



EVALUATION IN THE GEF

www.gefieo.org

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

March 2024



Overview

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Roundtable Discussions

Evaluation in the GEF

March 2024

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Evaluation vs Monitoring

Monitoring

Is our activity on track?

Monitoring uses systematic collection of data to keep activities on track.

Forms of monitoring:

Monitoring of **environmental conditions and stressors**

Monitoring of **progress toward project/program outcomes**

Monitoring of **project/program performance**

Evaluation vs Monitoring

Evaluation

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

Project/Program Evaluations:

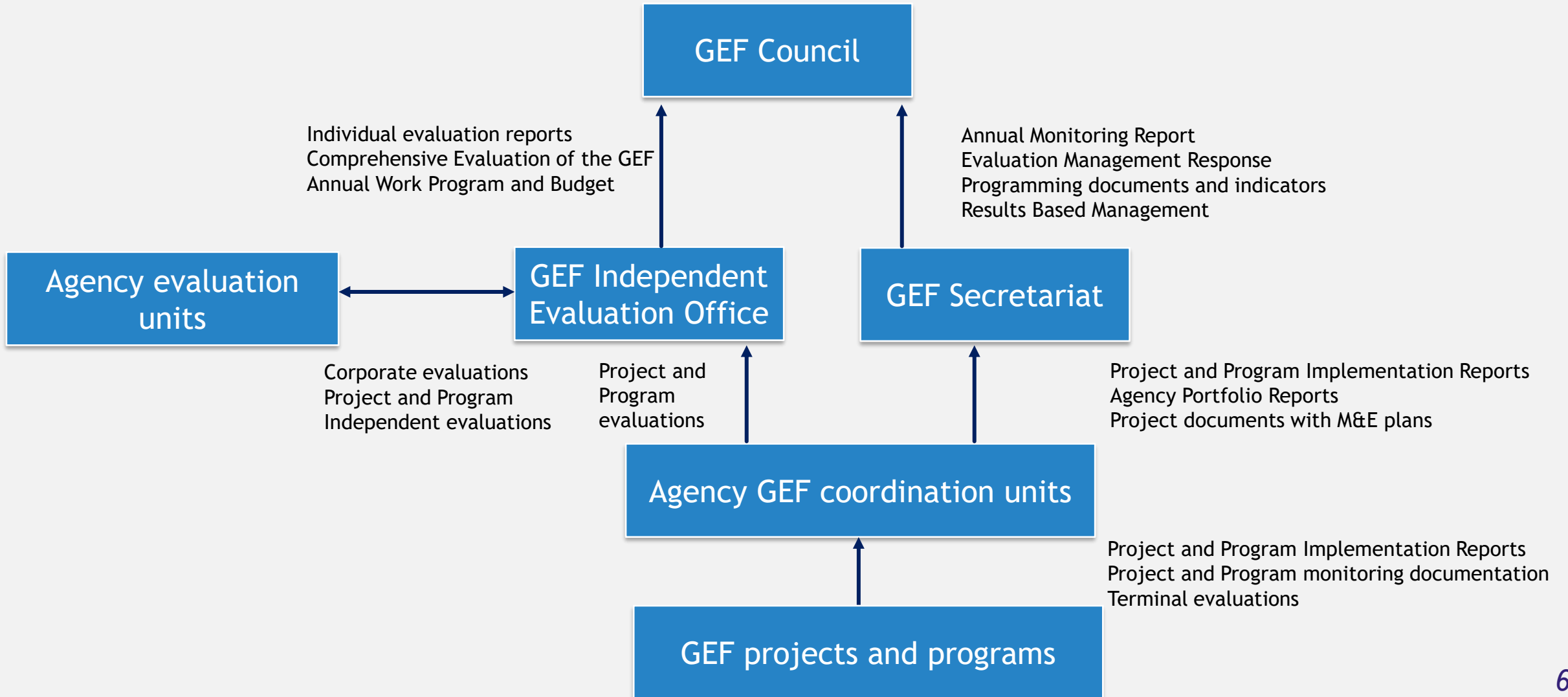
Mid-term

Terminal

Other forms of evaluation: **impact, thematic, performance, country, corporate, comprehensive**


Evaluation is a *systematic and impartial* assessment of an activity (program, strategy, etc.) that analyzes relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of interventions.

Evaluation in the GEF



GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)

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

Evaluation in the GEF

Two overarching objectives

➤ **Accountability**

To what extent is the GEF Partnership contributing to global environmental benefits?

