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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Enhancing global environmental benefits through excellence in evaluation

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Semi-Annual Evaluation Report

November 2017

Outline

1 OPS6

- Objective, Quality Assurance, Methodology, Limitations
- GEF Portfolio
- Strategic Relevance
- Performance and Impact
- Focal Areas and Multifocal Investments
- Programmatic Approaches and Integrated Approach Pilots
- Institutional Framework
- Conclusions and Recommendations

2 IEO Update on Knowledge Management

3 Recommended Council Decision

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SECTION 1

Overview

OPS6 Overview

Objective

To provide solid evaluative evidence to inform the replenishment negotiations for

GEF-7

Methodology

29 evaluations and studies

Mix of qualitative and quantitative approaches including geospatial analysis

Formative approaches to evaluate ongoing programs

Limitations

Limitations imposed by data and timing

OPS6 Overview

Quality assurance panel

Dr. Hans Bruyninckx
Dr. Holly Dublin
Prof. Osvaldo Feinstein
Dr. Sunita Narain
Dr. Kazuhiko Takemoto

Statement on quality of OPS6 included in annex A

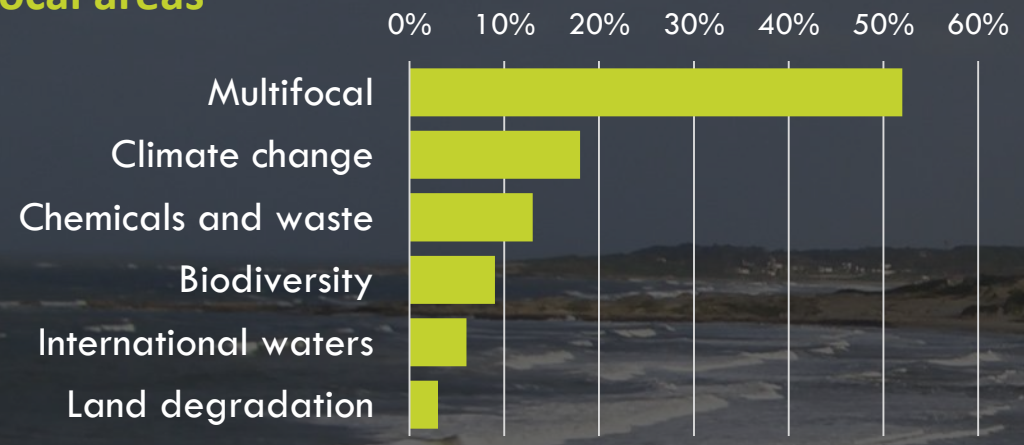
GEF-6 Overview

Portfolio (as of June 30, 2017)

