Independent
Evaluation Office
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

ENHANCING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN EVALUATION

Independent Evaluation Office
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

SEMI-ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT

June 2019

OVERVIEW

1. Annual Performance Report 2019: Focus on Sustainable Transport
2. Value for Money Analysis of GEF Interventions in Support of SFM
3. Evaluation of GEF Support to Scaling Up Impacts
4. Evaluation Work in Progress
5. Knowledge Management
6. Management Action Record
7. Peer Review of the Independent Evaluation Function

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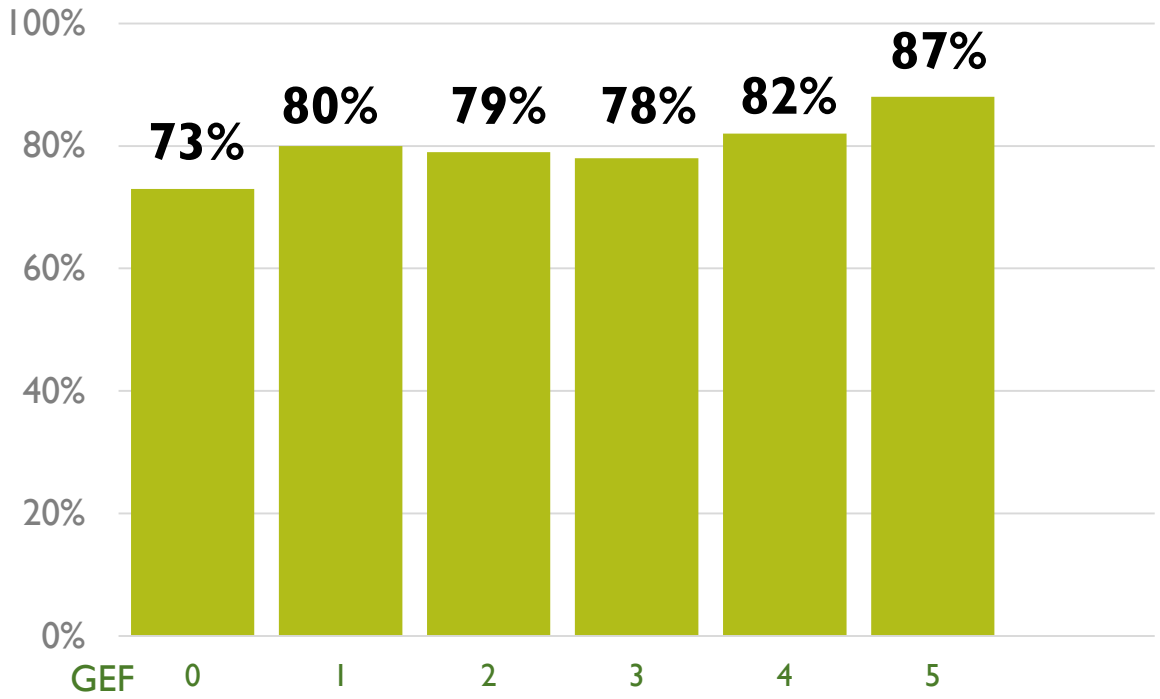
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2019

SPECIAL FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCE

Outcomes



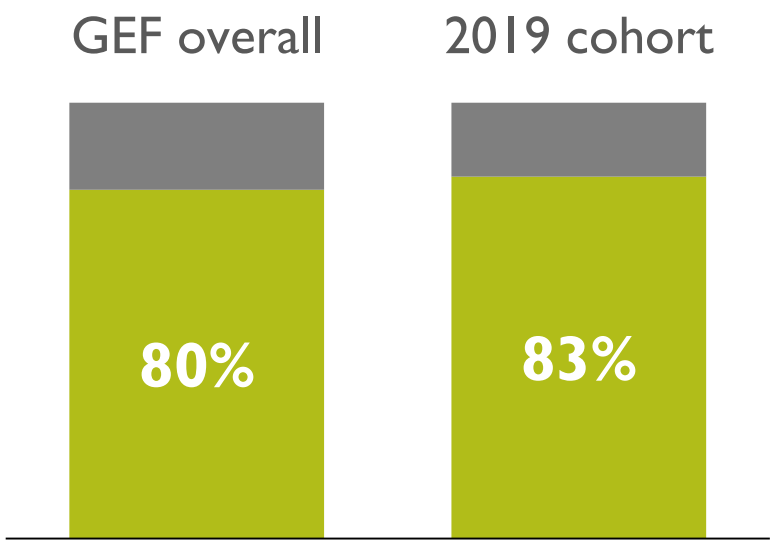
Projects with satisfactory outcomes

GEF overall **80**% (n=1546)

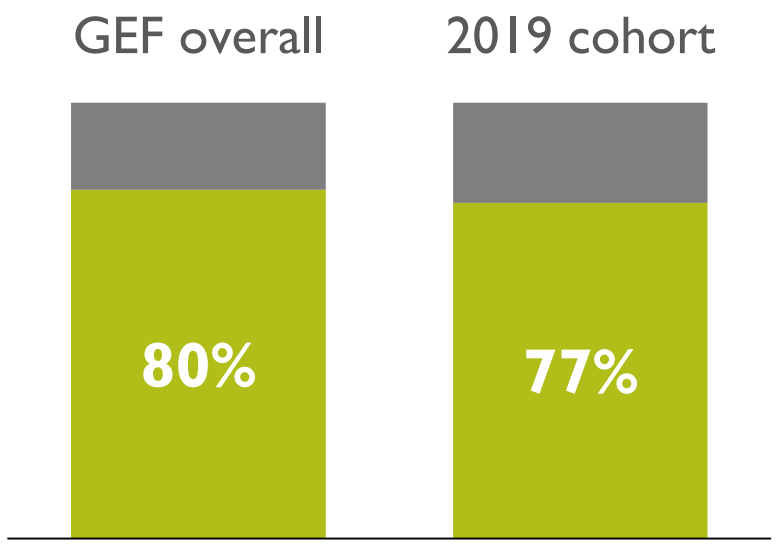
2019 cohort **78**% (n=187)

