



2020 Program Evaluation of the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF)

Covers performance and progress towards LDCF objectives and results in the four years since the 2016 LDCF program evaluation

December 2020



Least Developed Country Fund Evaluation design



Document and literature review

GEF/Council documents

Recent and relevant evaluations and journal articles



Portfolio review

Projects completed in last four years

Projects submitted and approved in last four years



Stakeholder interviews

OFPs, and others at country-level
GEF Secretariat, Agencies, STAP
UNFCCC, LDC Expert Group



Field visits

Samoa and Rwanda
Two post-completion evaluations



Triangulation

Data analysis and gap identification
Findings and conclusions

Least Developed Country Fund

Relevance

*COP guidance
and decisions*

*GEF adaptation
programming strategy*

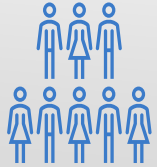
*Country Policies
(I)NDCs*

Least Developed Country Fund

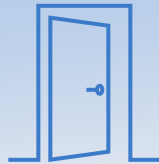
Effectiveness and efficiency



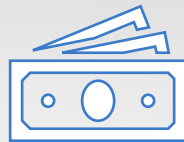
LDCF project design clearly contributes to GEF adaptation strategic objectives, but less so to new strategic pillars



Gender performance of the LDCF portfolio has improved, however there is a knowledge gap in the gender-related results



Substantive engagement with the private sector is limited, and LDCF projects face common challenges



Lack of resources available for new projects during GEF-6 clearly reduced the efficiency of the LDCF project approval process

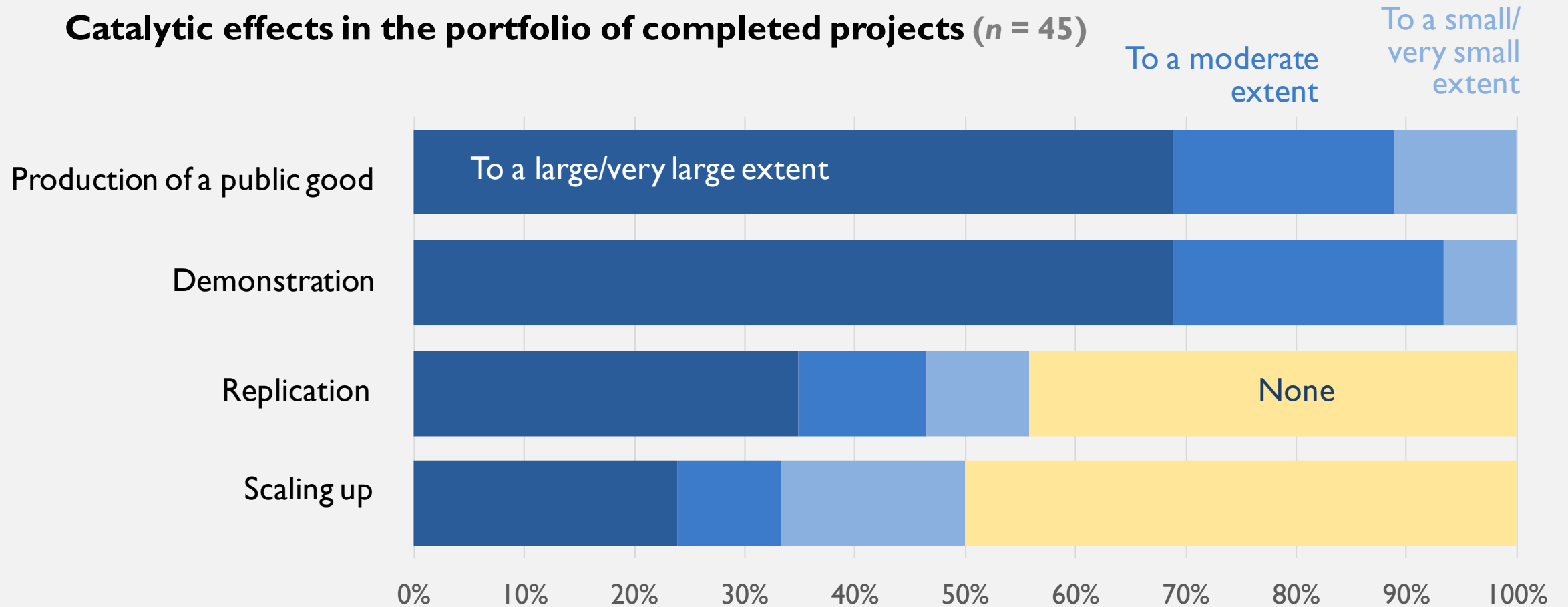


Once implementation has begun, efficiency of LDCF projects is comparable to other GEF-administered funds

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Catalytic effect

Catalytic effects in the portfolio of completed projects (n = 45)



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Post-completion evaluations

Land rehabilitation (terracing and agroforestry), Nyabihu District in Rwanda



Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Nursery on Savai'i, Island



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Sustainability

CONTRIBUTING



Continued financing
Effective stakeholder
engagement
Effective coordination
between executing partners



HINDERING

Staff turnover
Delays in recruitment
Weak project design
Context-related

- *Occurrence of natural disasters*
- *Financial shocks*
- *Political unrest or changes in government*

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Recommendations



1. *Build on progress made on **mainstreaming gender** in the LDCF portfolio and aim to decrease the knowledge gap about gender-related results.*

2. *Continue to enhance the likelihood of the **sustainability** of outcomes.*



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