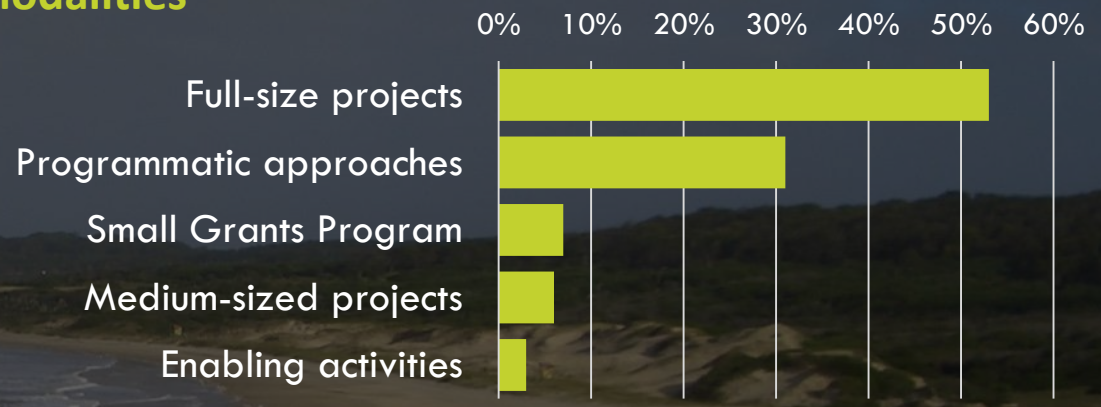
444 projects

$2.4 billion

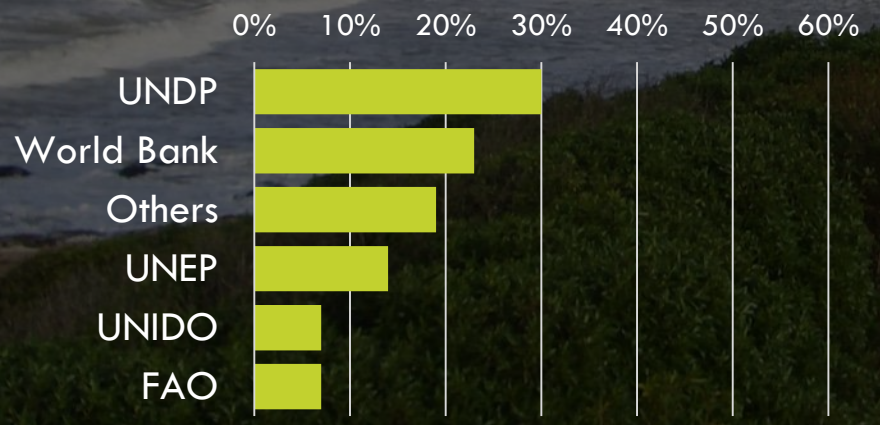
Focal areas



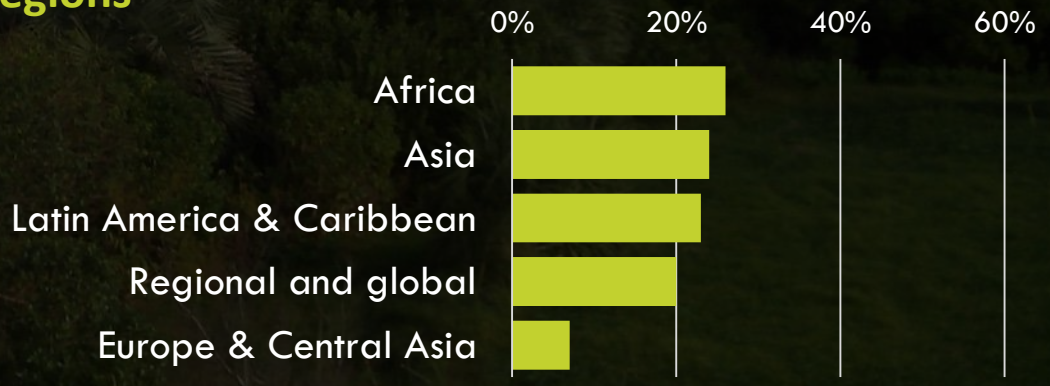
Modalities



Agencies



Regions



OPS6 Overview

Strategic relevance

Conventions. Main funding mechanism for:

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Stockholm Convention
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- UNEP Minamata Convention on Mercury

Countries

More than **140** recipient countries

Support for **middle income countries** remains important

Support to **LDCs and SIDS** has increased

Also relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals

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SECTION 2

Performance and Impact

Performance and Impact

81%

Satisfactory outcomes

Cofinancing commitments for GEF-6 exceed the target

Sustainability of Outcomes is a challenge

Project cycle efficiency gains are slow

PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT

Broader adoption and transformational change

61%

of projects achieved
broader adoption

59%

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

PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT

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 number of wild dogs, leopards, cheetahs, lions (2004–12)

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SECTION 3

Focal Areas Performance and Impact

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Common findings

Relevant to conventions

Strong performance ratings on outcomes with limited variation

Sustainability of outcomes (Land degradation & Biodiversity)

M&E Design (International Waters and Chemicals)

M&E Implementation (International Waters, Chemicals and Multifocal)