PERFORMANCE

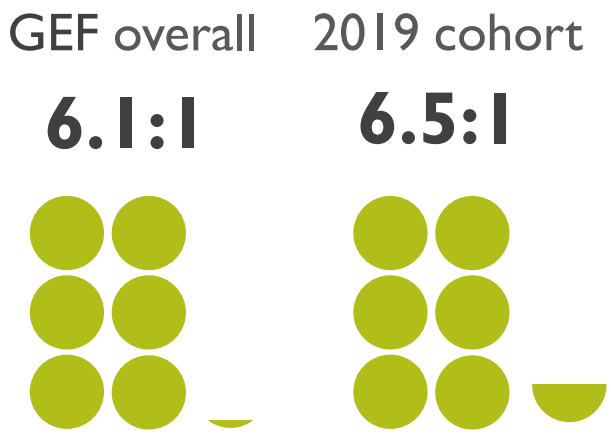
Quality



Implementation



Execution



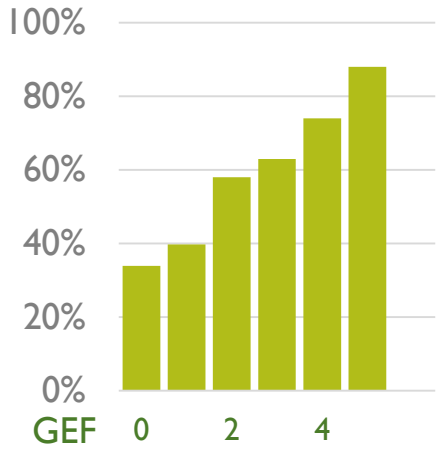
Realized Cofinancing

PERFORMANCE

Monitoring and Evaluation

GEF overall 65%

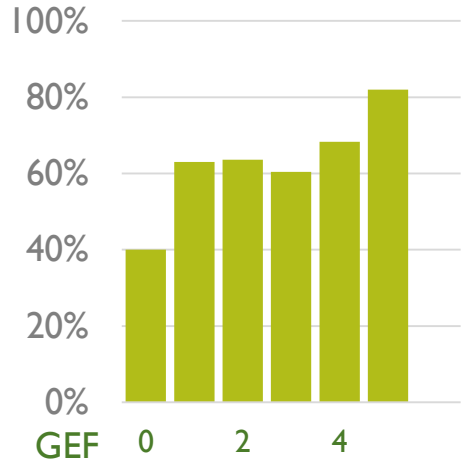
2019 cohort 80%



Continued improvement in M&E design

GEF overall 65%

2019 cohort 70%

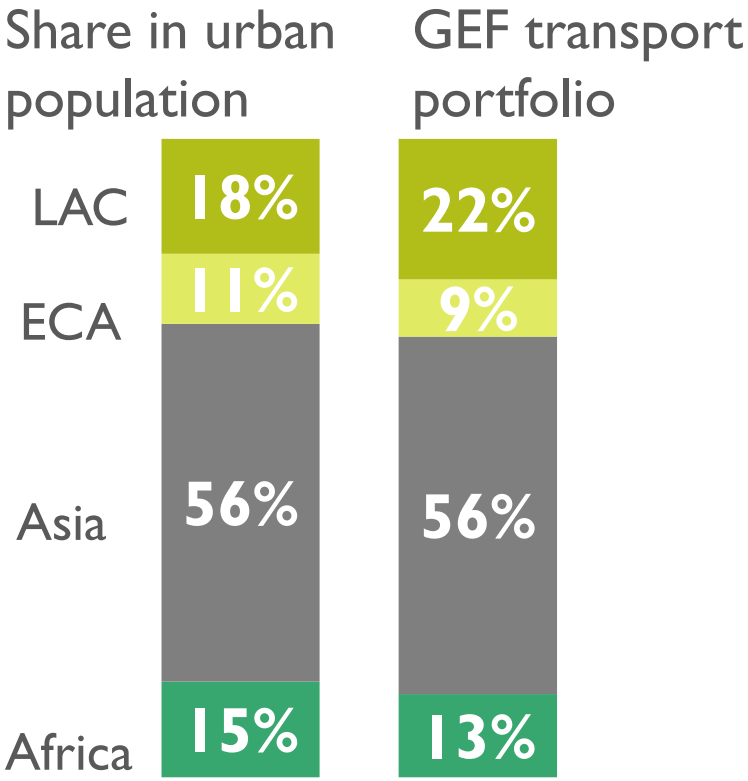


Modest improvement in M&E implementation

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

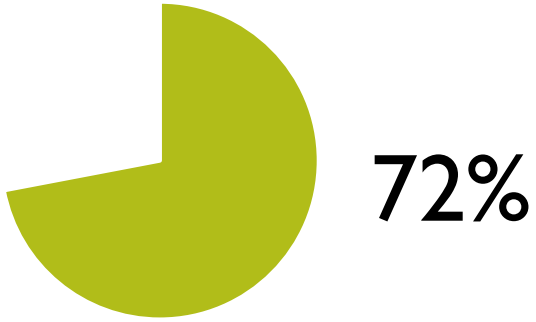
Portfolio ($500 million in GEF funds, 80 projects)

Relevant to countries' needs and SDG 11



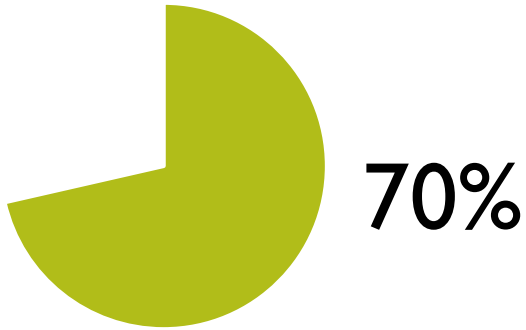
Evolved from low carbon technologies to integrated approaches

Performance



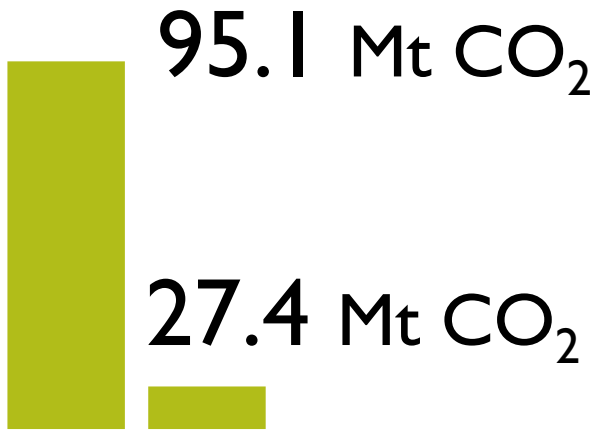
72%

Satisfactory outcomes (n=32)



70%

Likely sustainable (n=30)



GHG emissions abatement lower than expected at project start (n=20)

Outcomes

Transformed markets
in China, Malaysia, South Asia

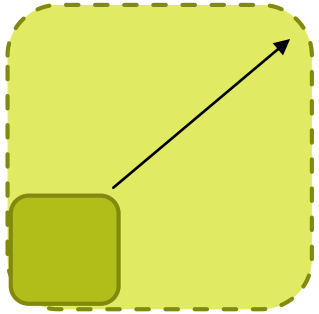
Contributed to establishing BRT
in cities in Mexico and Tanzania

Promoted
non-motorized transit

Promoted TOD when efforts aligned
with the vision of the local leadership

Value added by GEF projects (n=80)

Increasing scale



10%
of projects

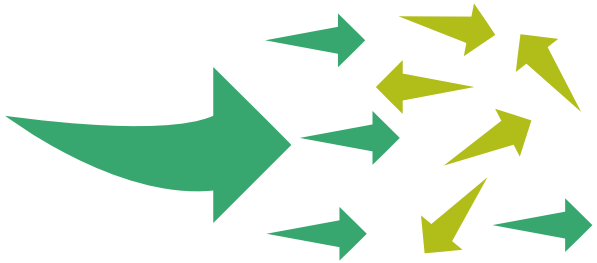
Increasing viability

20%
of projects

Speeding up implementation

24%
of projects

Mainstreaming sustainable transport approaches



73%
of projects

GEF's Comparative Advantage and Future Considerations

CONTEXT

1. Increasing demand for sustainable transport
2. Need for integrated approaches and specific transport sector approaches

RELEVANT AND VALUED SUPPORT

3. Urban and transport planning
4. Legal, policy, regulatory measures
5. Capacity development

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

5. Autonomous vehicles and ride share
6. Technical solutions for transit efficiency

Recommendations

1. M&E design should be consistent with the project's theory of change

Methodology to assess GHG emissions abatement
Process, behavioral change, policy reform indicators
Track the incremental GHG benefits from GEF funding

2. GEF should continue to prioritize funding for capacity development, urban and transport planning, and policy and regulatory development

