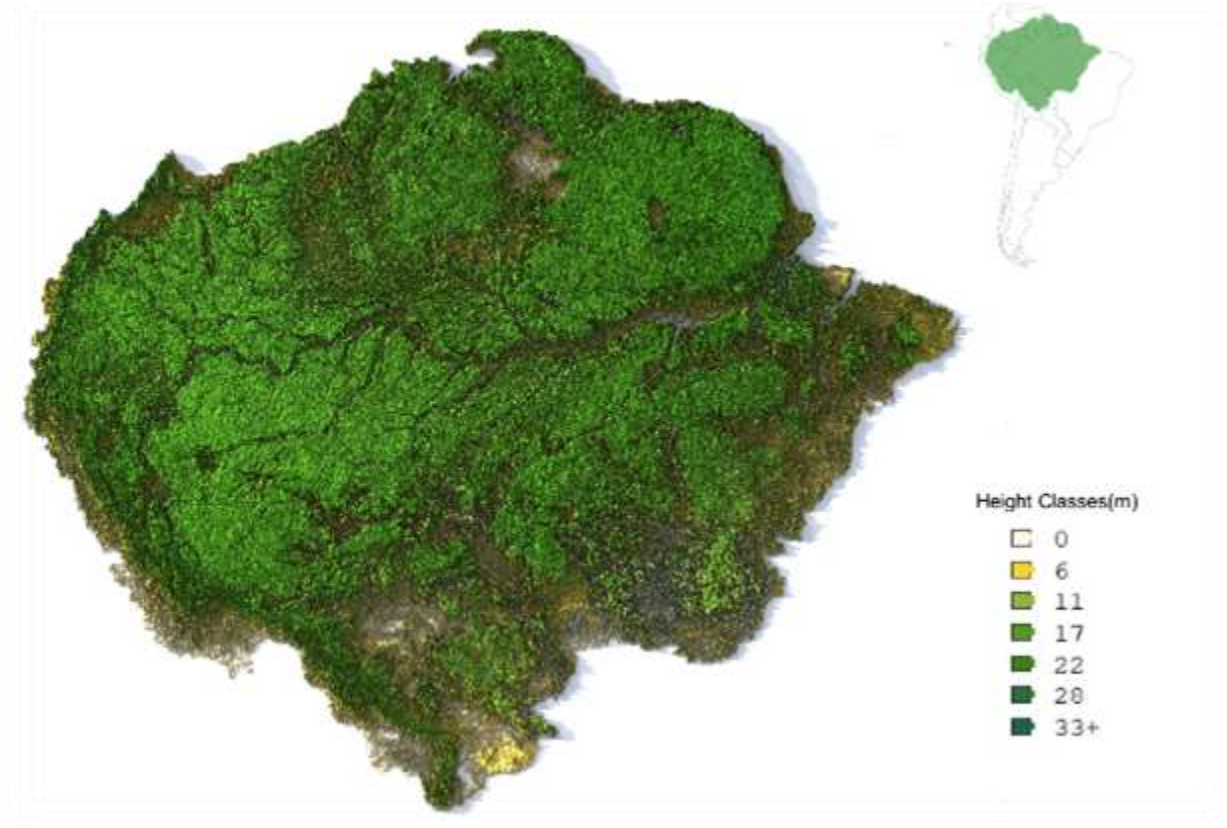
OPS8 progress →



# Evaluation Relevant to the Constituency



## Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation of GEF Support to the Amazon Basin



Policy  
coherence

Inclusion

Nature-based  
Solutions

Sustainable  
Cities

Food Systems

## The 'Eighth' Comprehensive Evaluation of the **Global Environment Facility**

OPS8 will assess the overall performance and competitive advantage of the GEF and provide evidence-based analysis and recommendations to guide the GEF's replenishment process.



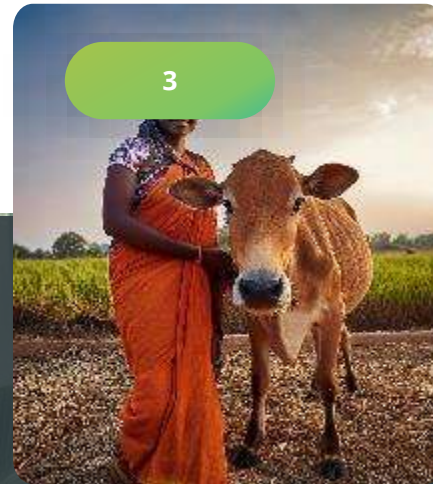
### Relevance and coherence

Evaluates alignment with global environmental priorities and country needs



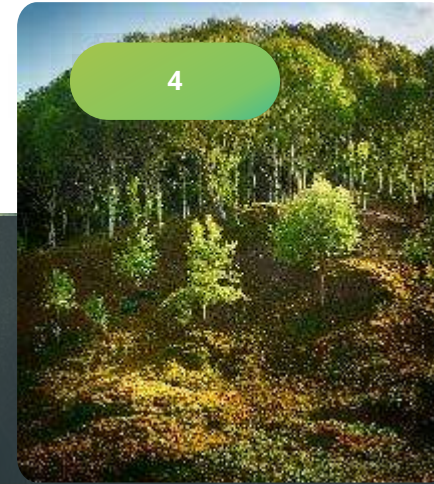
### Results, Impact, and Performance

Assesses the effectiveness and outcomes of GEF projects



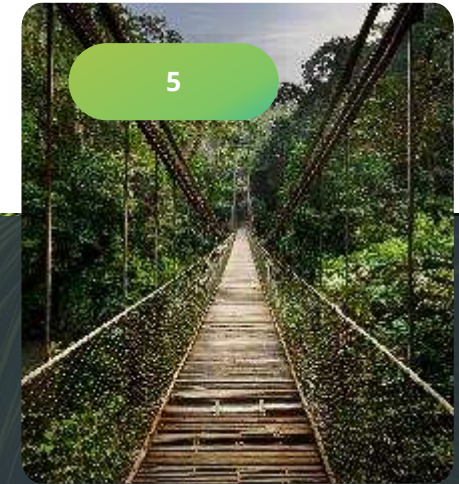
### Sustainability

Examines the long-term viability of project outcomes



### Efficiency

Reviews resource access and use, cost-effectiveness, and processes



### Inclusion, Innovation and Risk

Looks at GEF's ability to innovate, support inclusion & manage risks

# What is your role?



Your 'opportunity' to contribute! We would like to know from **you** across any of these areas.

- Ongoing and future evaluations missions
- Virtual interactions
- E-surveys
- Your interest in evaluations
- Your feedback on our products

[gefevaluation@thegef.org](mailto:gefevaluation@thegef.org)

1

Relevance & Coherence

2

Results, Impact & Performance

3

Sustainability

4

Efficiency

5

Inclusion, Gender, Private Sector Participation, Risk, Innovation



**Thank You**

◆————◆  
**[gefevaluation@thegef.org](mailto:gefevaluation@thegef.org)**

**[gefieo.org](http://gefieo.org)**



**Independent  
Evaluation Office**  
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY