



AN EVALUATION BY THE



GEFIEO.ORG



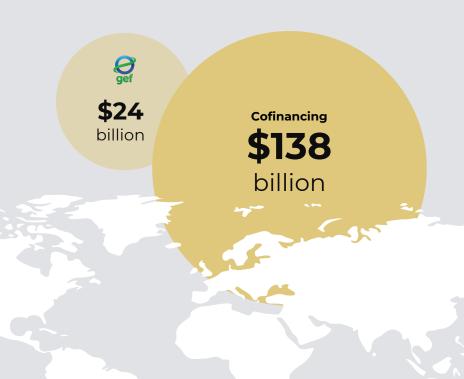
June/2024



Objective of Cofinancing at the GEF.



Amplifying the environmental benefits pursued by the GEF





Enhance project
effectiveness, impact,
& sustainability



Foster national ownership

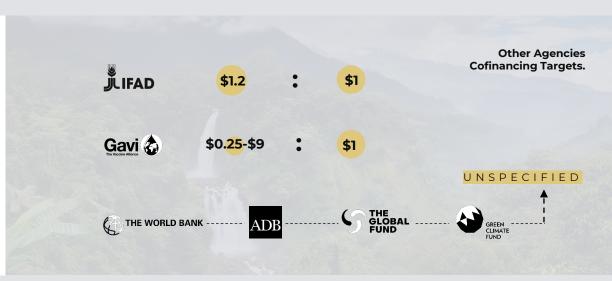


Promote collaboration

Ambitious & Flexible.

COFINANCING TARGETS





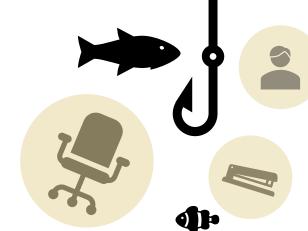


01.

GEF's Cofinancing Targets Are More Ambitious Compared to Other Agencies 02.

GEF Cofinancing Policy Allows For Greater Variations in Type and Contributions



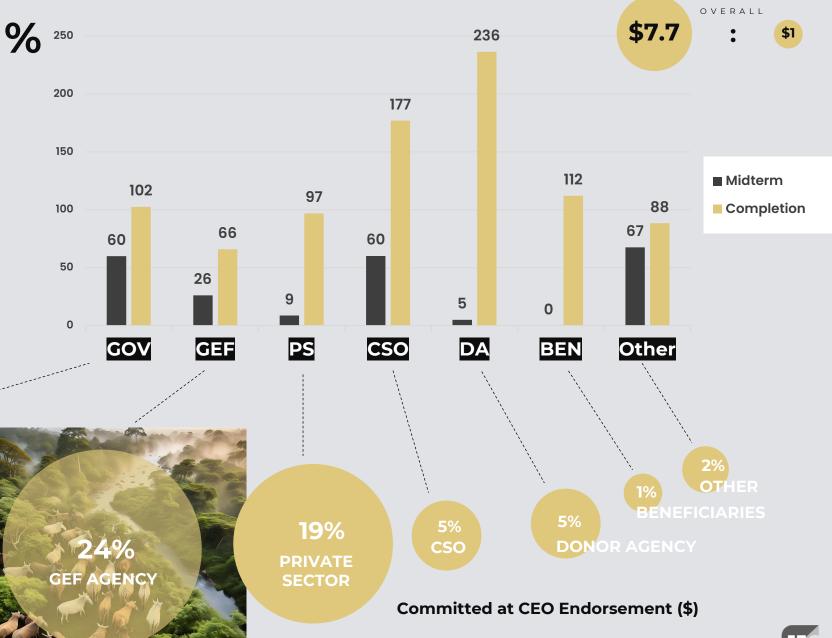


Realization at different stages of the project cycle

% of commitments at CEO Endorsement

Sources & Realization Rates

45%
GOVERNMENT





+10%

Projects

FULLY REALIZED COFINANCING



Positive correlation between outcomes and cofinancing



Outcomes & Sustainability.



Significant role of cofinancing in enhancing sustainability

Does cofinancing make a



difference?



+23%

Projects

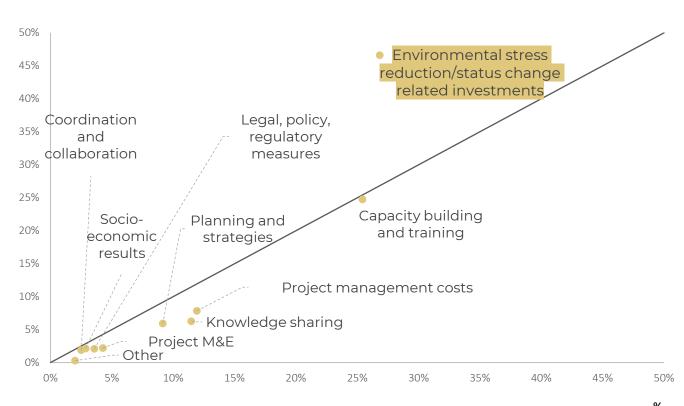
What Attracts Cofinancing?



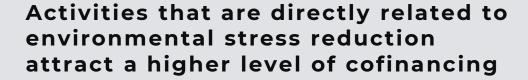
% Total Cofinancing.



PROJECT COMPONENTS AND SHARE IN GEF FINANCING



Total GEF grant.





Factors influencing cofinancing.



GEF Agency

Project Type

Non-MDBs actively pursue new sources





Limited pool of contributors in SIDS and other countries

Programmatic Approach



Geographic Scope



02.

MDBs 62% vs.

112% UN, NGOS LDCs **55%**

SIDS **81**%



Realization Rates.









Securing commitments can be difficult.

Loan commitments realize less frequently due to shifts in

POLITICAL
PRIORITIES
& STARTUP DELAYS

Especially from external sources, such as governments and the private sector, in resourceconstrained regions like









Improved, but challenges remain.

Tracking Cofinancing.