➤ **Learning & Knowledge Exchange**

How do we use lessons learned for decision-making to improve performance?

GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)

Mission

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

Principles

Impartiality
Professionalism
Transparency

Functions

Independent evaluation
Setting of minimum standards
(normative)
Quality control (oversight)
Sharing evaluative knowledge

GEF IEO Stakeholders



Clients with governance role:

GEF Council

GEF Assembly

Replenishment Group



Clients that carry out decisions of the governing bodies:

GEF Secretariat

GEF Agencies

Executing Agencies at the country and regional level



Country Clients



Clients involved in M&E



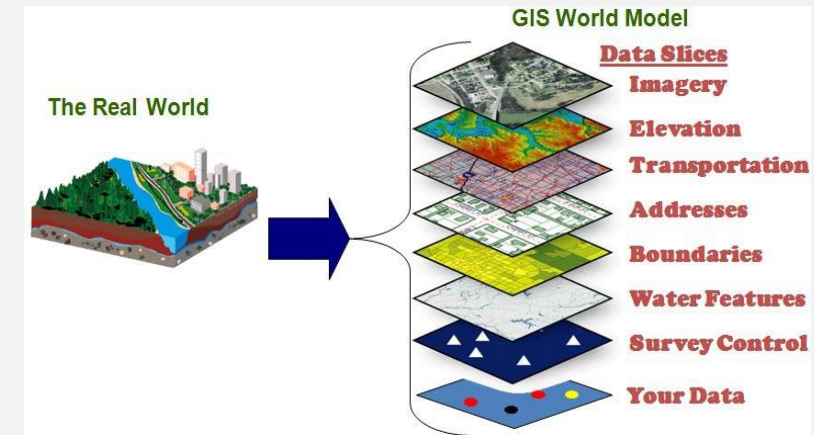
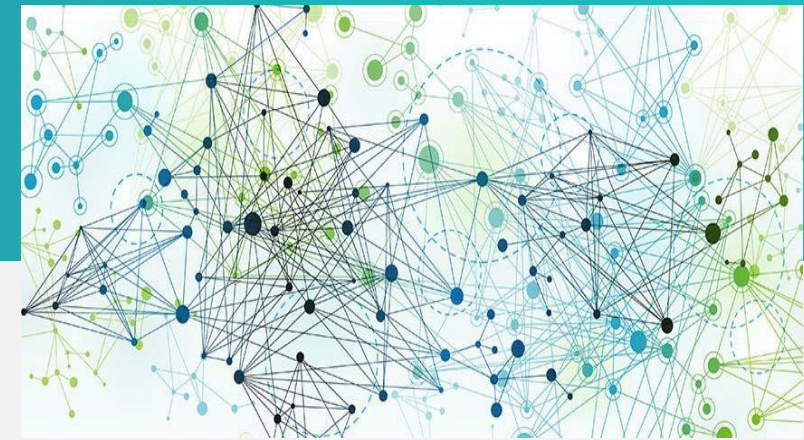
Broader audience: environmental entities, academia, research institutions, civil society, general public

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



**Work Program
for GEF-8 period**

FY23

Impacts of COVID-19 on GEF Interventions

Water Security

Annual Performance Report 2023

Report GEF IEO MAR

GEF Support to Community-based approaches

Climate Information and Early warning systems

Behavioral Change

Strategic Country Cluster: Lower Mekong

LDCF/SCCF: Annual Evaluation Report 2023

FY24

Socio Economic Co Benefits

Country Cluster Evaluation on Drylands

Sustainable Cities program

Global Wildlife Conservation Program

Integrated interventions in SIDS

GEF and LDCF Support to Climate Information and Early Warning Systems

Learning from Challenges

Assessment of Portfolio Risk

Cofinancing in the GEF

Implementation of the Private Sector Strategy in the Commodities and Cities Programs