Variation in private sector engagement

Transformational change

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Climate change

Highly relevant to UNFCCC

Important role in strengthening enabling environment

GHG emission reductions

(a) Significant contributions from other focal areas

(b) Inadequate measurement

Catalytic effects in closed projects
~70% | mainstreaming
~30% | replication, scaling up, market changes

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Climate change: Added value and complementarity

Significant and flexible grant financing
Innovative risk-sharing approaches

Upstream focus on the enabling environment
Piloting and demonstrating technologies
Private sector engagement

Integrated projects

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Climate change changing landscape

Niche areas

Upstream approaches including policy reform to accelerate market development and create an enabling environment for investment

Risk sharing approaches

Piloting innovative technologies

Collaborating with other climate funds and MDBs to scale up investments

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Biodiversity: Addresses specific drivers and pressures of biodiversity loss

Increase in the biodiversity **mainstreaming** portfolio with focus on reforms, and improved outcomes

Percent of forest loss in GEF supported protected areas was **half** that of protected areas not supported

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Biodiversity: Access and Benefits Sharing and the Nagoya Protocol

Significant support to 100+ countries in ratifying

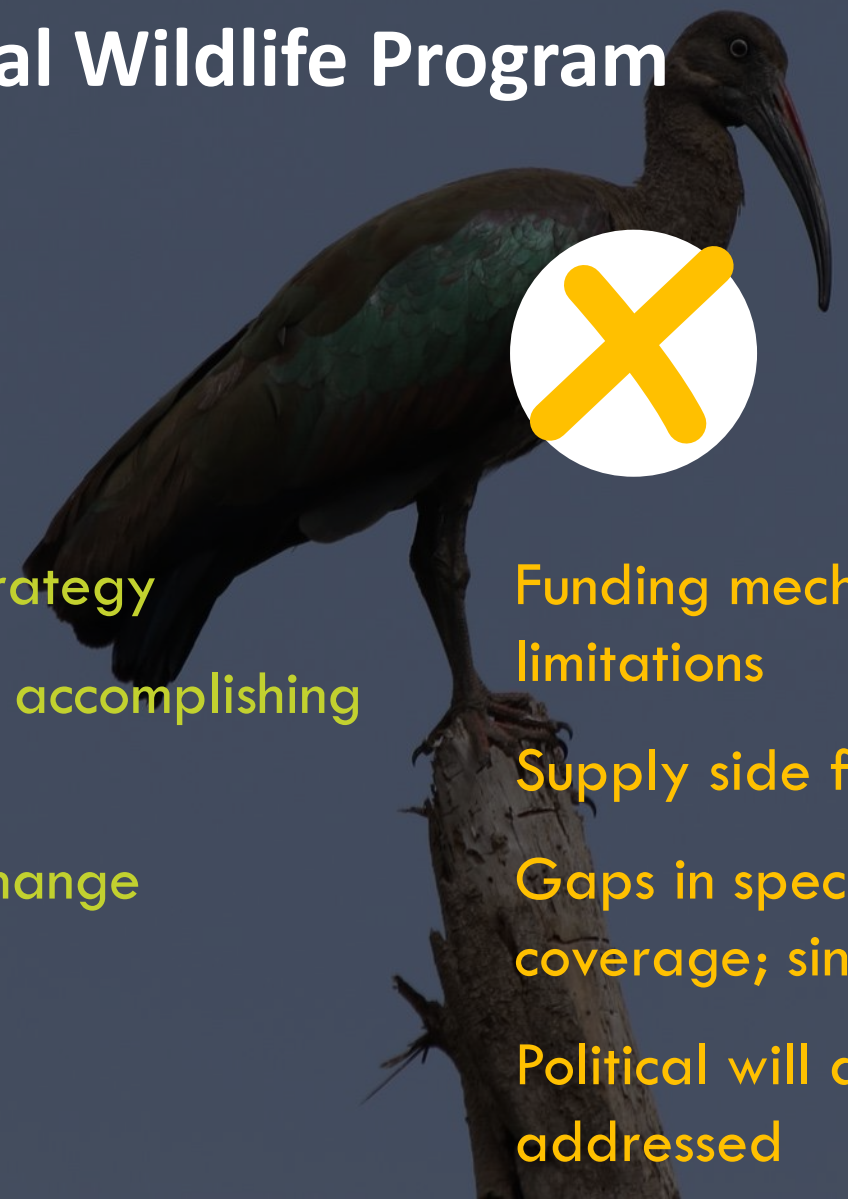
Support pilots with the private sector

Project designs “overpacked”