Positive updates in the cofinancing policy and the GEF Portal

PIF Rejections





GEF Secretariat conducts thorough reviews of cofinancing commitments during appraisal



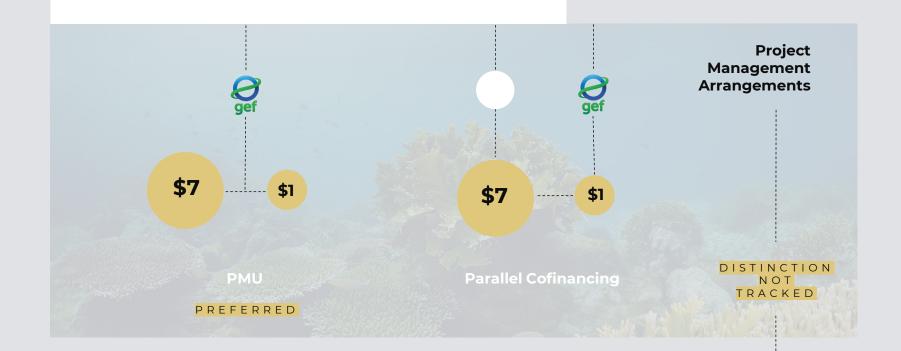
Less emphasis on tracking realization of cofinancing commitments during project implementation, undermining data credibility



Tracking in-kind cofinancing presents difficulties



Gaps in tracking parallel cofinancing







Maintaining proportionality in project management costs (PMCs) is complicated by the widespread use of parallel and in-kind cofinancing



In-Kind Cofinancing

84%

GEF Projects



Parallel Cofinancing

Unknown

GEF Projects

Proposals With **Proportionality** Gaps.

60%

AN
EVALUATION
BY
THE



GEFIEO.ORG

June/2024





Adequacy and quality assessment

01.



Criteria for inclusion/exclusion

Re-evaluate the GEF approach to cofinancing.

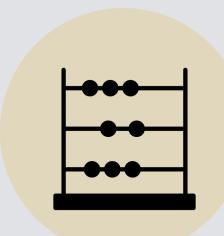




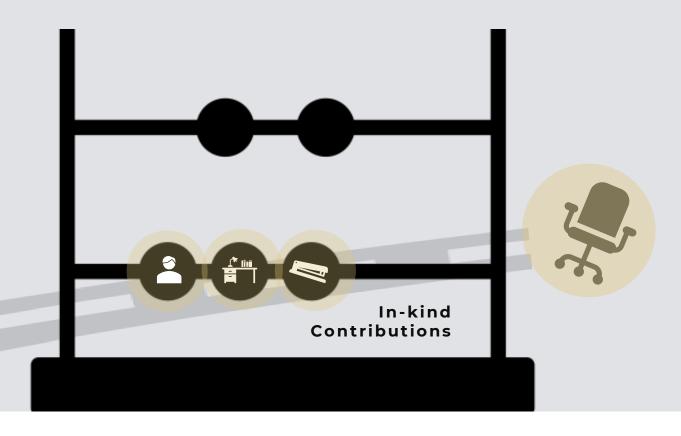




O2. Revise the requirement on proportionality in PMC.



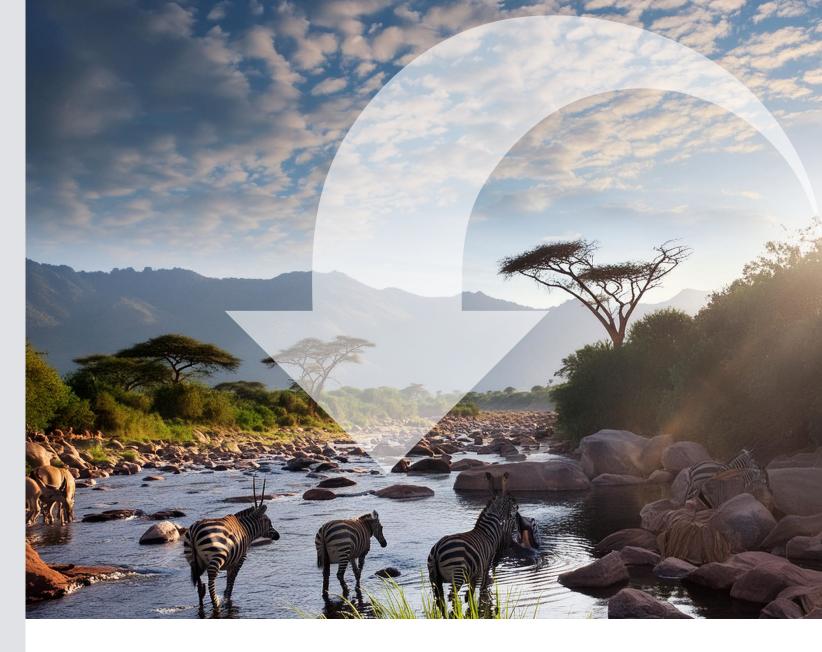
Parallel Cofinancing



In-kind and parallel cofinancing result in substantial administrative exchanges between Agencies and GEF Secretariat

03.

Strengthen monitoring of cofinancing realization.





Quality control on realized cofinancing, especially on new contributions not expected at CEO endorsement AN
EVALUATION
BY
THE



GEFIEO.ORG



June/2024



Purpose

Provide
evidence
for GEF-9
replenishment

Assess to what extent the GEF is achieving its objectives of enhancing global environmental

benefits

Identify potential areas for improvement

Assess the
GEF's progress
in implementing
the GEF 8
Programming
Directions

Context for OPS8



World in social and economic recovery



Inflationary pressures, tightening monetary policies, conflict



Triple
Planetary
crises



Environmental Risks Dominate



Challenges in Environmental Finance



Role of financial innovation and partnerships

Conclusions of OPS7



Relevant financing mechanism



Strong record of **performance**



Robust and adaptable partnership



Unrealized potential for mobilizing additional resources



Tried and tested set of implementation **mechanisms**



More **innovative** than some competitors



Policies generally consistent with good practice



Supportive of upstream policy work

Recommendations of OPS7

- 1 Innovate and recognize risks
- Demonstrate Additionality of Integrated Programming
- Develop a strategic approach to country engagement
 - Strengthen private sector engagement
 - 5 Increase support to LDCs and SIDS
 - 6 Improve administrative processes
 - 7 Improve monitoring of policies implementation

GEF-8 Themes and Policy Measures

- Increasing **Emphasis**
 - on **Integrated** and **Impact Programs**
 - Deepening the **focus** on **Policy Coherence**
 - **Emphasizing Co-benefits**
 - Defining **Risk Appetite**

- Reforming
 - the country engagement strategy
 - Rolling out **SGP2.0**
 - Implementing the **Private** sector engagement strategy
 - Refining policy and institutional measures

Areas of GEF → The GEF's → Generating Contribution Catalytic Role *Impact*

Exchange & Learning

Multistakeholder Interactions

Interventions
Generating Global
Environmental Benefits

Policy, Legal & Institutional Development

Individual & Institutional Capacity-Building

Scaling up pilots

Changing institutional and country contexts

Improving policy coherence

Increasing understanding of synergistic co-benefits

Supporting adaptation

Attracting additional financing

And more...