LDCF/SCCF Program Evaluation Report

LDCF/SCCF Annual Evaluation Report 2024

FY25

Country Engagement Strategy

Small Grants Program

GEF Food Systems Program Evaluation

GEF Support to the Amazon Basin

Implementation of the Non-Grant Instrument

GEF Support to Phasing out PCBs

Formative Evaluation of the GEF-7 and GEF-8 Impact Programs

Governance of the GEF and Implementation of GEF Policies

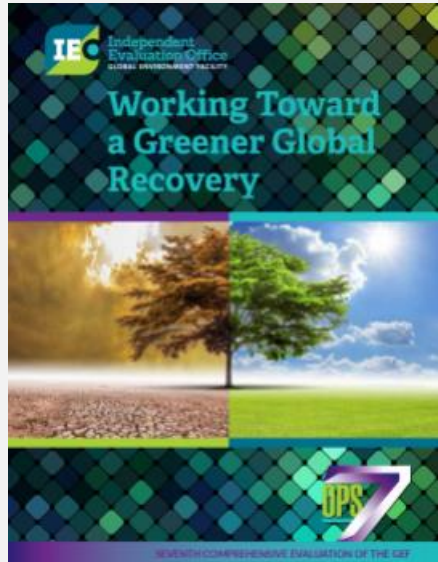
GEF Support to Nature Based Solutions

GEF Results Based Management

Policy Cohérence in the GEF

Application of Technologies

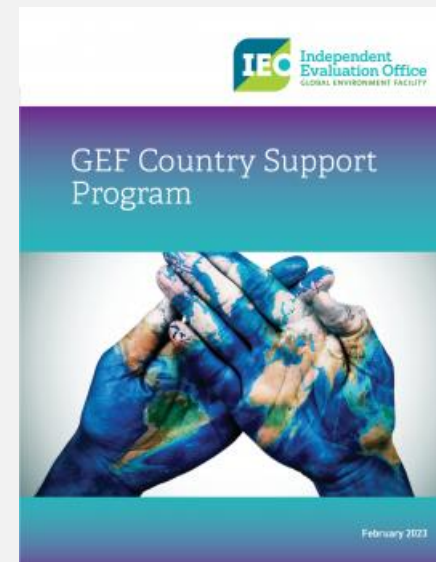
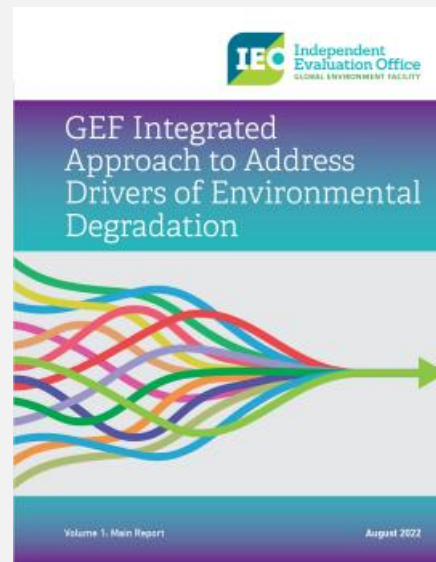
Recent evaluations



Evaluation of GEF Support in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations (2020)



November 2020



Knowledge Management



Books Published

- ✓ *Transformational Change for People and the Planet* (GEF IEO Director and Deputy Director. Springer)
- ✓ *Environmental Evaluation and Global Development Institutions: A Case Study of the Global Environment Facility* (Geeta Batra, Juha Uitto, Osvaldo Feinstein. Taylor & Francis Group)
- ✓ *Dissemination of OPS7-Exec summaries in English, French, Spanish.*



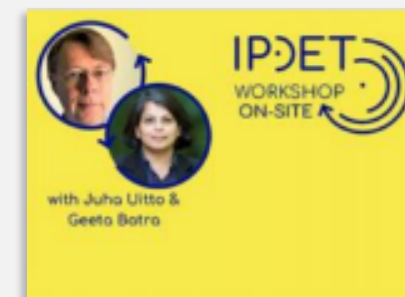
Conferences, events and networks

- ✓ International Conference on Evaluating Environment and Development (March 2024)
- ✓ Expanded Constituency Workshops
- ✓ Environmental Dimensions of Sustainable Development (United Nations Evaluation Group)



Training

- ✓ Training module on evaluation at the nexus of the environment and development for the International Program for Development Evaluation Training
- ✓ Online training on environmental evaluation



Evaluation Policy

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The GEF Evaluation Policy

- ✓ Defines the concepts, roles, types, use and follow up of evaluation within the GEF
- ✓ Defines the institutional framework and responsibilities
- ✓ Indicates the minimum requirements covering:
 - design of M&E plans
 - application of M&E plans
 - project and program evaluations
 - engagement of operational focal points in evaluations

Follow up to Evaluations

A management response is required for all evaluations and performance reports presented to the GEF Council by the GEF IEO. It is coordinated by GEF SEC with inputs from other GEF stakeholders.