Complexity and individual uniqueness of each situation not adequately recognized

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Biodiversity: Global Wildlife Program



Relevant to GEF-6 BD Strategy

The coordination grant is accomplishing more than expected

Appropriate theory of change

Simple M&E

Funding mechanism creates structural limitations

Supply side focus

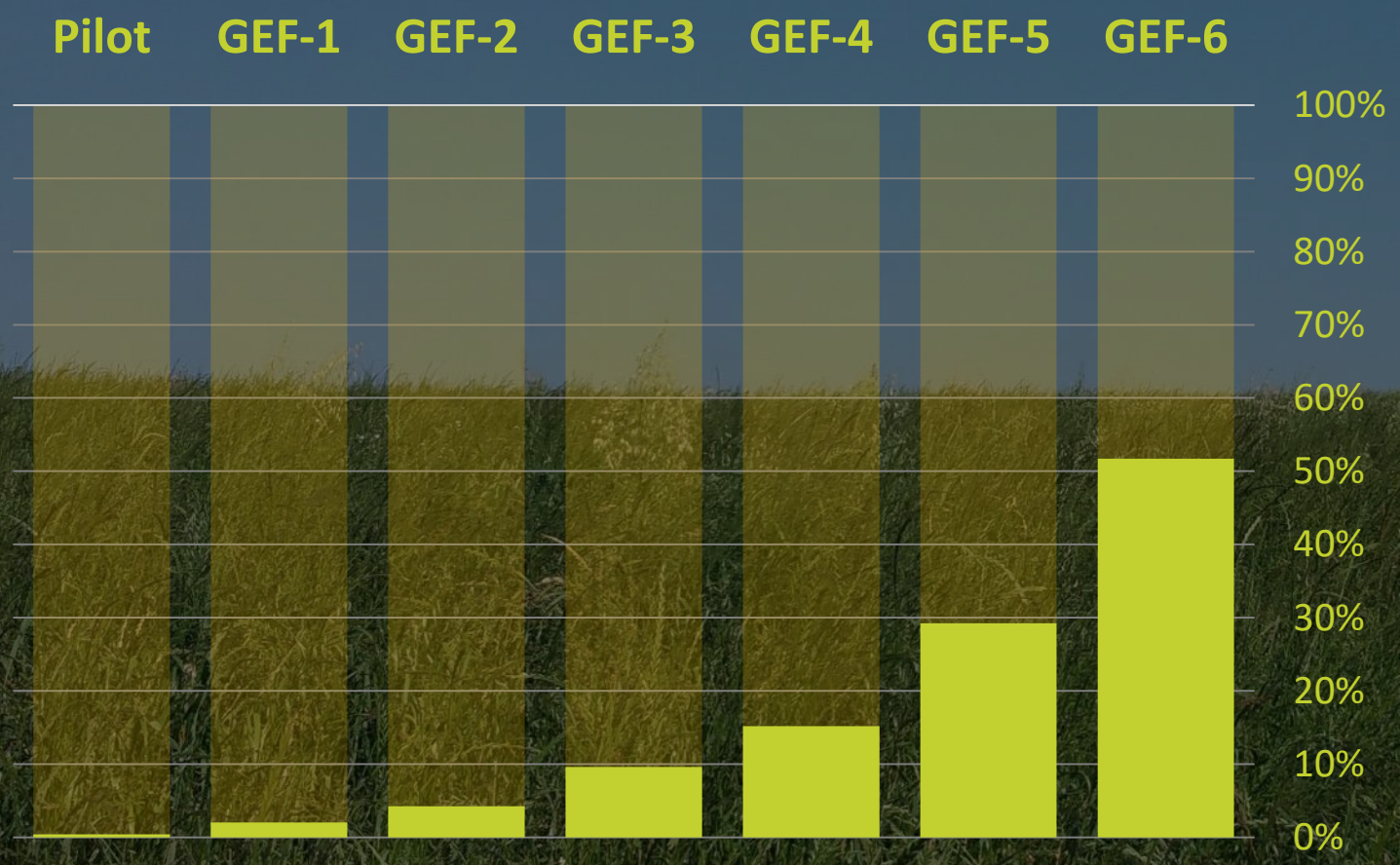
Gaps in species and geographic coverage; single country projects