Global Environmental Benefits

- Improved Ecological health
- Reduced environmental stress



Progress toward impact

Broader Adoption of Interventions

Sustainability
Mainstreaming
Replication
Scaling-up

Transformational Change

- Ecosystem Market
- Governance Etc.

OPS8: Focus on Integration

2 Themes



GEF Programming Strategy, Institutional Issues

GEF Relevance, Performance, Impact, and Sustainability

Evaluation criteria

Effectiveness

Efficiency

Relevance

Sustainability

Coherence

period

FY23

FY24

Impacts of COVID-19 on GEF interventions

Water Security

Annual Performance Report 2023

Behavior Change

Strategic Country Cluster: **Lower Mekong**

LDCF/SCCF Annual Evaluation Report 2023

Report on the Management **Action Record**

Drylands Country Cluster

Global Wildlife **Conservation Program**

GEF Support to Climate Information and Early Warning **Systems**

Learning from Challenges

Portfolio Level Risk

Cofinancing in the GEF

GEF Support to Community-based approaches

Approach Paper for the Eighth **Comprehensive Evaluation** of the GEF

LDCF/SCCF Annual **Evaluation Report 2024**



Country Engagement Strategy: Update Study

Small Grants Program: Update Study

Annual Performance Report

Sustainable Cities Integrated Program

Food Systems & Land Use Integrated Program

Amazon Basin County Cluster

Private Sector Engagement Strategy

GEF Programs in the Pacific SIDS

Assessing Inclusion of Marginalized Groups in Fragile and Conflict affected solutions

GEF Support to Nature Based Solutions

Policy Coherence in the GEF

GEF Support to Phasing out PCBs in Chemicals & Waste

Socio Economic co-Benefits

Application of Technologies in GEF Projects

Partnership Dynamic & Competitive Advantage of the GEF

LDCF/SCCF Program Evaluation

LDCF/SCCF Annual Evaluation Report 2025

Programming Strategy and Institutional issues



(to global environmental challenges, countries, conventions)

Institutional processes including

results-based management and knowledge and learning

Design and implementation

of the GEF-8 programming strategy

7

The GEF Country
Engagement Strategy

Implementation of GEF policies

(gender; safeguards; stakeholder engagement, civil society, the private sector, and indigenous peoples)



The GEF's **flexibility** to adapt and respond to crises

7

The GEF's policies focus on a whole of society approach



GEF Performance, Impact and Sustainability



Overall Performance (Outcomes, longer-term Sustainability, Behavior Change)



Focal area & Country Cluster Performance, Impact,(special themes), SGP and LDCF/SCCF



GEF performance and impact in Integrated and **Impact Programs**



GEF Role in enabling Policy Coherence



Generation of Socio Economic Co-Benefits through **GEF Interventions**



Catalytic Role of the **GEF for Transformational** Change - Innovation, Risk, **Nature Based Solutions**

GEF Role in **Catalyzing Finance** and Partnerships to scale interventions

Bringing it all together



Specific Competitive Advantage of the **GEF Partnership**



Adequacy and appropriateness of GEF policies and administrative processes



Is the GEF's balance of priorities contributing to better outcomes

Methodology



International good practice standards



Mixed-method approach

Scientific and evaluation literature review • Theory of change development • Document review • Portfolio analysis • Interviews • Surveys • GIS/remote sensing • Rapid impact evaluation • Country case studies/field verification • Statistical analyses • Qualitative analyses • Triangulation • Post-completion verification • Quality-at-entry



