



INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OFFICE

GEF Introduction Seminar
January 2019



OVERVIEW

1. Monitoring and Evaluation in the GEF
2. Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)
3. M&E Policy
4. Terminal Evaluation Guidelines
5. Recent Evaluation Findings
6. Ongoing Evaluations



Monitoring



Is our activity on track?



Monitoring uses systematic collection of data to keep activities on track.

Forms of monitoring:

Monitoring of environmental conditions and stressors

Monitoring of progress toward project/program outcomes

Monitoring of project/program performance

Evaluation



Are we doing the right thing?
Are we doing things right and efficiently?
Are there better ways of doing it?



Evaluation is a **systematic** assessment of an activity (program, strategy, etc.) that assesses *relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, results and sustainability*.

Project/Program Evaluations:

Mid-term
Terminal

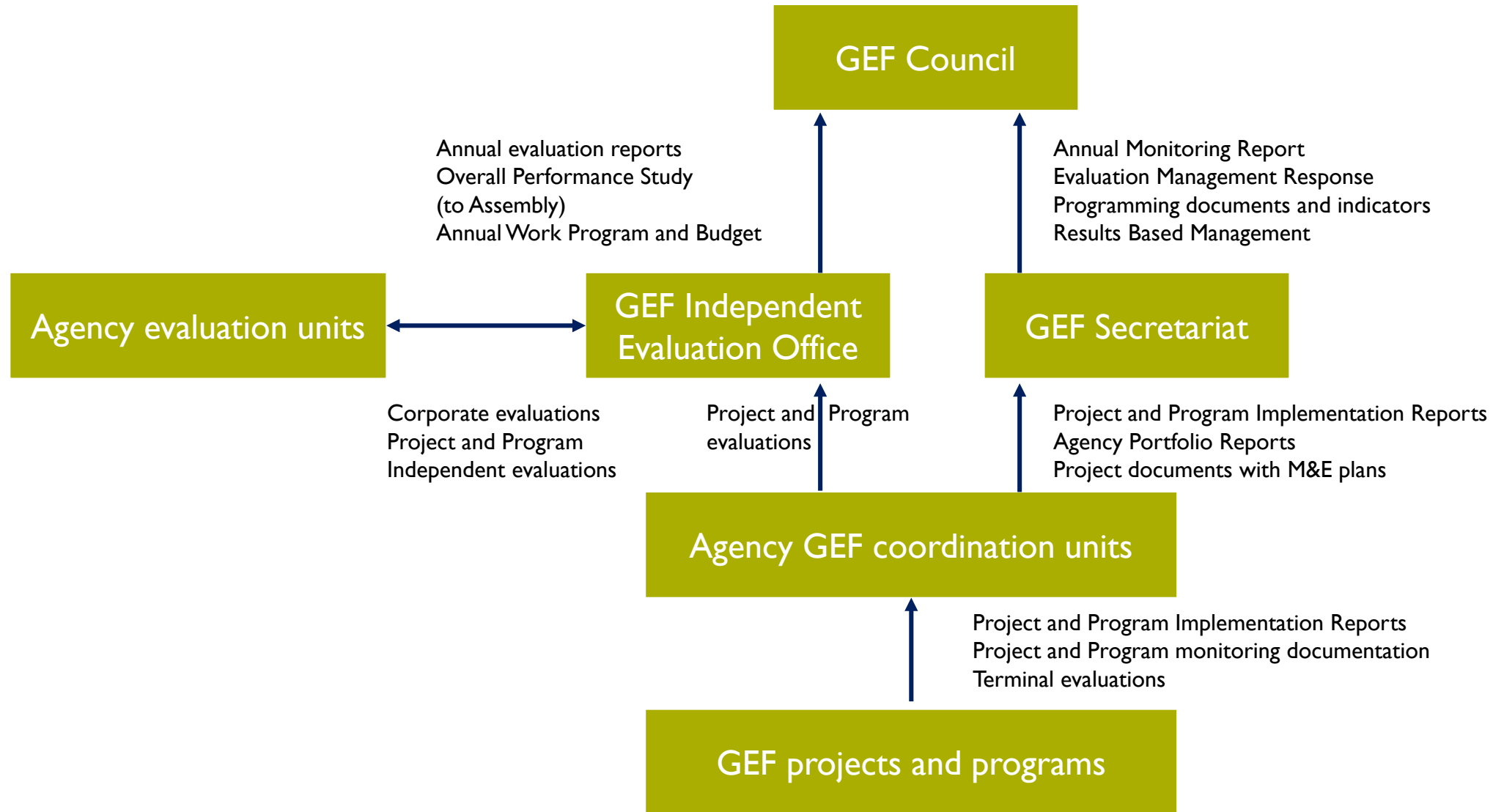
Other forms of evaluation: **impact, thematic, performance, country, corporate, comprehensive**

M&E in the GEF

Two overarching objectives:

- Promote **accountability** for the achievement of GEF objectives through the assessment of *results, effectiveness, processes, and performance* of the partners involved in GEF activities.
- Promote **learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing** on results and lessons learned among the GEF and its partners as a basis for decision making on policies, strategies, program management, programs, and projects; and to improve **knowledge and performance**.