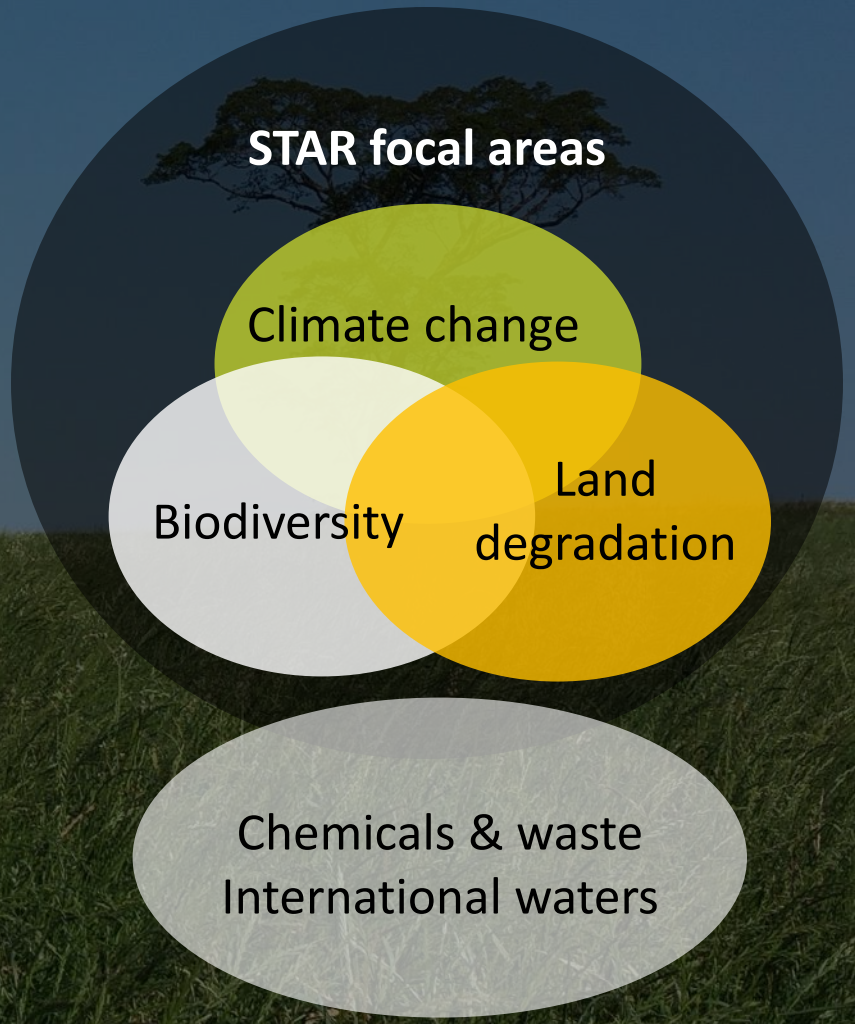
Political will and corruption not explicitly addressed

