Overview

1. What is Monitoring and Evaluation in the GEF?

2. What does the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) do?
   - Recent evaluation findings on performance, progress towards impact and transformational change
   - Exercise on sustainability

3. Where can I find evaluations?
Monitoring

Forms of monitoring:
- Monitoring of environmental conditions and stressors
- Monitoring of progress toward project/program outcomes
- Monitoring of project/program performance

Is our activity on track?

Monitoring uses systematic collection of data to keep activities on track.
Evaluation 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.
Evaluation in the GEF

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

Project/Program-Level Evaluations based on WHEN
Mid-term
Terminal

Portfolio-level Evaluations based on WHAT and WHAT FOR
Impact, thematic, performance, country/country cluster, comprehensive

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

- Define the concepts, roles, and use of evaluation within the GEF
- Define the institutional framework and responsibilities
- Indicate the minimum requirements covering:
  - design of evaluation plan
  - application of evaluation plan
  - project and program evaluations
  - engagement of Operational Focal Point in evaluation
GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)

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

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
Separate reporting line for evaluation (through IEO)
Underpinning IEO Work: Terminal Evaluation

**GEF Evaluation Policy: Minimum Requirement 3**
- Terminal evaluations mandatory since 1995
- Required for full-sized and medium-sized projects

**Terminal Evaluation**

mainly assess:
- Results: outputs, outcomes, sustainability and progress to impact
- M&E: M&E design, M&E implementation
- Implementation and Execution: quality of implementation, quality of execution

**Terminal Evaluation Guidelines:**

Available at https://www.gefieo.org/evaluations/guidelines-gef-agencies-conducting-terminal-evaluation-full-sized-projects

Terminal Evaluations can be accessed at:
https://www.thegef.org/projects
Evaluations undertaken by IEO

- Impact, thematic, performance, country/country cluster, formative, process
- Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF every 4 years

Methods

- Qualitative through portfolio reviews, case studies
- Quantitative including GIS, Remote Sensing, Big Data Analytics
RECENT EVALUATION FINDINGS
Performance in the Constituency
(202 national projects from the region in the GEF IEO dataset)

Drivers of good performance:
- Quality of design
- Quality of implementation and execution
- Materialization of Co-financing

Examples:
- Forest and Marine Protected Areas (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- Dryland Management (Kazakhstan)
- Phase out ODS (Russian Federation)
Progress toward Impact and Transformational change

ECW constituencies
- Environmental stress reduction: 62 percent (n=85)
- Broader adoption: 53 percent (n=85)

Success factors for transformational change:
- Clear ambition in design
- Addressing market and system reforms through policies
- Mechanisms for financial sustainability
- Quality of implementation and execution
  → May be achieved by projects of different size

65 % achieved environmental stress reduction
57 % achieved broader adoption
Sustainability at Project Completion
(198 national projects from the region in the GEF IEO dataset)

Sustainability rated in the likely range

- Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, ... (n=87) - 61%
- Armenia, Belarus, Russia (n=54) - 78%
- Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, ... (n=57) - 56%
- ECW constituencies total (n=198) - 64%
- GEF Total (n=1139) - 62%
Discussion

Based on your experience, discuss

- What are the factors that affect sustainability of project outcomes?
EVALUATIONS ON THE IEO WEBSITE
Data by Country and other resources on the IEO website

http://www.gefieo.org/data-maps
FOR MORE VISIT US AT www.gefieo.org

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