Limitations and mitigations strategies

Project timelines disrupted • Pace of implementation of programs and policies

Stakeholder consultations

During the approach paper preparation

During OPS8

In dissemination and outreach

Quality assurance



5 external advisers

Hasan Tuluy



Stefan Schwager



Patricia Rogers



Vinod Thomas

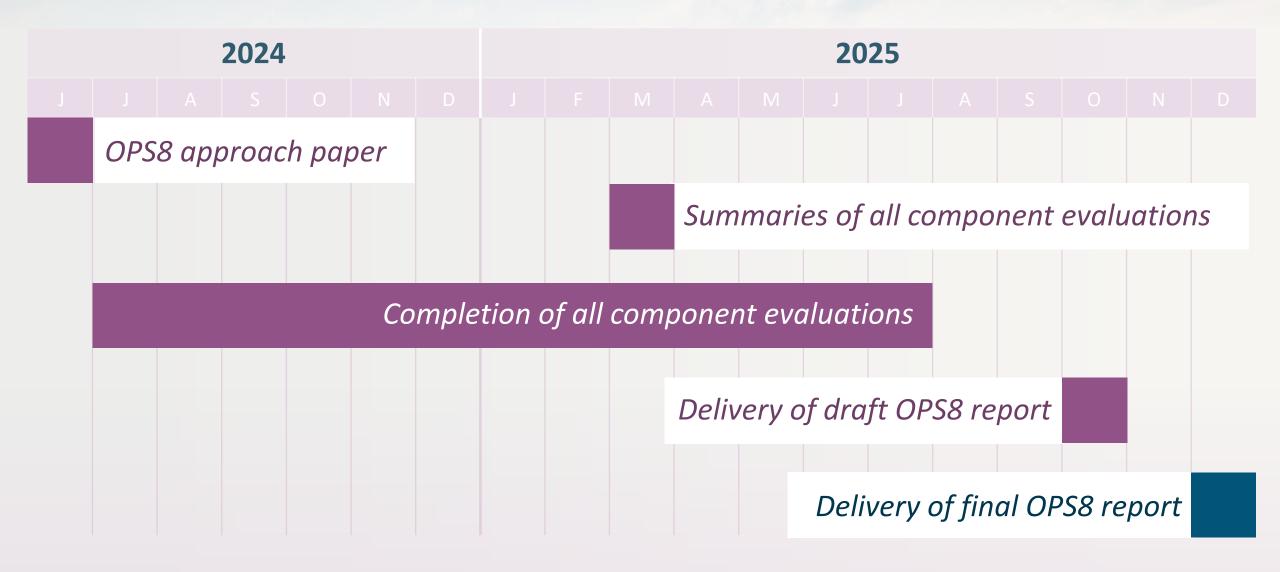


Monika Weber-Fahr

Component evaluations

Peer reviewers and reference groups

Schedule

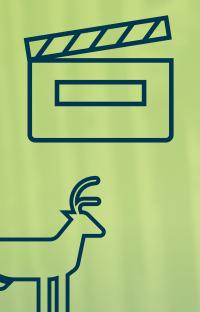


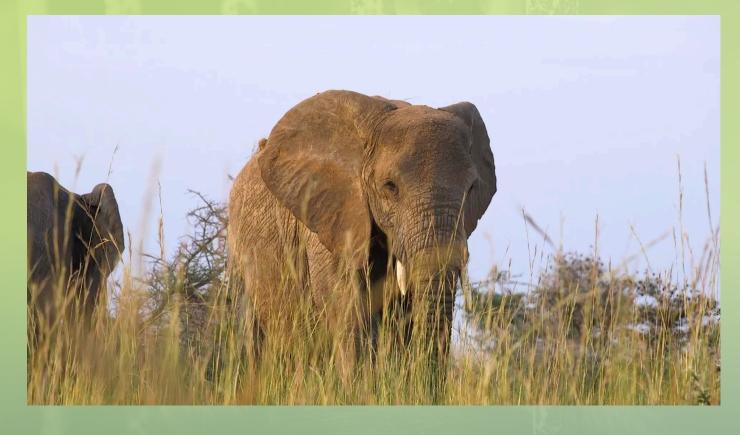


Findings









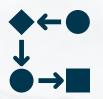
Conclusions: Progress on Several Fronts



Inclusion of a more comprehensive wildlife conservation and landscape management strategy in GEF-8 WCD IP



Identification of climate change, conflict and fragility, COVID-19 and other zoonotic diseases as key risks



Promotion of effective coordination, knowledge management in addressing IWT, and adaptation to challenges



Engagement with indigenous peoples, local communities (IPLCs), and private sector is limited



Progress in several GWP projects in addressing and integrating policy coherence



Progress in advancing gender equality

Conclusions



Reduction of the demand for illegal wildlife products across the supply chain remains a challenge



Challenges remain on reporting on programlevel results for the GEF-6 and GEF-7 phases



Disruption of the implementation in GEF-6 and **GEF-7 projects** due to COVID-19 pandemic, and influencing the design of the GEF-8 WCD IP



KM limitations impact the demonstration of program level contributions and additionality

Recommendations





Align results frameworks and indicators to demonstrate overall program level effectiveness and additionality



Support a knowledge management platform which systematizes the collection and sharing of knowledge across the program phases



Prioritize comprehensive risk assessments and regular updates throughout the Program's lifecycle, focusing on climate, conflict, health, tourism, and human rights risks



TAKING RISKS

at the Global Environment Facility

An evaluation by the



Measuring

RISK & REWARD

GEF's

4-point
risk-rating
scale

GEF's 6-point

outcome ratings: proxy for global environmental benefits

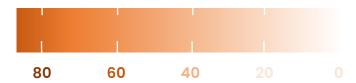


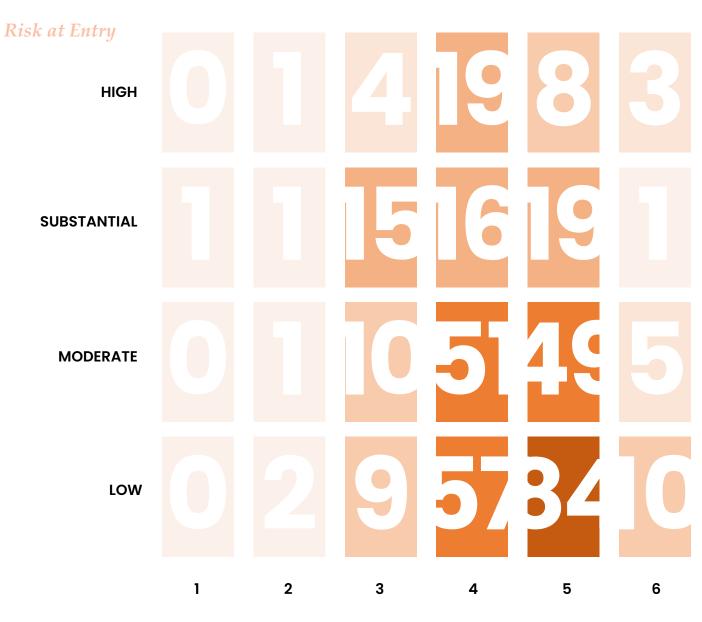
Project Universe

HEATMAP: RISK v. OUTCOMES

Negative correlation between risks and outcome ratings in 366 closed projects

COUNT OF PROJECTS







Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihood Project

Highly satisfactory communitymanaged and owned off-grid renewable energy project

NEPAL



88
HIGH &
SUBSTANTIAL RISK

Projects identified

Renewable Energy for the city of Marrakesh's BRT system project

The project financed a solar park and a Bus Rapid Transit system for the city of Marrakesh

MOROCCO



Improved Forested Landscap Management Project

Satisfactory improvement in forested landscape management

CONGO, DRC





Country hosted a dialogue on renewable energy, drafted policies, and piloted a project