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Multifocal

Share of portfolio is growing





FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Multifocal

Majority of projects generated multiple benefits

Potential to enhance synergies and mitigate trade-offs

Institutional arrangements for sectoral integration

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Multifocal

Enhancing synergies

Senegal

Brazil

Mitigating trade-offs through value addition

China

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SECTION 3

Programmatic and Integrated Approach Pilots

PROGRAMMATIC APPROACHES

Findings

Program child projects perform slightly better than standalone projects

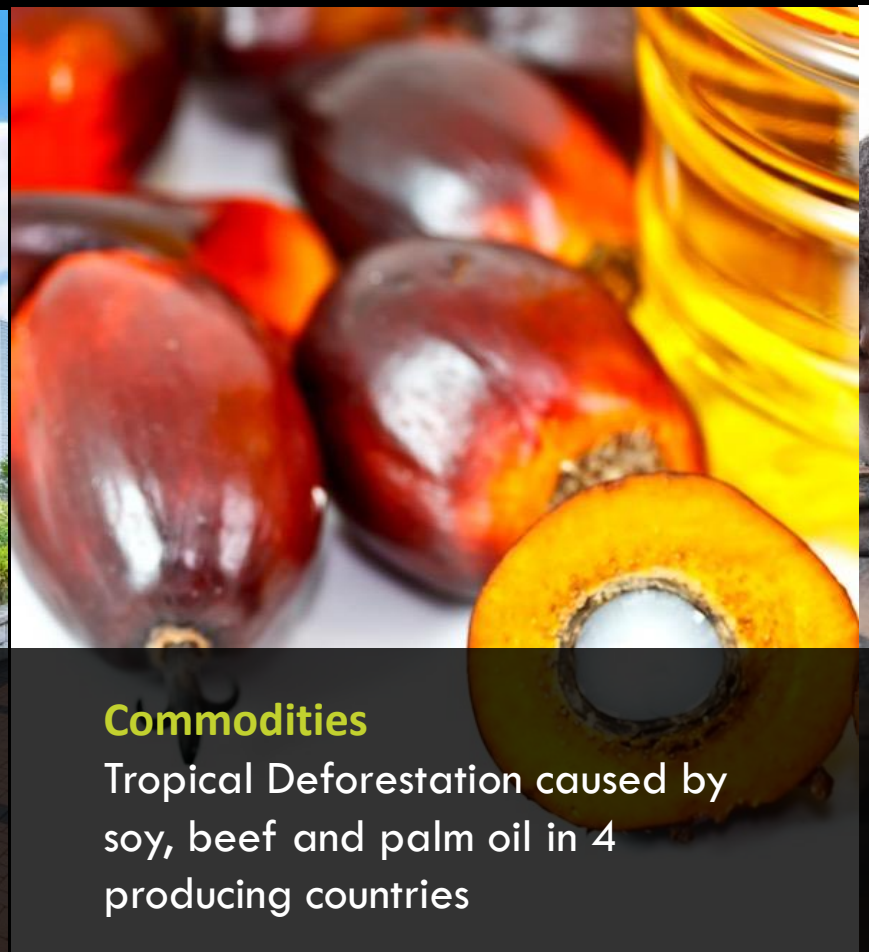
Outcome performance, cost effectiveness and efficiency decline with increased complexity

Coherence in project-program objectives has improved, but results focused on projects rather than programs

INTEGRATED APPROACH PILOTS

Designed to build on **linkages** and **connections** across focal areas
Formative evaluation based on **30** child projects approved

Sustainable cities
Challenges to rapid urbanization in 28 cities



Commodities
Tropical Deforestation caused by soy, beef and palm oil in 4 producing countries

Food Security
Smallholder agriculture and food value chains in 12 African countries

INTEGRATED APPROACH PILOTS

Relevance

93%

of in-country stakeholders agree on potential to address conventions

IAPs are equally or better aligned with country priorities

INTEGRATED APPROACH PILOTS

Design

Coherence in objectives between program and child projects

Emphasis on knowledge exchange

Limited demonstration of program additionality

INTEGRATED APPROACH PILOTS

Process

Relevant selection of countries, cities and agencies but process varied

Set-aside funds provided incentives for countries

Selection process not always transparent

It takes time to design and launch a complex integrated program

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SECTION 4

Institutional Framework

460 projects
$2,5 million in GEF investments

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Private sector

Not an area of comparative advantage

Operational restrictions constrain engagement

Climate change investments feature heavily

Needs to be seen as a partner, not only a source of funding

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR)