GEF should restrict support for civil works to pilot / demonstration activities

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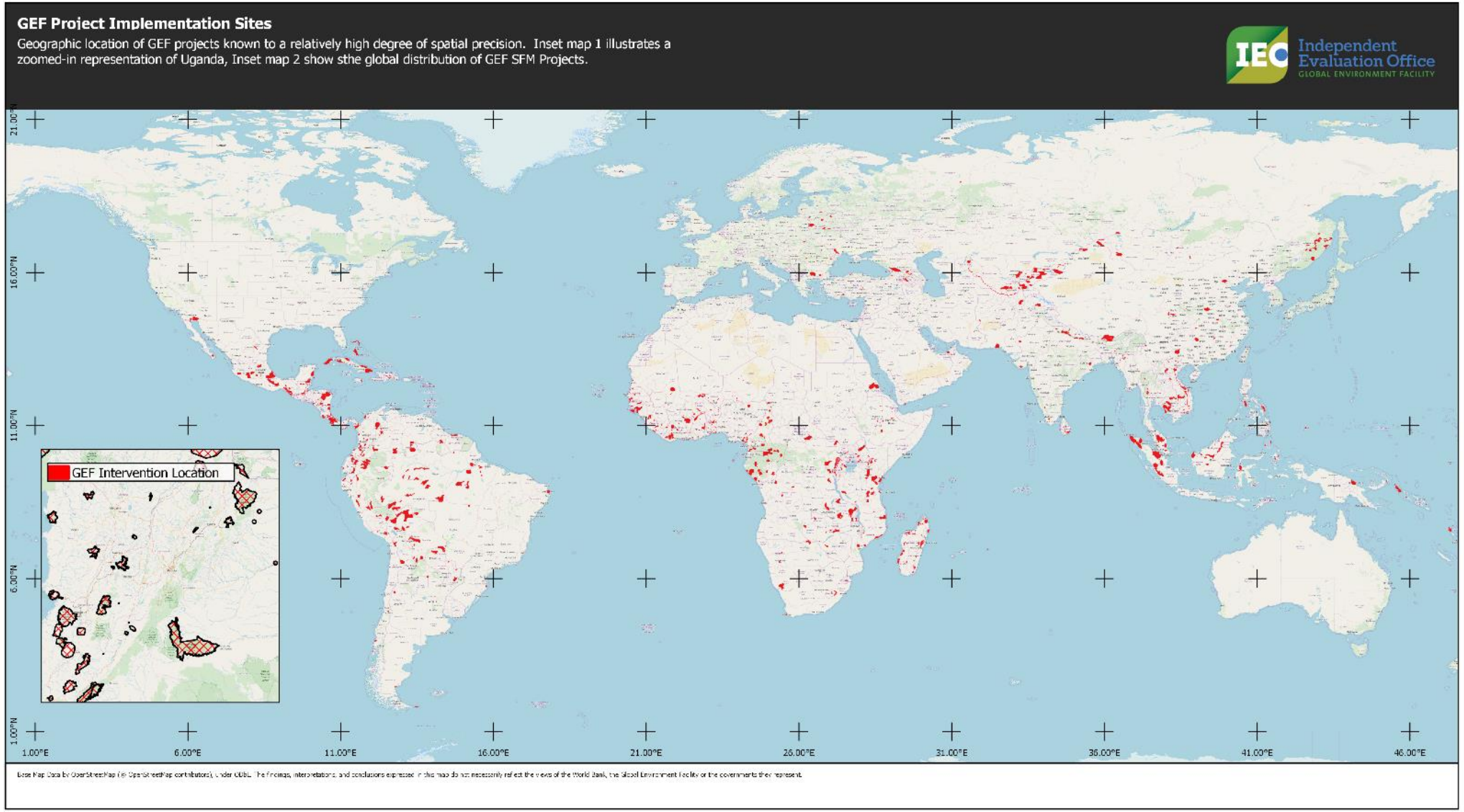
VALUE FOR MONEY ANALYSIS OF GEF INTERVENTIONS IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

GEF SFM projects



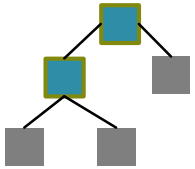
Methodology

- Analysis both at portfolio level, and case study at country level

Precise geolocation

Satellite data

Integration with socio-economic data

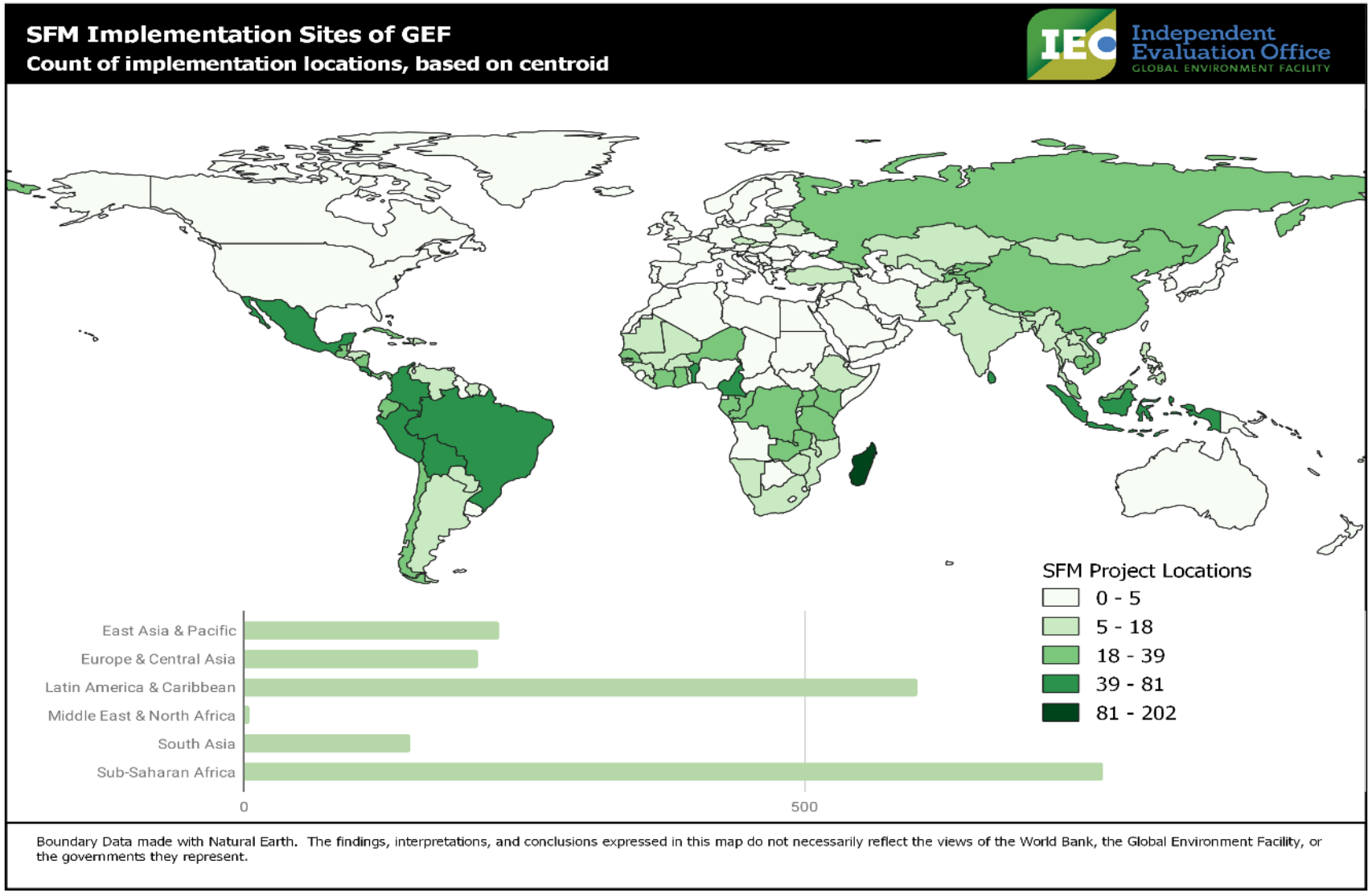


Causal trees machine learning

Estimation of carbon sequestered

- Novel approach to address data gaps through integration of satellite data with local survey data (Uganda)