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

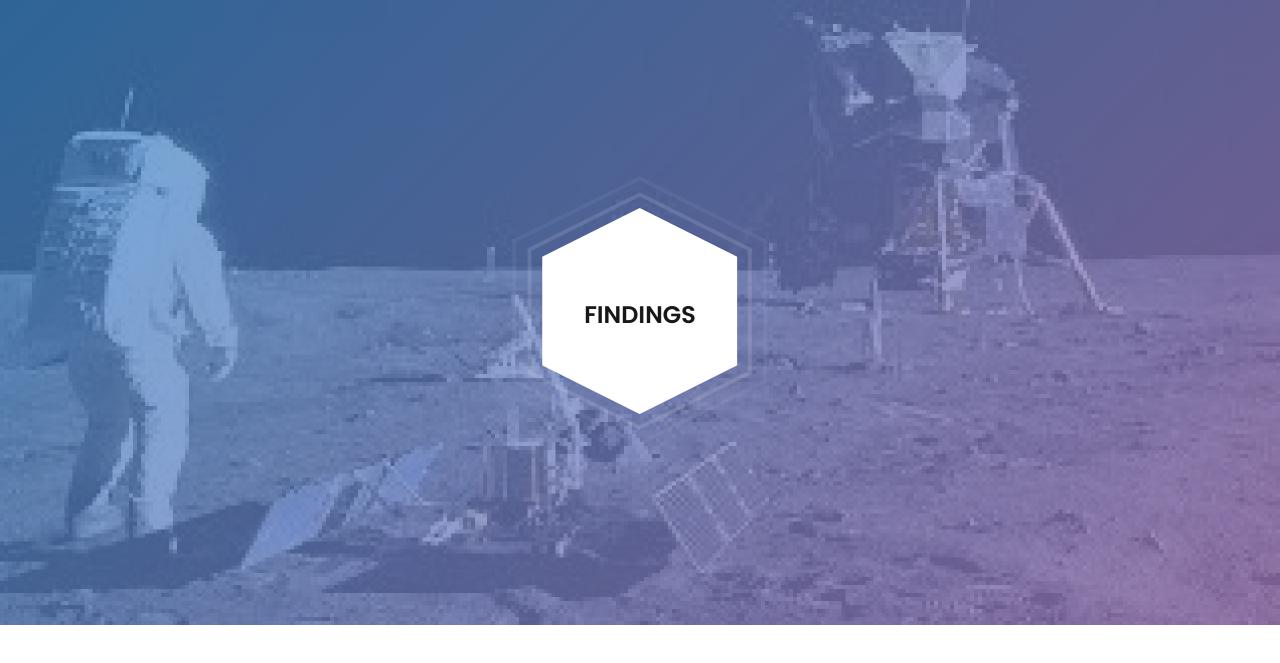


Improving Management Effectiveness of the Protected Area Network

20 years of GEF engagement with Uruguay led to the creation of a protected area system buffering against deforestation

URUGUAY



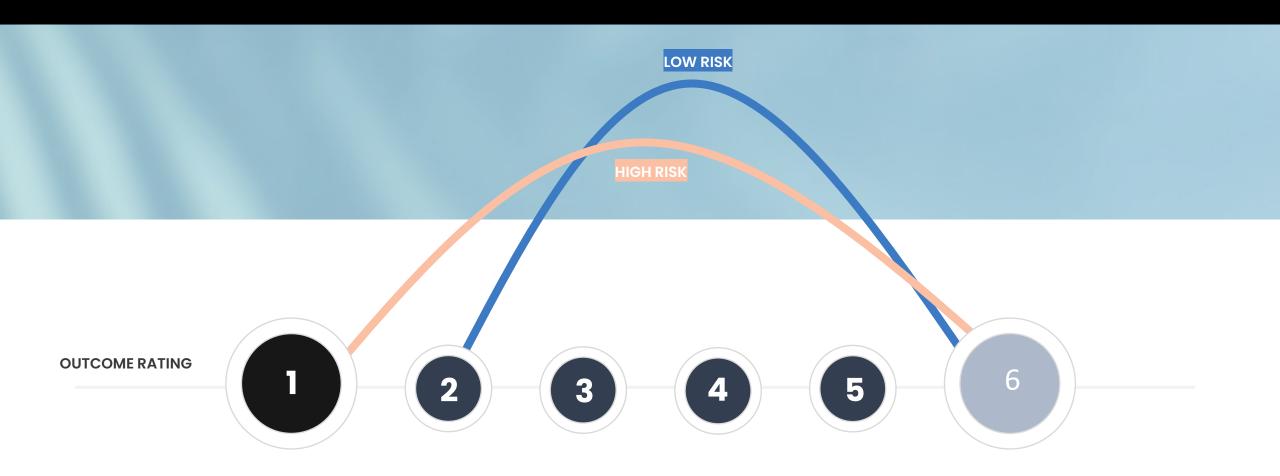






Finding

HIGH RISK SPREAD



HIGH RISK PROJECTS DEMONSTRATE GREATER OUTCOME VARIANCE

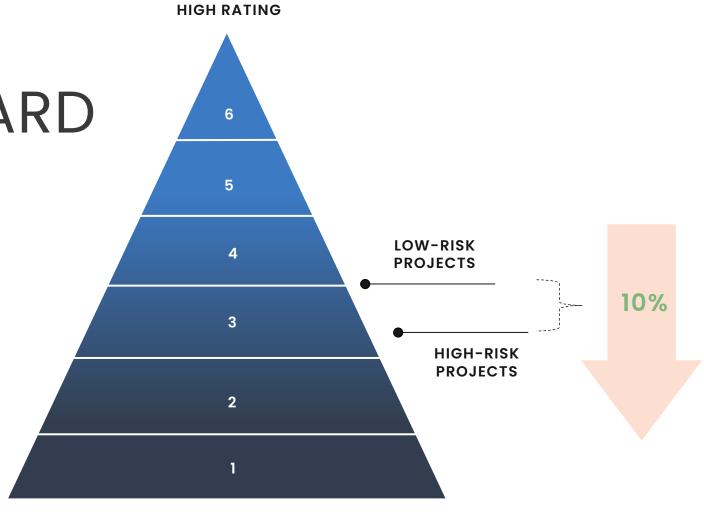


Finding

HIGH REWARD PREMIUM

ON AVERAGE, HIGHER RISKS YIELD LOWER OUTCOMES

GEF sacrifices 10% in moderately satisfactory or above outcome ratings for higher rewards and impacts