Separate reporting lines for Monitoring (through Secretariat) and Evaluation (through IEO)



GEF Independent Evaluation Office

Mission:

Enhance global environmental benefits through excellence, independence, and partnership in monitoring and evaluation.

Functions:

Accountability

Promote knowledge sharing and Learning

Brief history:

1996 — Initially established as an M&E unit within the GEF Secretariat

2003 — The M&E unit was made autonomous of the GEF Secretariat

2005 — The unit was renamed as GEF Evaluation Office

2013 — The office was renamed as GEF Independent Evaluation Office

GEF IEO Stakeholders



Clients with a governance role:

GEF Council,
GEF Assembly,
the Replenishment group



Clients that carry out decisions of the governing bodies:

GEF Secretariat,
GEF Agencies,
executing agencies at the country or regional level



Country clients



Clients involved in monitoring and evaluation



Wider audience: environmental entities, academia,
research institutions, civil society, general public

The GEF M&E Policy

- Defines the concepts, role, and use of monitoring and evaluation within the GEF
- Defines the institutional framework and responsibilities
- Indicates the GEF minimum M&E requirements covering:
 - project design
 - application of M&E at the project level
 - project evaluation
 - engagement of Operational Focal Points in M&E

The GEF M&E Policy: 4 Minimum Requirements

1. Design of M&E Plans

- Concrete and fully budgeted M&E plan
- Align with GEF focal area results frameworks
- Baseline data
- Mid-term reviews and Terminal Evaluations
- Organizational set up and budget

2. Application of M&E Plans

- SMART indicators
- Baseline for the project is fully established
- Organizational set up for M&E is operational and its budget is spent as planned

3. Project and Program Evaluation

All FSPs will be evaluated and evaluations are

- Independent
- Apply evaluation norms and standards
- Assess, outputs and outcomes, likelihood of sustainability

4. Engagement of Operational Focal Points

- OFPs should be informed on M&E activities
- GEF Agencies keep track of the application of this requirement

Forthcoming Updates to the M&E Policy

- Separation of M&E policies consistent with GEF's evolution
- Expanded coverage of GEF Priorities based on IEO Gap Analysis (2015)
➡ gender, safeguard standards, stakeholder engagement, other
- Focus on programmatic approaches requires attention to program-level M&E (OPS6)

Underpinning IEO Work: Terminal Evaluations

Terminal Evaluations Include:

Results: Outputs, outcomes and progress to impact

Implementation, execution, and project cycle related information

Project finances including co-financing

Recommendations and Lessons for the future

GEF M&E Policy (2010): Minimum Requirement 3

Terminal evaluations mandatory since 1995

Required for full-sized and medium-sized projects

Terminal Evaluation Guidelines:

Available at

<https://www.gefio.org/evaluations/guidelines-gef-agencies-conducting-terminal-evaluation-full-sized-projects>

Characteristics of a good terminal evaluation

Quality

- Outcomes
- Consistency and comprehensiveness
- Sustainability
- Lessons and recommendations
- Project finances
- M&E