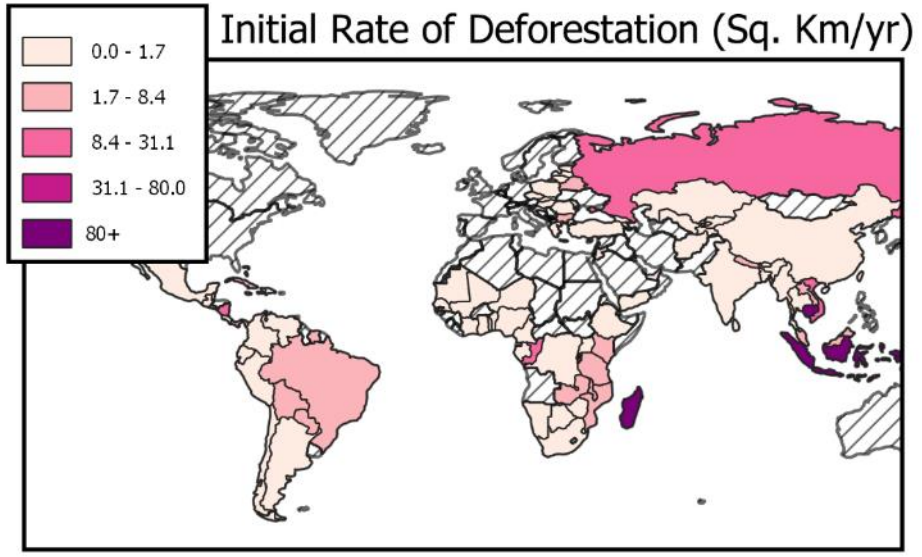
Key Findings : Regional Focus

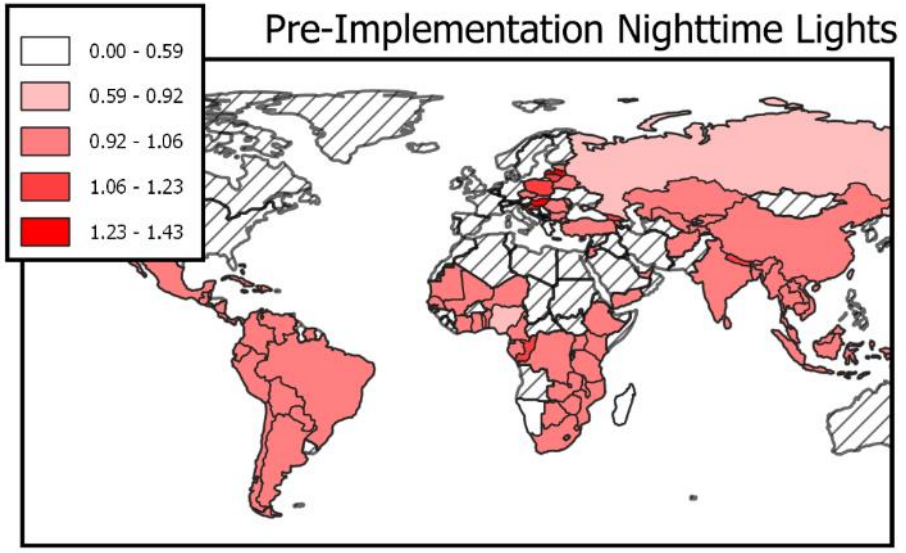


Key Findings : Relevance

- GEF SFM projects were implemented in geographic locations with very high initial conditions of deforestation.

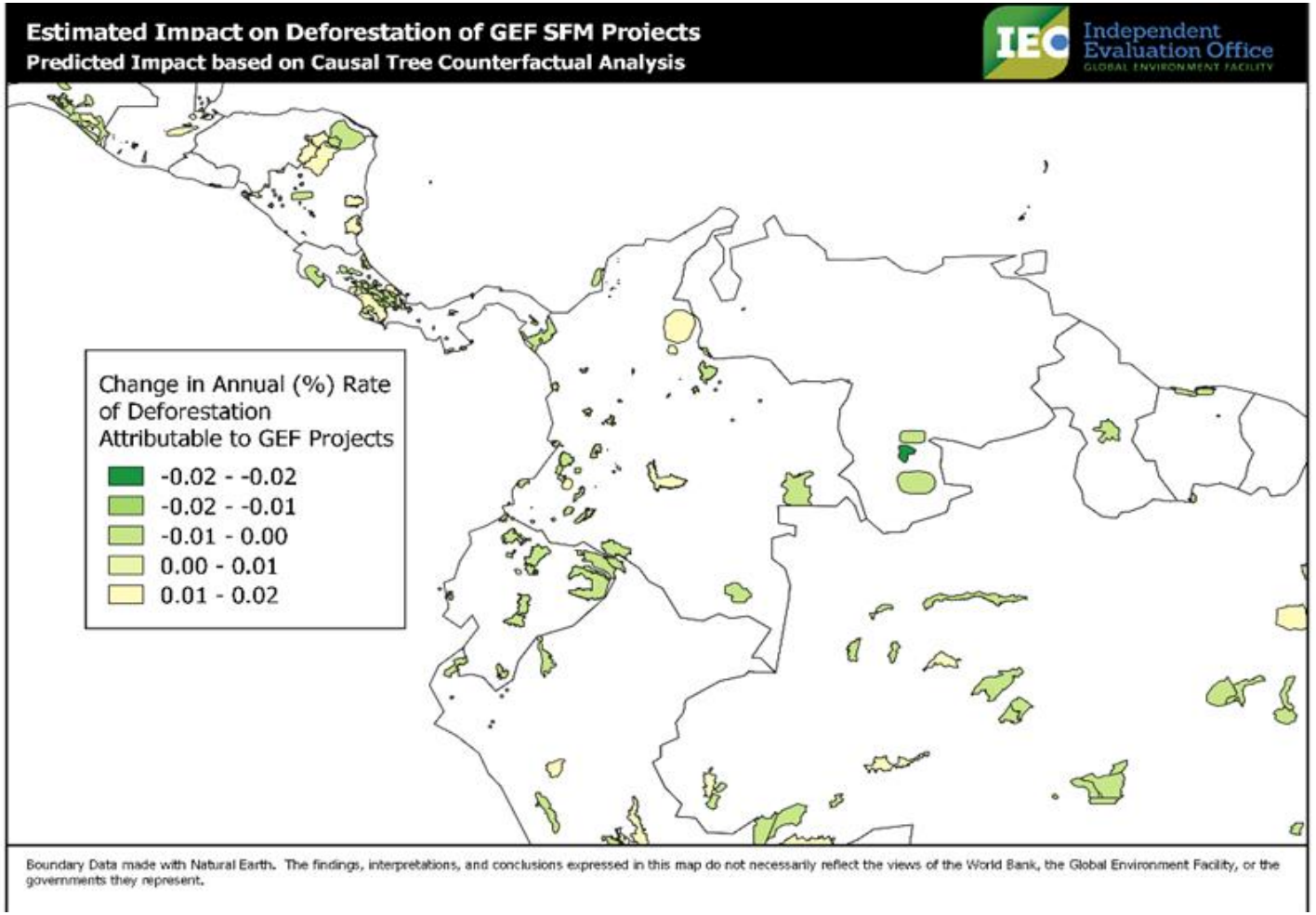
- GEF projects were appropriately more focused on areas with environmental degradation as compared to areas with poor socio-economic conditions (proxied by night lights).