LOW RATING



Examples

HIGH RISK/ HIGH REWARD

Three examples of where the IEO team discovered high rewards to high-risk taking



Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihood Project

Highly satisfactory communitymanaged and owned off-grid renewable energy project

NEPAL

Improved Forested Landscape Management Project

Satisfactory improvement in forested landscape management

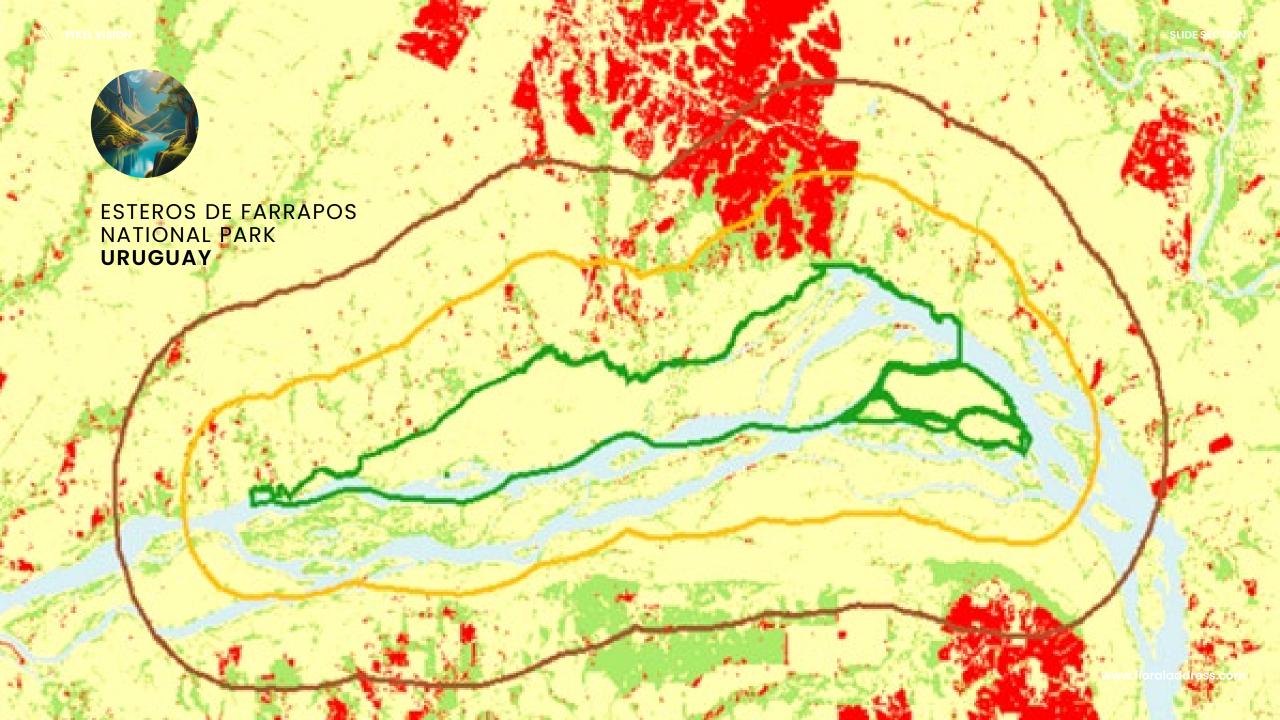
CONGO, DRC



Improving Management Effectiveness of the Protected Area Network

20 years of GEF engagement with Uruguay led to the creation of a protected area system buffering against deforestation

URUGUAY





Finding

INSTITUTIONAL & STATE CAPACITY INFLUENCE RISK

1

INTERNAL RISK FACTORS

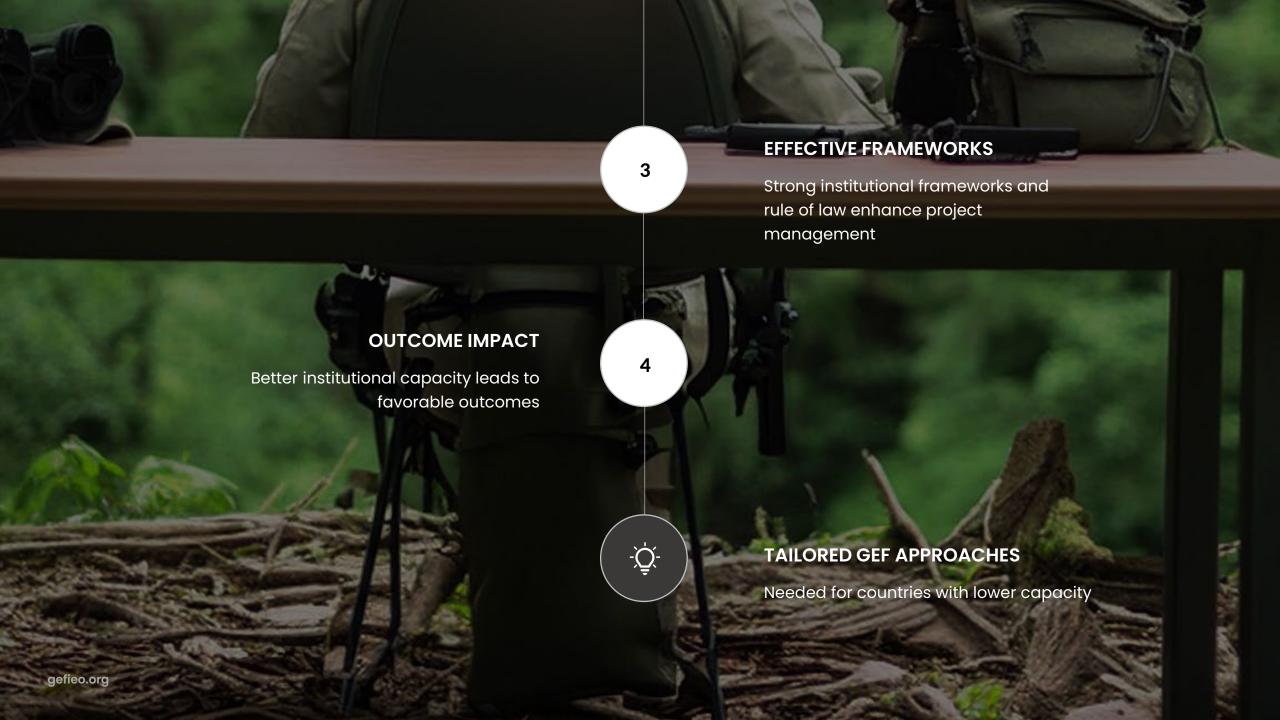
Institutional Capacity is crucial

Deficiencies: Technical/financial resources, government ownership, local capacity