GEF Council takes into consideration the evaluation findings and the recommendations as well as the management response and action plans in the decision.

GEF IEO reports on the progress of actions towards implementation of the Council-approved management action plans annually (Management Action Record)

Minimum Requirement 1

Design of M&E Plans

Concrete and fully budgeted M&E plan by CEO endorsement for FSP/
CEO approval for MSP/ by PFD approval for programs.

M&E Plan should include:

- SMART indicators
- Program or project baseline data
- Implementation reports, midterm reviews, terminal evaluations
- Organizational set up and budget for M&E

Minimum Requirement 2

Implementation of M&E Plans

Project/program monitoring and supervision will include execution of M&E plan:

- Use of SMART indicators for process and implementation
- Use of SMART indicators for results
- Baseline is fully established, data are compiled to review progress, evaluations are undertaken as planned
- Organizational set up for M&E is operational, its budget is spent as planned

Minimum Requirement 3

Project/Program Evaluations:

All FSP/MSP projects and all programs will be evaluated at the end of implementation

Evaluations should be

- Independent of project/ program management
- Compliant with international evaluation standards and minimum requirements of the GEF evaluation policy
- Timely
 - uploaded to GEF Portal within 2 months of evaluation completion and shared publicly within 12 months of project/program closure

Minimum Requirement 4

Engagement of operational focal points

- ❑ M&E plans will specify how OFPs will be engaged
- ❑ GEF Agencies will inform OFPs on M&E activities
- ❑ OFPs will be informed on midterm reviews, terminal evaluations, receiving drafts for comments and final reports
- ❑ OFPs will be invited to contribute to the management response (where applicable)
- ❑ GEF Agencies will keep track of application of this requirement in their GEF-financed projects and programs

What constitutes a good terminal evaluation?

Must Cover In Depth

- Outcomes
- Sustainability
- Project finances
- Quality of Implementation & Execution
- M&E
- Lessons & recommendations

Quality

- Consistency and comprehensiveness
- Transparency and timeliness
- Candor
- Balance
- Utility

IEO validates TE quality

IEO DATA and EVALUATIONS

www.gefieo.org



Data by Country and other resources on the IEO website

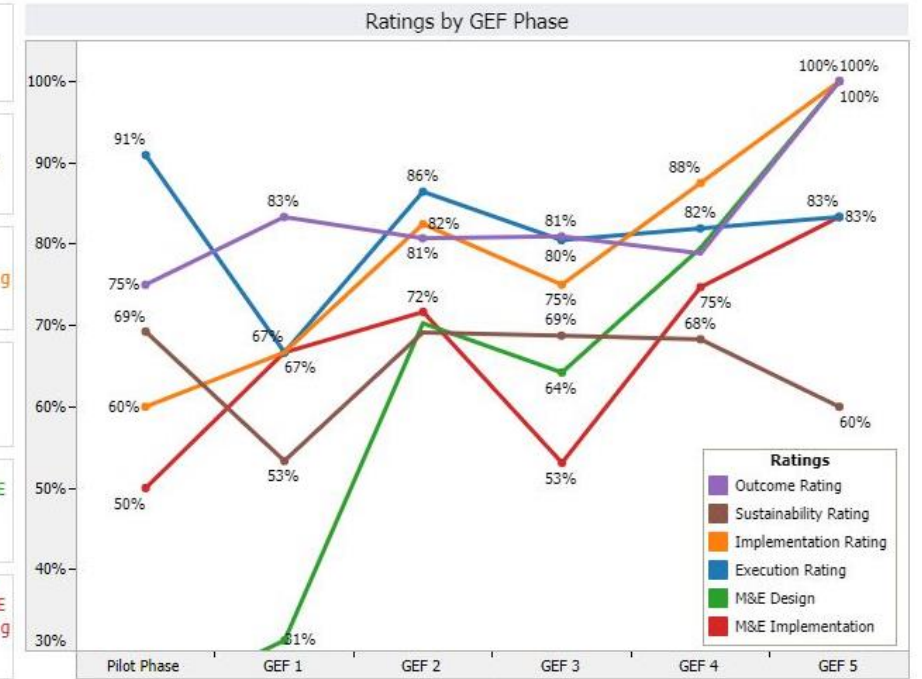
www.gefieo.org/data-ratings



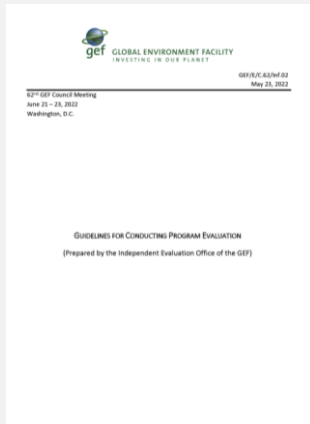
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Disclaimer: Country borders or names do not necessarily reflect the GEF IEO official position. This map is for illustrative purposes and does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the GEF IEO, concerning the legal status of any country or territory or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