Key Findings : Impacts on Deforestation and Carbon Sequestered

Areas with GEF SFM interventions have approximately 0.27% less deforestation each year than similar areas without the GEF



1.33 tons

of carbon sequestered **per hectare/ year**

$727,900

Average value of above-ground carbon sequestered **annually by each project**

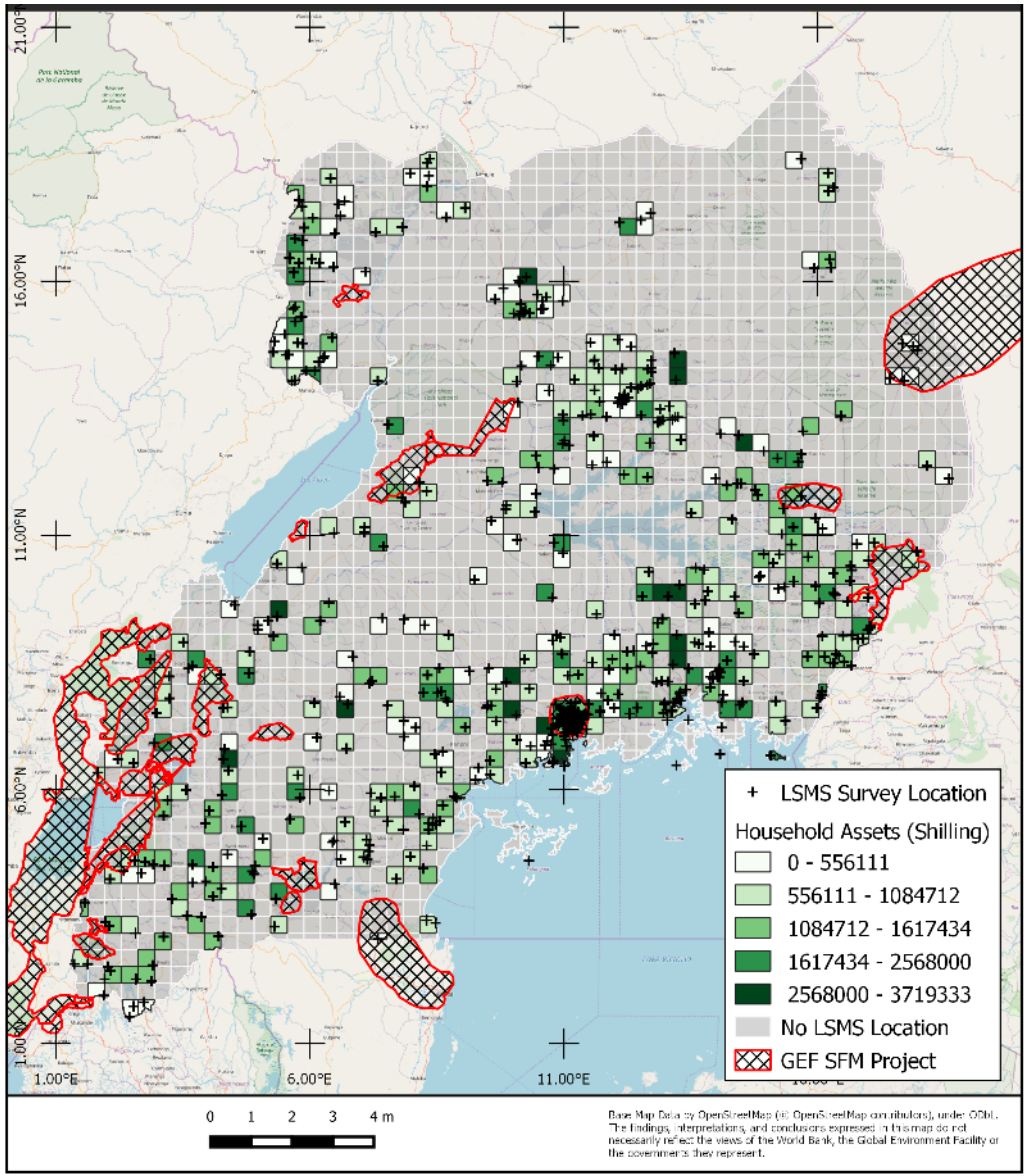
$1.17/$1.00 **per year**

Key Findings : Socioeconomic Co-benefits

- Neutral to slightly positive impact of GEF interventions at the portfolio level on socioeconomic benefits as proxied by nighttime lights

- In Uganda households in proximity to GEF SFM interventions have approximately **$310 USD** more in **Household Assets** as compared to households further away.

Positive Correlation with GEF, not causation

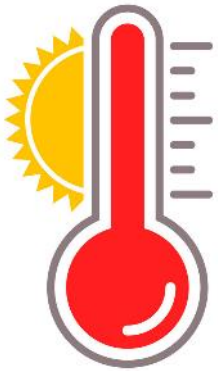


Factors affecting outcomes of GEF Interventions

Avoiding Deforestation

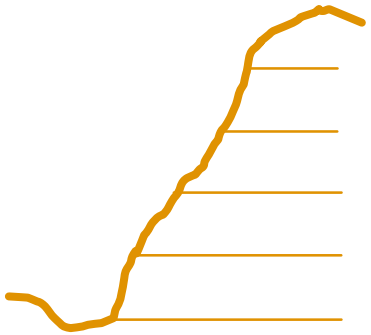
Low Population density, low urbanization
(GEF more effective)

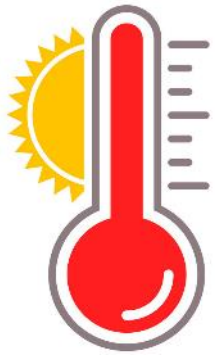
Vegetation Density



Lower temperature
(GEF more effective)

Carbon Sequestration





Steep slope, high temperatures
(GEF less effective)
High initial tree cover
(GEF more effective)

Recommendations

Improve geographic precision in recording and reporting

Capture socioeconomic co-benefits of interventions

Select projects or programs to **improve the evidence base**

EVALUATION OF GEF SUPPORT TO SCALING UP IMPACT

A series on how the GEF achieves impact

TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

2017

SUSTAINABILITY

2018

SCALING-UP

2019

INNOVATION

2020

Why study scaling-up?