AGENCY CONCERNS

Low in-country capacity

2





Finding

ADAPTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT

YIELDS POSITIVE RESULTS

START



PROACTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT



END



HIGH-RISK



+ Decrease in risk ratings indicates potential proactive risk management practices

+ Decreased risk ratings correlate with improve outcomes

 Conversely, some projects experienced increased risk ratings, signaling challenges during implementation LOW-RISK

Better outcomes because of effective risk/project management



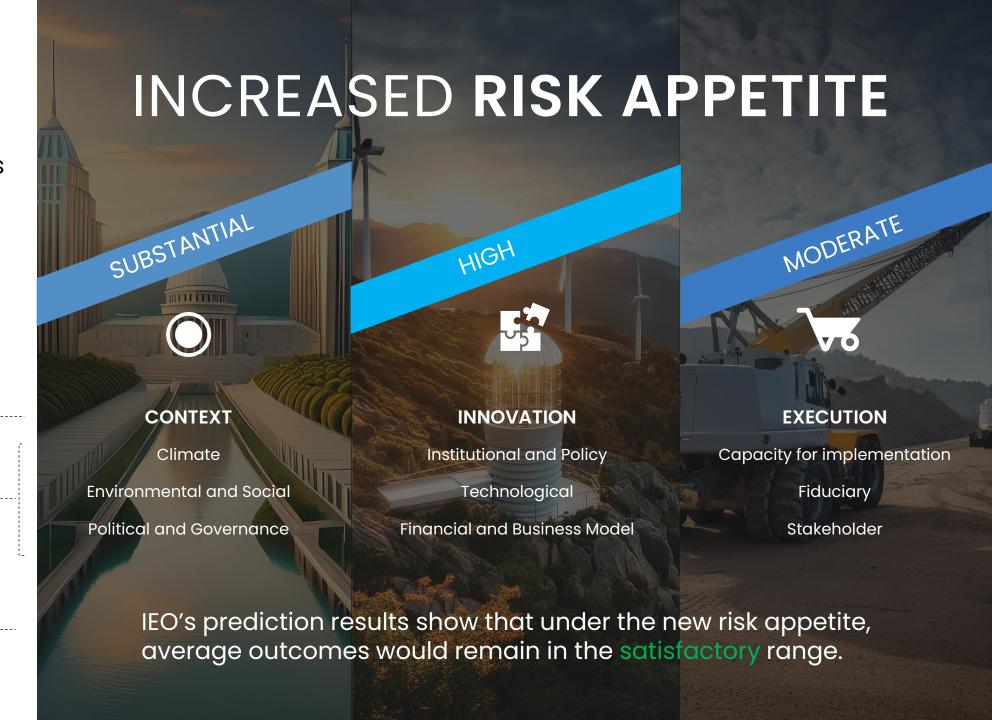
GEF's 2024 "Risk Appetite" paper substantially increased the GEF's risk appetite



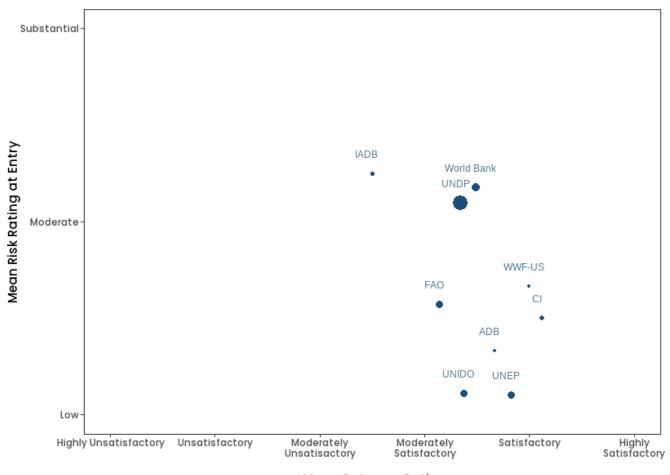
DIMENSION

Category

6%







Finding

Number of projects

per agency

200

DIFFERENT RISK

PROFILES CAN LEAD TO SIMILAR
OUTCOMES AMONG GEF AGENCIES

Agencies have different risk management strategies and different abilities to manage risks

Mean Outcome Rating



Risk Profile

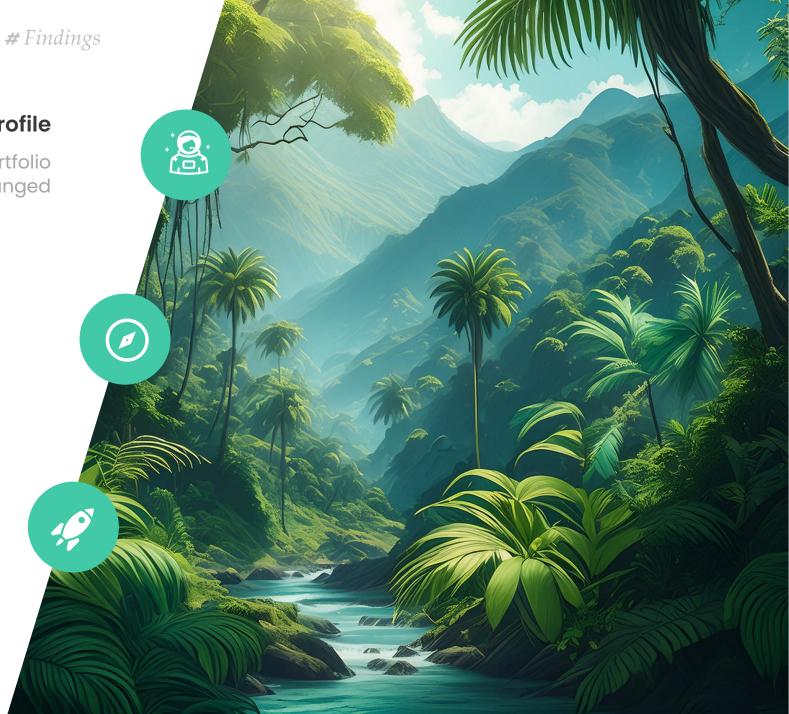
The risk profile of the GEF portfolio has remained largely unchanged