- 80%** Satisfactory Outcome Rating (n= 292)
- 68%** Satisfactory Sustainability Rating (n= 276)
- 80%** Satisfactory Implementation Rating (n= 241)
- 82%** Satisfactory Execution Rating (n= 250)
- 67%** Satisfactory M&E Design Rating (n= 272)
- 66%** Satisfactory M&E Implementation Rating (n= 172)



Helpful Links



Terminal Evaluation Guidelines can be accessed at:
<https://www.gef.io/evaluations/terminal-evaluations-2023>

Guidelines for Program Evaluation:

<https://www.gef.io/sites/default/files/documents/council-documents/c-62-e-inf-02.pdf>

Guidelines for Reporting on Completed Enabling Activities

<https://www.gef.io/evaluations/enabling-activities-2023>

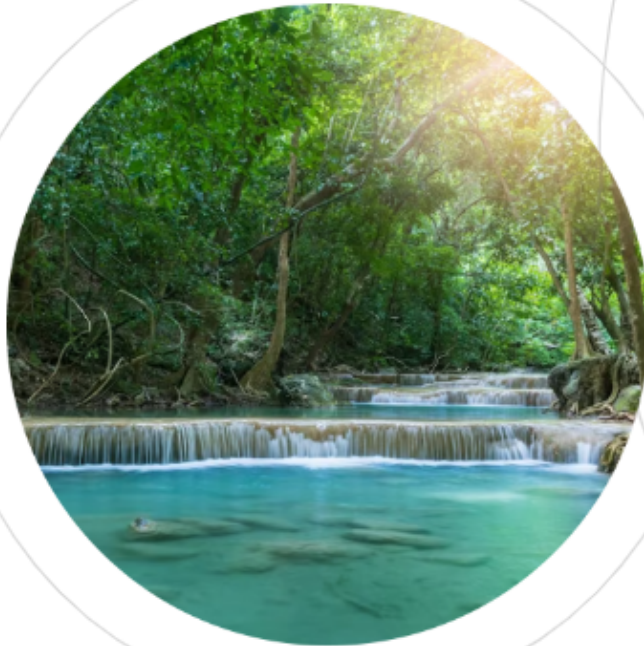
Terminal Evaluations can be accessed at:

<https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/database>

| Country (National Projects) | Title | ID | Countries | Focal Area | Type | Agencies | GEF Grant | Co-financing | Status |
|------------------------------------|--|-------|---|----------------|-------------------|--|------------|--------------|------------------|
| Country (Regional/Global Projects) | Managing Biodiversity and Environmental Risks Associated with the Safe Storage Operations in the Red Sea | 11094 | Yemen | Biodiversity | Full-size Project | United Nations Development Programme | 4,016,210 | 77,000,000 | Concept Approved |
| Funding Source | Subsistence Twenty Group | 11055 | Global | Climate Change | Full-size Project | United Nations Industrial Development Organisation | 4,872,891 | 3,500,000 | Concept Approved |
| Non-Grant Instrument | Building programmes to leverage allocation by awarding and monitoring impact of climate change | | | | | | | | |
| CBIT | United Nations Programme for Support Development of Biodiversity Financial Plans | 11094 | Algeria, Armenia, Bahrain, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, | Biodiversity | Enabling Activity | United Nations Development Programme | 16,095,000 | | Concept Proposed |

Modules

Key approaches and tools developed for evaluating the environmental dimensions of development interventions



1 Evaluating at the Nexus of Development and Environment

2 Using a Systems Lens to Expand a Theory of Change

3 Geospatial Approaches in Environmental Evaluation: An Introduction

4 Using Geospatial Approaches with Other Methods to Assess Evaluation Criteria

5 Assessing Transformational Change and Progress Towards Impact

Thank you!

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<https://www.youtube.com/@gefieo>