GEF 2020 STRATEGY FOR THE GEF

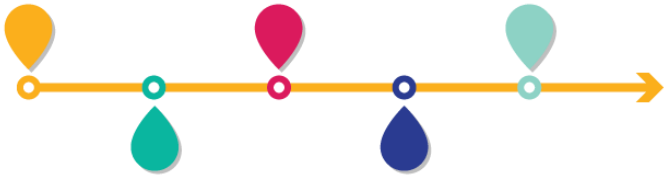
GEF VISION & PROGRAMMING

IAPs
Impact
Programs

Doing MORE with LESS

DONOR DEMAND

GEF IEO INDICATOR OF PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPACT



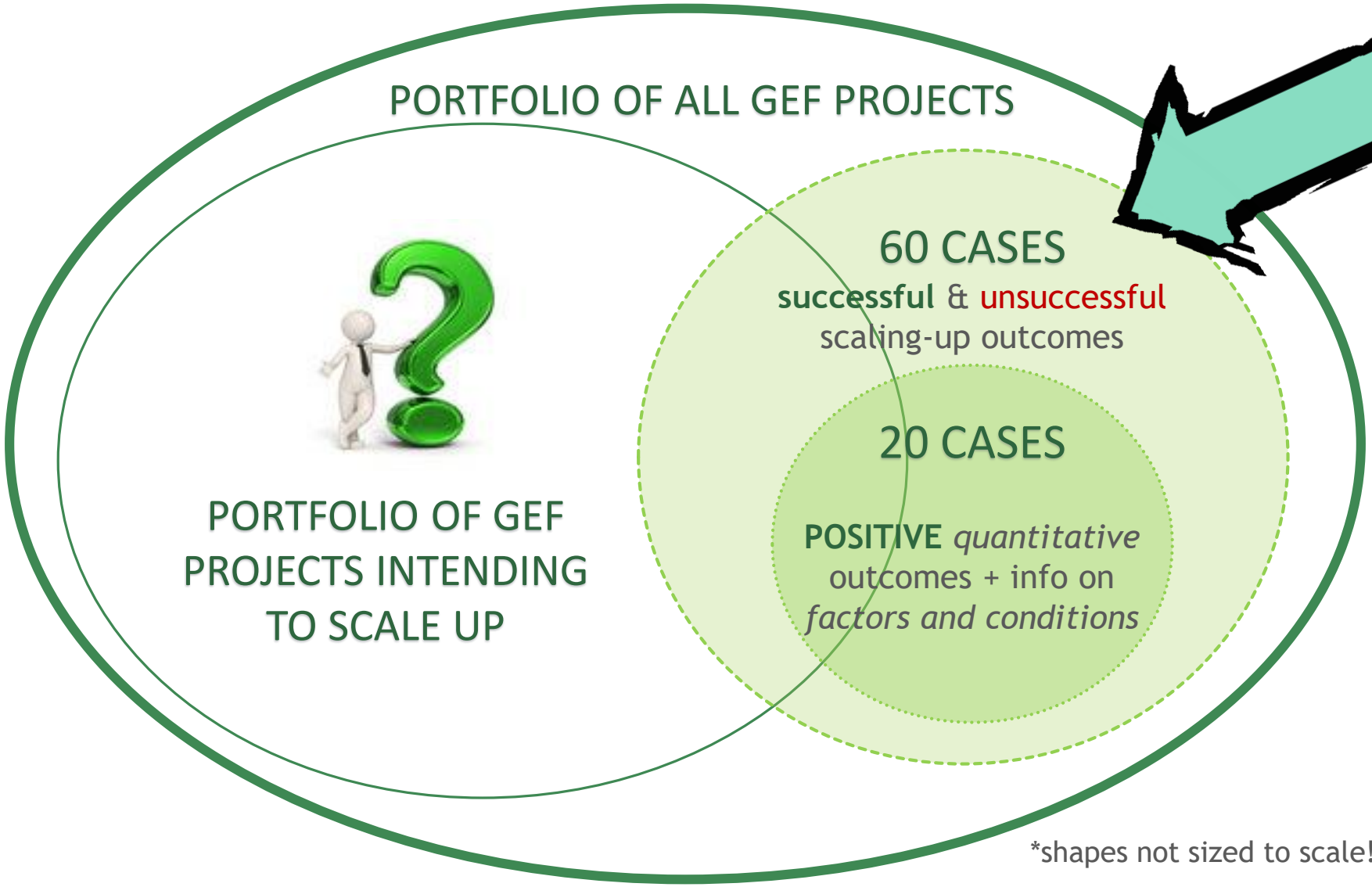
HISTORICAL SHIFT IN THE GEF

This is the first evaluation to look at scaling-up in the GEF in-depth

Objective

To draw lessons from past GEF experience and the experience of Agencies and other sectors that can help the GEF more systematically achieve its scaling-up vision

Method



*shapes not sized to scale!

PURPOSIVE APPROACH

- ✓ Reviews of literature & GEF documents
- ✓ Interviews at corporate & country level
- ✓ Written survey
- ✓ Portfolio review
- ✓ Field visits

How we define scaling-up

Increasing Magnitude

Expanding Geographical or Sectoral Areas

of Global Environmental Benefits to cover a defined

ECOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC, or **GOVERNANCE** unit

A PROCESS!

What successful scaling-up cases looked like

> 5 YEARS
(or at least two projects)