Limited Guidance

Agencies emphasized need for clearer guidance and transparency regarding risk expectations

Room for Risk

MDBs and UNDP, can take on more risk and achieve successful outcomes





Risk & Reward

Some high-risk projects may achieve significant impact and reward, yet others may ultimately fail 02

Risk Reality

On average, taking on higher risk does not directly translate into higher rewards 03

<u>Management</u> <u>Matters</u>

How projects are managed is a significant driver of outcomes 04

Complex Situations

Operating in complex country conditions, e.g., FCV countries, does not necessarily lead to lower outcomes



Evaluation

RECOMMENDATIONS



Refine

risk appetite statement to clarify risk ownership and establish a risk tolerance band



Mechanism

Establish a risk management mechanism to proactively manage risks



WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

- Evaluation Work in Progress
- O 2 Management Action Record
- Knowledge Management and Learning
- Budget and Human Resources



2024 Evaluation of	2025	Eva	Evaluation of									
J J A S O N D	J F		А	М	J		А					
GEF Programs in Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)						GEF Food Systems and Land Use Integrated Programs						
The GEF's Chemicals and Waste Focal Area						GEF Support to Nature-based Solutions					ons	
Results Based Management System						Policy Coherence in the GEF						
Study on the Environmental & Socioeconomic Co-benefits of GEF Interventions						Results-Based Management in the GEF					EF .	
Evaluation of Private Sector Engagement						GEF Partnership Dynamics and Comparative Advantage						
			LDCF/SCCF Annual Evaluation Report 2024 and Program Evaluations						t			
	An Update of											
		The Country Engo Strategy Evaluati						ngager lation	gement n			
						Small	Grants I	Progran	nme Ev	aluation		

Management Action Record

Past Reforms

2021

Council Endorses the Management Response and Action Plan

2022

Management specifies level of agreement, develops an action plan with timelines

Findings from the 2024 MAR

BASED ON 21 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 8 EVALUATIONS

- Level of agreement was expressed for all recommendations
- **Action plans**

Lacked concrete actions/ specific timelines

81% Fully addressed recommendations

19%

52%

• primarily list concrete actions 48%

present preliminary actions or discuss conditions under which the actions would be contingent

Management Action Record

GEF IEO's ratings in 2024 for implementation progress

The GEF IEO's ratings
matched with Management's
self-assessment in 43% of cases



16 matches out of 37 responses

Knowledge Management



PUBLICATIONS

- Open access publication
 Conflict-Sensitive Conservation
 Lessons from the Global
 Environment Facility
- Blogs
- Website





TRAINING

- Workshop on Evaluation at the nexus of the environment and development for the International Program for Development Evaluation Training (JULY 2024)
- Online training on environmental evaluation





MEETINGS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Conference (March 2024)
- IEG@50 & GEI: Future proofing national evaluation systems environment
- Climate Funds Meeting
- gLOCAL
- MOPAN Multilateral Funds









Online Training: Environmental Evaluation











GEF IEO 4th Conference

on Evaluating Environment and Development



INTEGRATING

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC DOMAINS FOR **SUSTAINABILITY**













GEF IEO 4th Conference

DAY 1

Opening Plenary 1: Setting the Stage:

Theme of Integration

Parallel 1: Food Security

Parallel 2: Transformational Change

Parallel 3: Fragile Conflict Vulnerable

Parallel 4: Systems Design Quest

Parallel 5: Transforming Evaluation Systems

to Mainstream Sustainability

Parallel 6: Pollution, Chemicals, & Water

Management

Plenary 2: Science Informing Evaluation

Parallel 7: Evaluation Networks and

Communities of Practice

Parallel 8: Sustainable Cities

Parallel 9: Socioeconomic Co-Benefits and

Development Impacts

Opening Day Cocktail: Networking and

Poster Display

O DAY 2

Plenary 3: Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

Plenary 4: Challenges in Private Environmental

Finance

Parallel 10: Private Sector

Parallel 11: Inclusion

Parallel 12: Climate Change Mitigation

Plenary 5: Evaluating Sustainability in

Environment Funds

Parallel 13: Adaptation and Climate Resilience

Parallel 14: Mainstreaming Ecosystem Health, and

Equity Lens into All Evaluations

Parallel 15: Approaches, Methods, and Tools –

Mixed Methods Focus

Parallel 16: Measuring Behavior Change

Parallel 17: Approaches, Methods, and Tools –

Quantitative Focus

Parallel 18: Forestry, Land-use Management,

Biodiversity



DAY 3

Plenary 6: Transforming Evaluation

Systems to Mainstream

Sustainability: Country Perspectives

Parallel 19: Decolonizing Evaluation

Parallel 20: Country-led Evaluations

Parallel 21: Open Discussion on Integrating Environment into

Evaluation

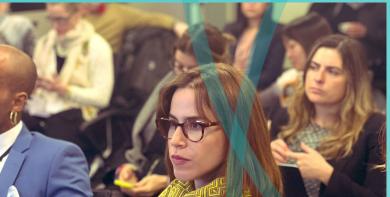
Closing Plenary 7: Looking Ahead













IEO BUDGET



FY24

5.4 million

1.6 million

1.1 million

8.3 million

FY25

5.7 million

2.0 million

1.2 million

8.9 million

TOTAL

Operations

Evaluations

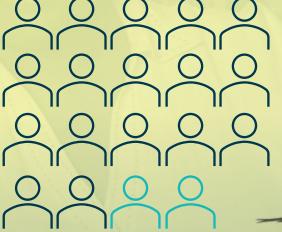
Lease & Indirect

Human Resources



For FY25

19 staff



Evaluations coming next ... December 2024



Study on the Environmental and Socioeconomic
Co-benefits of GEF
Interventions

Evaluation of GEF Programs in Pacific Small Island
Developing States (SIDS)

Evaluation of the GEF's Chemicals and Waste Focal Area



Evaluation of the

Results Based Management System



Evaluation of Private Sector Engagement The Council, having reviewed the "FY 2025 Work Program and Budget of the Independent Evaluation Office," acknowledges the progress made by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) in the reporting period. The Council approves the annual IEO budget for FY25 for a total of \$8.967 million, which includes the 11% Indirect overhead charge in accordance with the decision made by the GEF Council at its 64th Session in June 2023.