Enhanced resource allocation transparency and predictability

Complex

GEF-6 STAR increases in allocation to least developed countries

SHORTFALL

19% Country allocations

33% Allocation for non-SIDS, non-LDCs

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Gender

Modest improvements

Gender analysis = higher gender ratings

Policy does not provide a clear framework

Gender Partnership is evolving into a platform to build a constituency

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Indigenous peoples and local communities

Important stakeholder

Agencies in alignment with Minimum Standard 4

Advisory Group provides relevant advice

SGP is primarily modality for engagement

ISSUES TO ADDRESS

Portfolio monitoring

Move to “Free, Prior, Informed Consent”

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Health of expanded partnership

Increase in access to new capacities

New agencies are catching up quickly

STAP provides high quality knowledge

Inter agency competition counterproductive

Efficiency trade offs with expansion

STAP can play a stronger unifying role

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Governance

GEF is effectively governed

CSO network is relevant

Council has good regional balance and is transparent

Transparency in management

CoI risks of executing/implementing agencies

Limited delegation from Council to committees

Independent Chair

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

PMIS, RBM: Progress observed

Project Management Information System

Data quality needs to keep up with partnership needs

Results-Based Management

Promotes accountability, limited learning

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Knowledge management

- Substantial progress during GEF-6
- Influenced national policies and practices
- Knowledge provider

Systemic issues

Availability and accessibility of project information

Limited guidance to Agencies

Limited connection with Agencies' KM systems and platforms

Comparative advantage

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

Recommendations

Strategic

1. Strategic positioning
2. Transformational change
3. Integration based on additionality

Financial

4. Financial management
5. Private sector management

Policies

6. Gender equality
7. Safeguards and indigenous people

Institutional

8. Operational governance
9. Systems for data, monitoring and knowledge

UPDATE

IEO knowledge management

Events

UNCCD COP13 Ordos China 2017

Expanded Constituency Workshops (7)

PEOPLE, PLANET & PROGRESS in the SDG ERA
2017 National Evaluation Capacities Conference

Partnerships

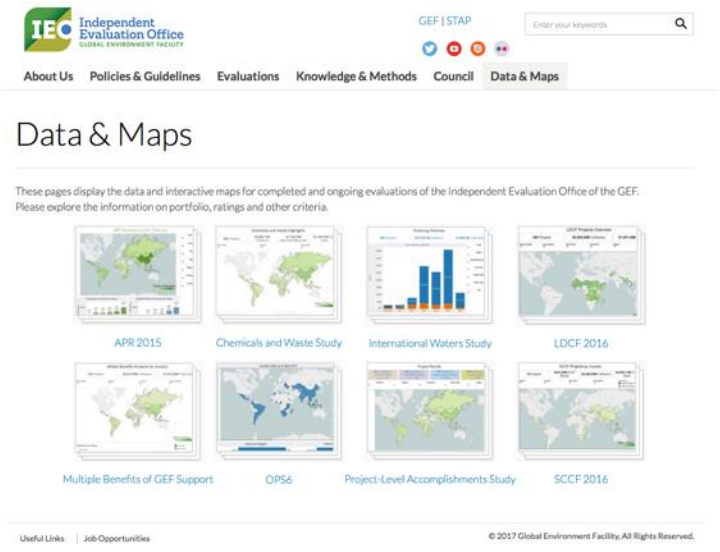
ECG
Evaluation Cooperation Group

CIF
CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

IDEAS
International Development Evaluation Association
KNOWLEDGE. CAPACITY BUILDING. NETWORKING

UNEG
United Nations Evaluation Group

Website



Earth-Eval

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Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed the "Semi-Annual Evaluation Report of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office: November 2017," endorses the recommendations of the individual evaluations included. The Council takes note of the OPS6 recommendations and advises the GEF Secretariat to address them in programming for GEF-7.

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