Typically Long-term

FSP SGP MSP EA

Multiple Modalities
and Sequence Types

< $1 MILLION
to
> $100 MILLION

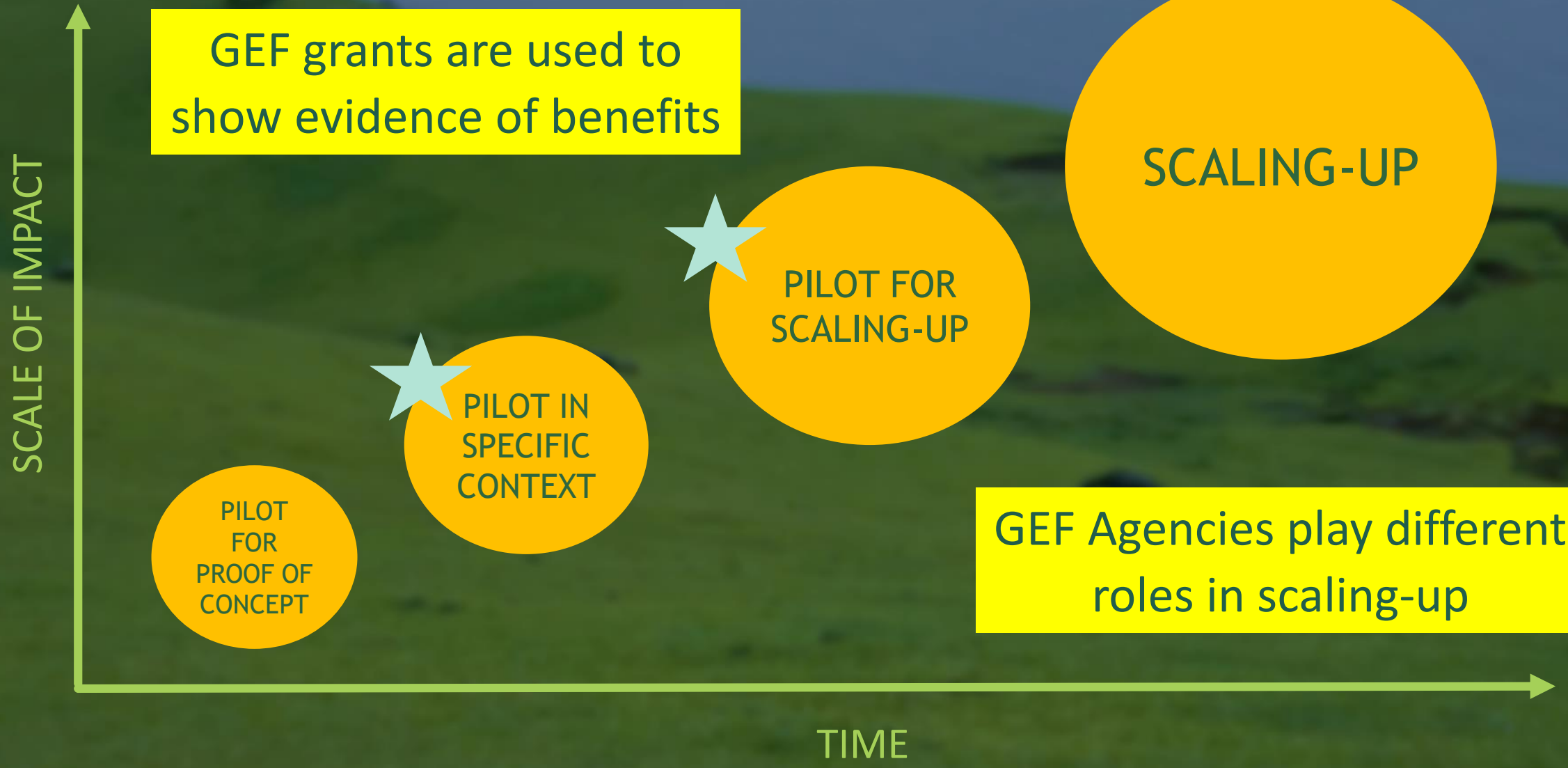
Wide Range of GEF Grant Amount

1.1x to 74.5x

Higher Environmental Outcomes

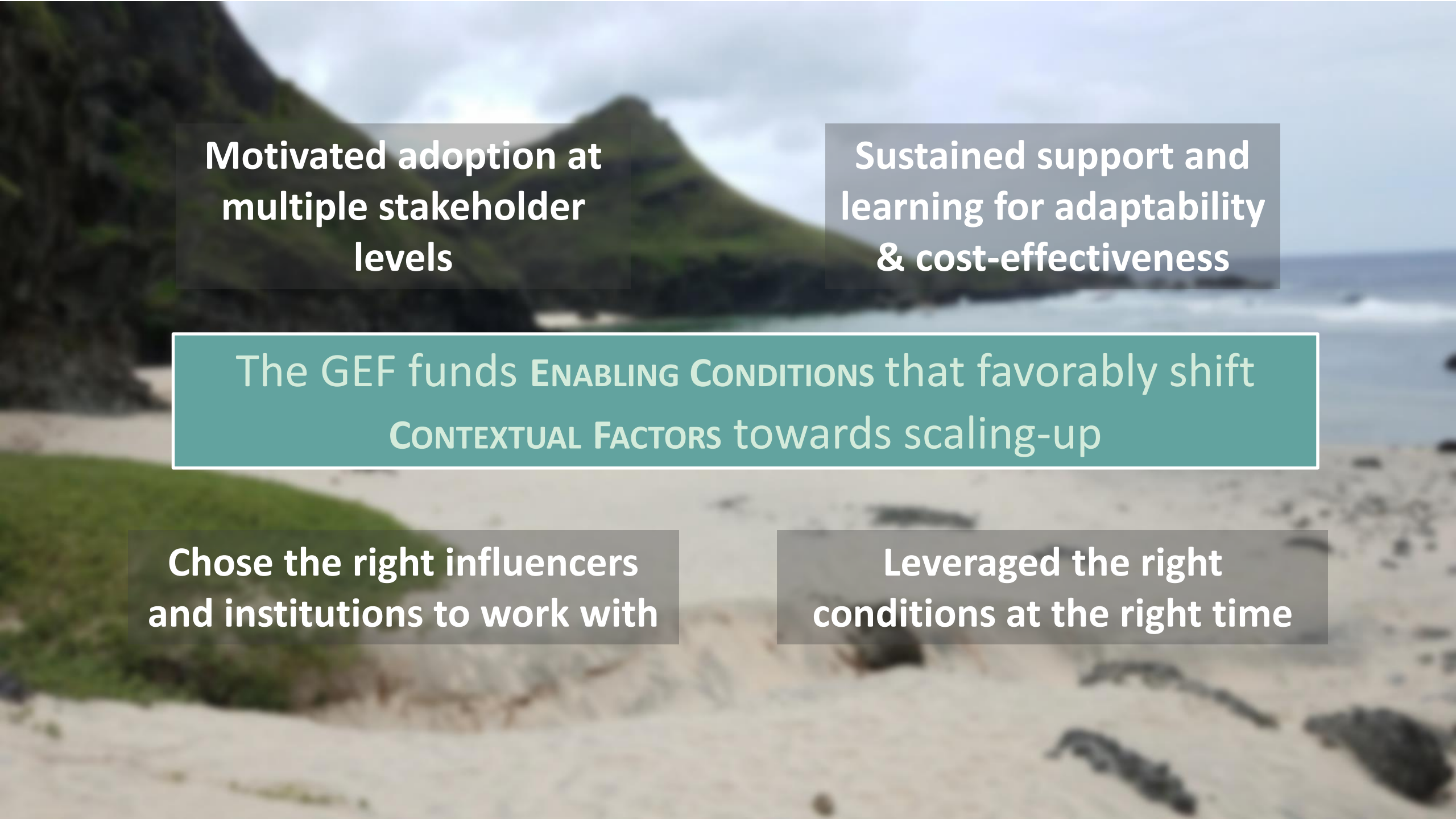
Scaling-up Stage > Pilot Stage

The GEF's niche in the scaling-up process



GEF grants are used to show evidence of benefits

GEF Agencies play different roles in scaling-up



Motivated adoption at multiple stakeholder levels

Sustained support and learning for adaptability & cost-effectiveness

The GEF funds **ENABLING CONDITIONS** that favorably shift **CONTEXTUAL FACTORS** towards scaling-up

Chose the right influencers and institutions to work with

Leveraged the right conditions at the right time

How the GEF helps **sustain** the scaling-up process

COSTA RICA

- Strengthened PES agency
- Capitalized BD trust fund
- Now 100% funded by government

MACEDONIA

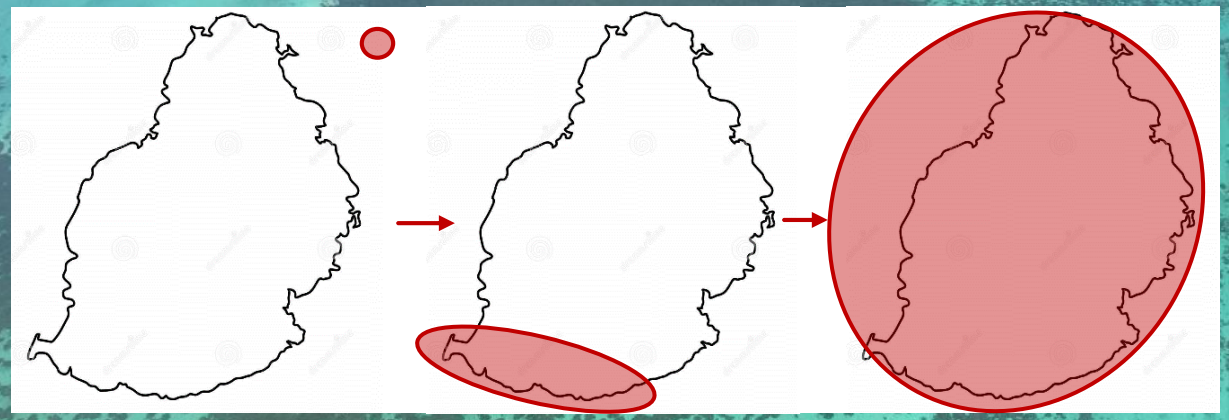
- Provided PCB treatment technology and training
- Now 100% run by private sector

Institutional capacity-building + sustainable financing

How the GEF helps **sustain** the scaling-up process

MAURITIUS

- Studies and awareness campaigns funded through multiple SGP projects with major partners over 16 years
- Now 100% funded by government



Local Official Tells Story of Scaled-up Octopus Ban

HOW **SGP** HELPS SCALE UP IMPACT

Recommendations for **more systematic** scaling-up

The GEF partnership needs to ensure that factors influencing scaling up are identified and taken into account,
as appropriate, in project design and implementation,
and their impact assessed at midterm and in terminal evaluations

Clear articulation of how project/program will achieve or contribute to scaling up

Projects or programs related by design should have common indicators to facilitate aggregation

Evaluations Underway

Fall 2019

Strategic Country Cluster Evaluations:

- African Biomes
- LDCs
- SIDS

Spring 2020

Evaluation of GEF Engagement in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations

Evaluation of GEF Support to Sustainable Forest Management

Evaluation of GEF Medium-Sized Projects

GEF Support for Innovation: Findings and Lessons from GEF Interventions

Knowledge Management

Evaluative lessons

Expanded Constituency Workshops – focus on sustainability

Knowledge sharing

Evaluation in Difficult Contexts and Hard-to-Reach Areas

AfrEA

APEA

Evaluation networks

Third International Conference on Evaluating Environment and Development

Earth-Eval

IDEAS

MAR

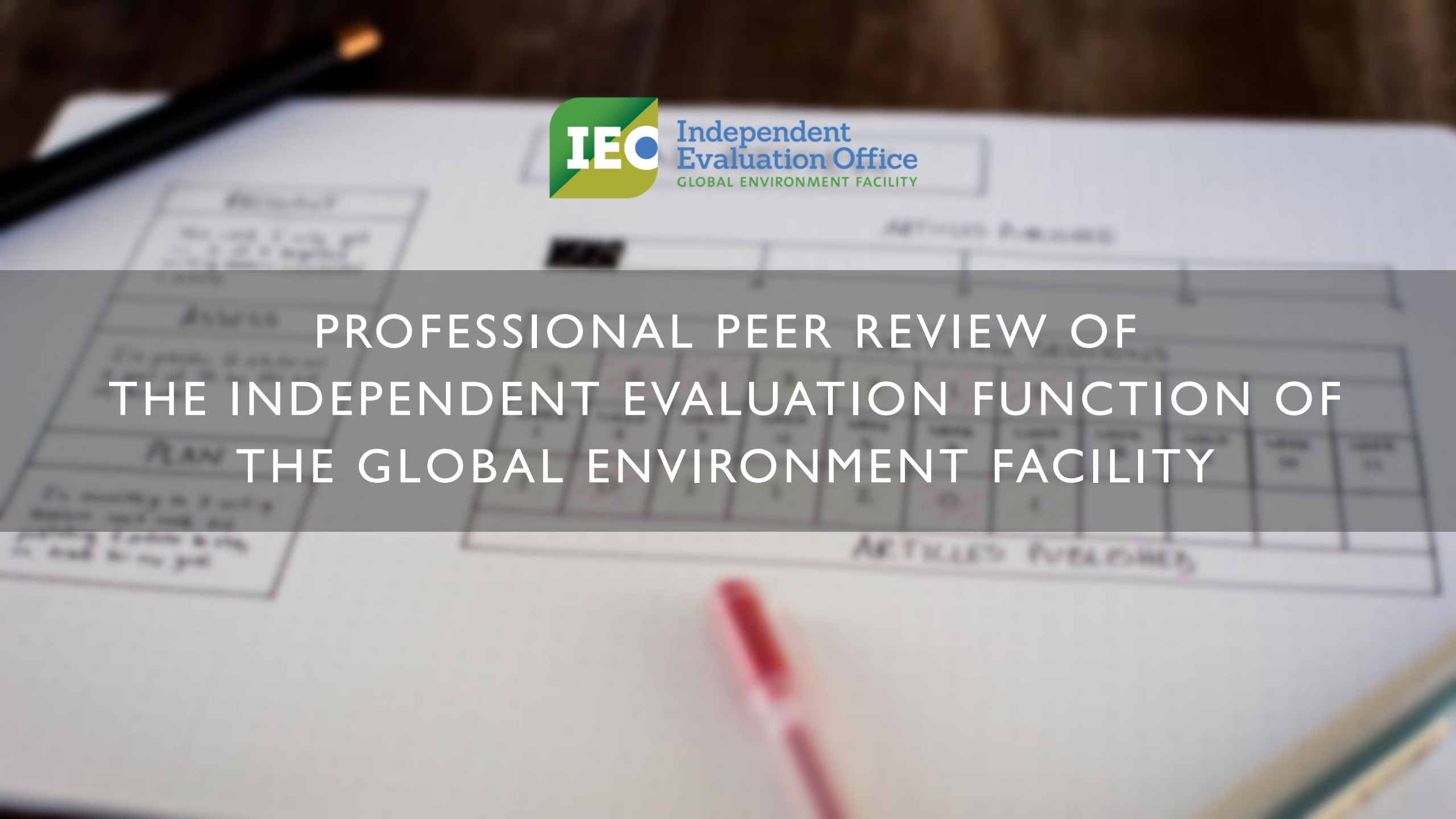
Management action record

SUBSTANTIAL ADOPTION

- Evaluation of the GEF CSO Network
- Review of GEF's Engagement with Indigenous Peoples
- Annual Performance Report 2015
- Program Evaluations of LDCF and SCCF
- Review of GEF Policy on Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards

MEDIUM ADOPTION

- Joint GEF-UNDP Small Grants Program Evaluation



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PROFESSIONAL PEER REVIEW OF THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION FUNCTION OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Purpose and use

To enhance IEO's impact and strengthen its role as an independent evaluator

Scope and criteria

Scope of the Review

Independence
Relevance
Policy
IEO Role and Contribution
Efficiency and Effectiveness

Core Assessment Criteria

Independence
Credibility
Utility

Panel

Ms. Saraswathi Menon, former Director of UNDP Independent Evaluation Office and past-Chair of UNEG (Panel Chair)

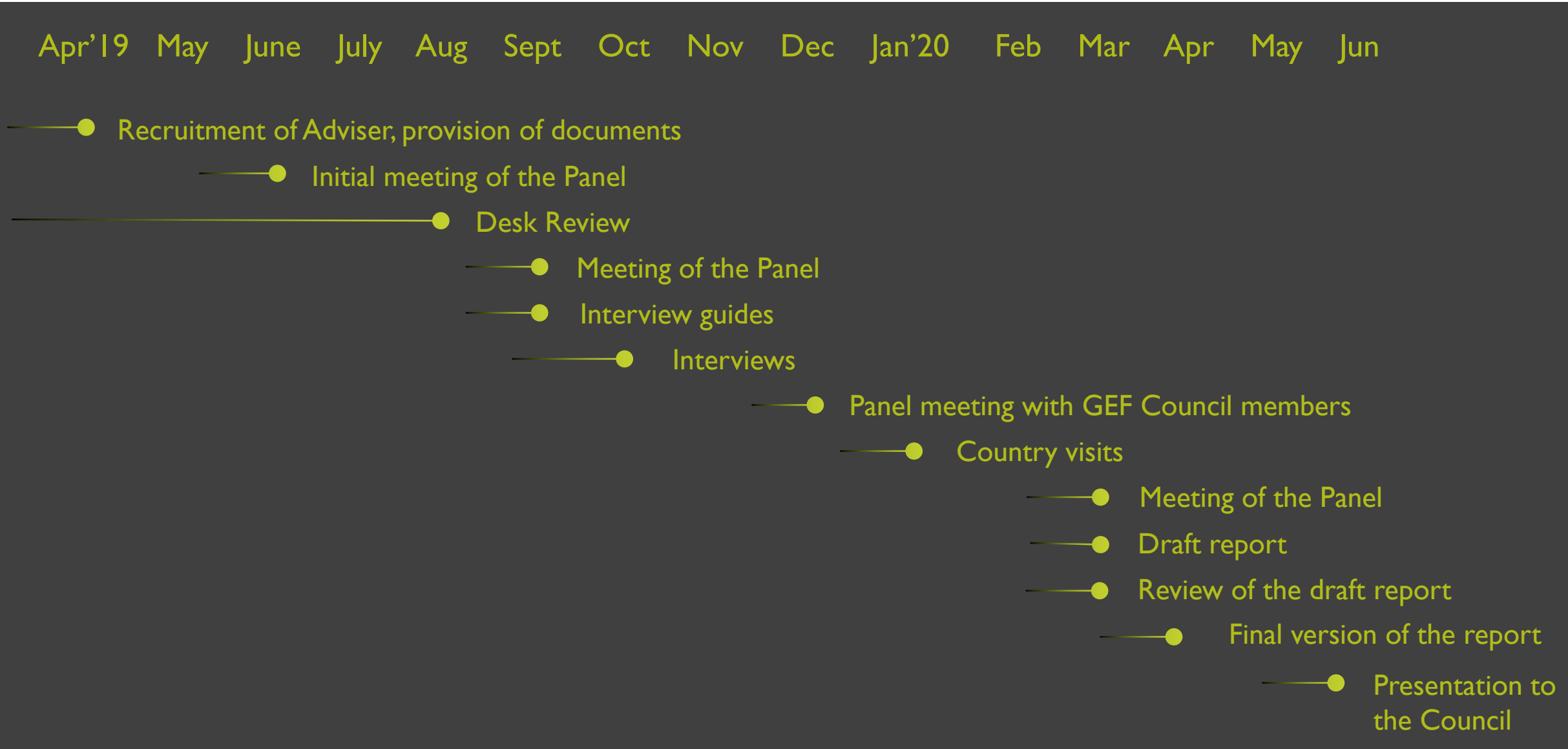
Mr. Michael Spilsbury, Director of Evaluation, UNEP

Mr. Marvin Taylor-Dormond, Director General, Independent Evaluation, Asian Development Bank

Ms. Tullia Aiazzi, Lead Adviser to the Panel

PEER REVIEW

Process and Schedule



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SEMI-ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT

June 2019

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RECOMMENDED COUNCIL DECISION

The Council, having reviewed the "Semi-Annual Evaluation Report of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office: June 2019", endorses the recommendations of the Annual Performance Report 2019: Special Thematic Focus on Sustainable Transport and the Value for Money Analysis of GEF Interventions in Support of Sustainable Forest Management and approves the Terms of Reference for the Professional Peer Review of the Independent Evaluation Office.

With respect to the Evaluation of GEF Support to Scaling up Impact, the Council notes with appreciation the analysis presented and endorses the following recommendation:

The GEF partnership needs to ensure that factors influencing scaling up are identified and taken into account in project and program design and implementation, and their impact assessed at midterm and in terminal evaluations.