Other characteristics

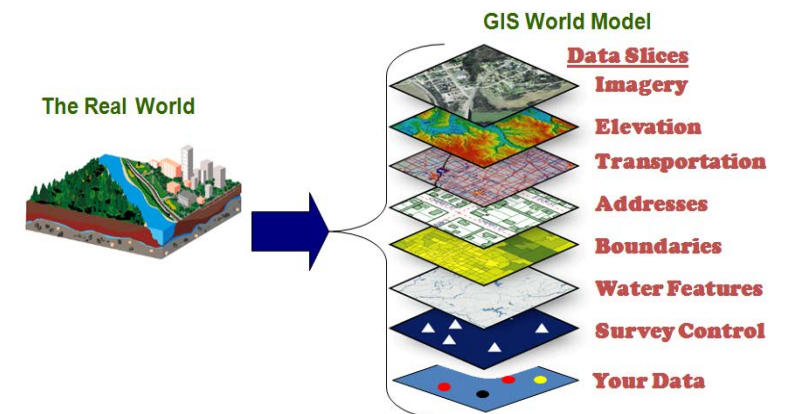
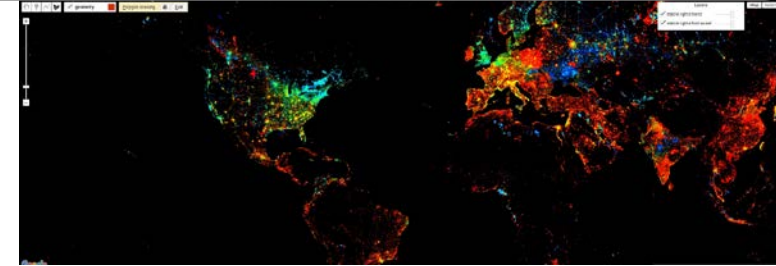
- Transparency and timeliness
- Candor
- Balance
- Utility

Independent Evaluations and Methods

- Semi-Annual Evaluation Report
- Impact, Thematic, Performance, Corporate, Country Clusters
- Comprehensive Evaluations every 4 years

Methods

- Qualitative
- Quantitative including GIS, Remote Sensing, Big Data Analytics



RECENT EVALUATION FINDINGS

Performance and Impact



Satisfactory outcomes



of projects have outcomes that
are likely to be sustained

**Cofinancing commitments for
GEF-6 exceed the target**



6:1 target

Project cycle efficiency gains are slow

Broader adoption and transformational change



of projects achieved
broader adoption



of projects achieved
environmental stress reduction

Mechanisms for broader adoption:

- + Mainstreaming and replication
- Scaling-up and market change

Success factors for transformational change:

- Clear ambition in designs
- Addressing market reforms through policies
- Mechanisms for financial sustainability
- Quality of implementation and execution
- May be achieved by projects of different size

GEF interventions yield positive **returns on investment**

Land degradation

\$1:1.08

**43.52
tC/ha**

Biodiversity

\$1:1.04



GEF's Comparative advantage: OPS6

RELEVANCE

1. Serves multiple conventions and broad range of environmental issues
2. Strong Support to LDCs and SIDS

PERFORMANCE

3. Long history of good performance
4. Ability to address linkages and synergies between focal areas

TRANSFORMATIONAL

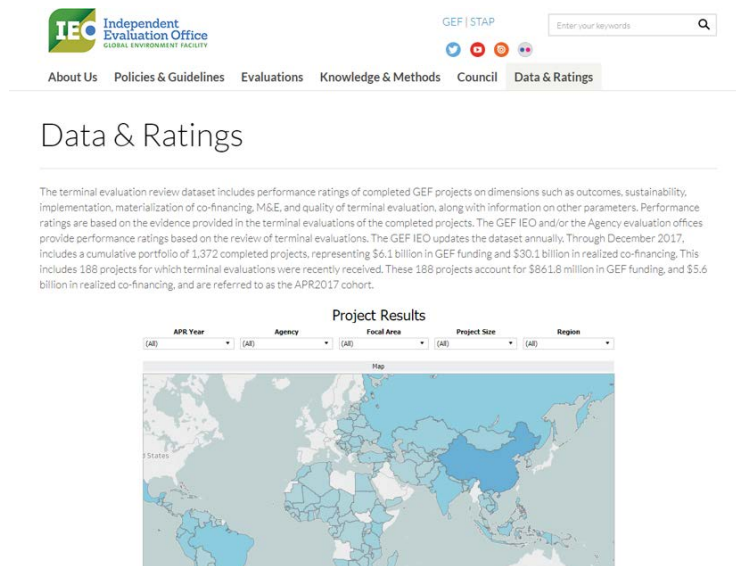
5. Ability to Create an enabling environment in countries through legal and regulatory reforms
6. Delivers innovative financial models and risk-sharing approaches

Sharing Evaluative Knowledge

Events and Products



Website



Earth-Eval



Partnerships



Expanded Constituency Workshops

EVALUATION WORK IN PROGRESS



Evaluations Underway

June 2019

Annual Performance Report with a focus on Transportation

Evaluation of GEF Support to Scaling Up Impacts

Value for Money Analysis of GEF Support to Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ projects

The GEF Evaluation Policy

Fall 2019

Strategic Country Cluster Evaluations:

- African Biomes
- LDCs
- SIDS

FOR MORE
VISIT US AT www.gefieo.org

