



Independent
Evaluation Office
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

EVALUATION IN THE GEF

EXPANDED CONSTITUENCY WORKSHOP

ANGOLA

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Overview

1. What is Monitoring and Evaluation in the GEF?
2. What does the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) do?
 - Recent evaluation findings on performance, progress towards impact and transformational change
 - Exercise on sustainability
3. Where can I find evaluations?

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 in the GEF

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

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

Project/Program-Level Evaluations based on WHEN

Mid-term
Terminal

Portfolio-level Evaluations based on WHAT and WHAT FOR

Impact, thematic, performance, country/country cluster, comprehensive

Evaluation in the GEF

Two overarching objectives:

- Promote **accountability** for the achievement of GEF objectives through the assessment of *results, effectiveness, processes, and performance* of the partners involved in GEF activities.
- Promote **learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing** on results and lessons learned among the GEF and its partners as a basis for decision making on policies, strategies, program management, programs, and projects; and to improve **knowledge and performance**.

The GEF Evaluation Policy

- Defines the concepts, roles, and use of evaluation within the GEF
- Defines the institutional framework and responsibilities
- Indicates the minimum requirements covering:
 1. Design of M&E plans
 2. Application of M&E plans
 3. Project/program Terminal Evaluations
 4. Engagement of Operational Focal Points in M&E

The GEF Evaluation Policy

Main updates to the Evaluation Policy includes

- Gender-responsive approach
- Evaluations of Programs
- Jointly implemented projects
- Collection of data on socio-economic co-benefits and geospatial coordinates when possible

THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OFFICE OF THE GEF



GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)

Mission:

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

Brief history:

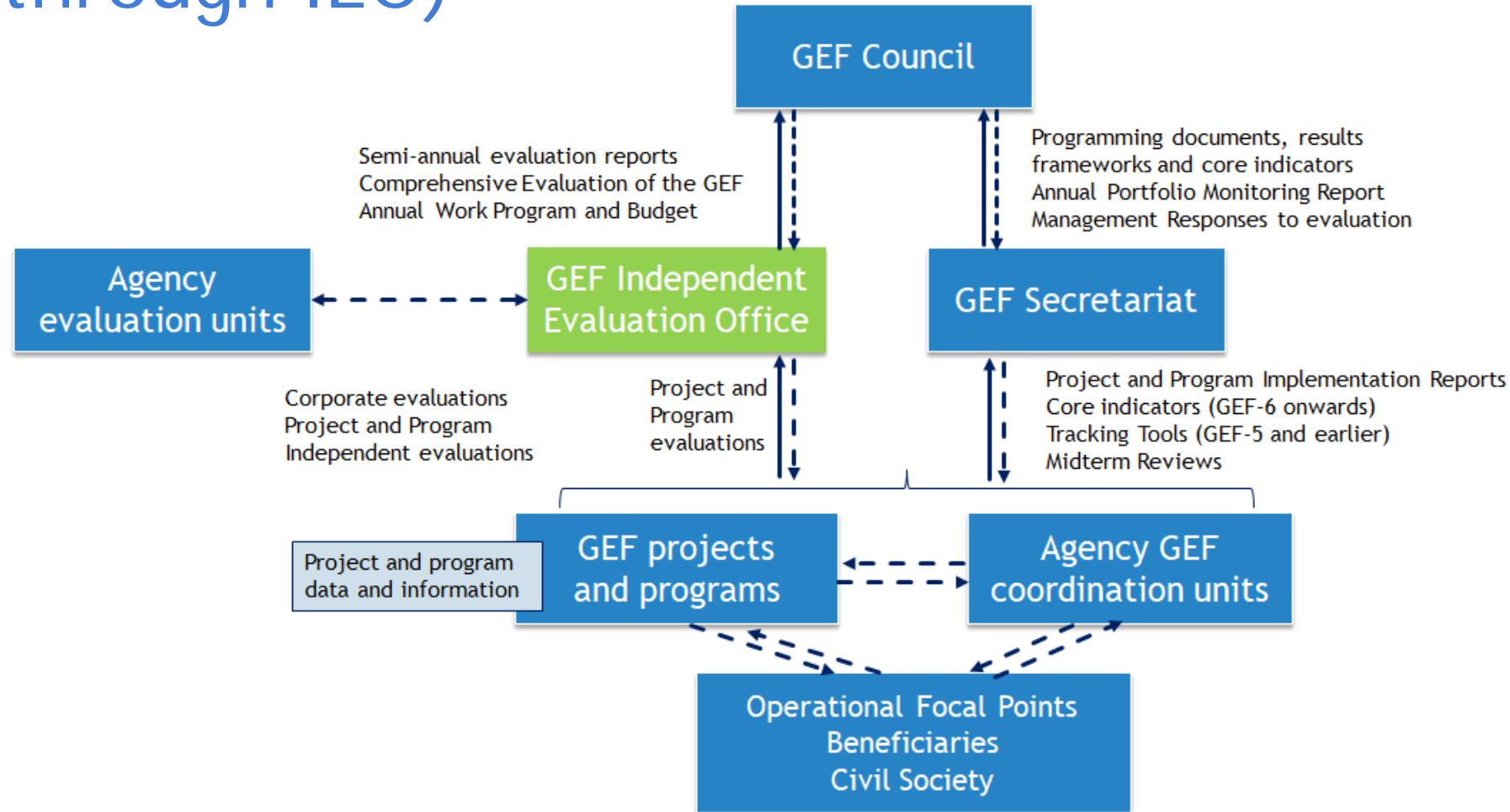
1996 — Initially established as an M&E unit within the GEF Secretariat

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

Separate reporting line for evaluation (through IEO)



Underpinning IEO Work: Terminal Evaluation

GEF M&E Policy (2010): Minimum Requirement 3

- Terminal evaluations mandatory since 1995
- Required for full-sized and medium-sized projects

Terminal Evaluation mainly assess:

- Results: outputs, outcomes, sustainability and progress to impact
- M&E: M&E design, M&E implementation
- Implementation and Execution: quality of Implementation, quality of execution

Terminal Evaluation Guidelines:

Available at

<https://www.gefio.org/evaluations/guidelines-gef-agencies-conducting-terminal-evaluation-full-sized-projects>

Terminal Evaluations can be accessed at:

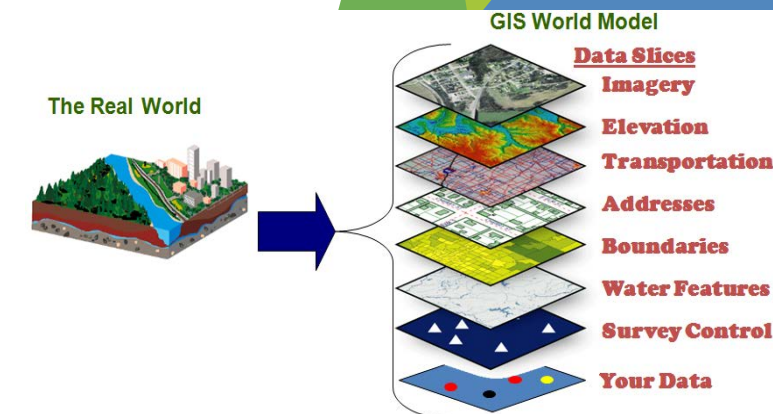
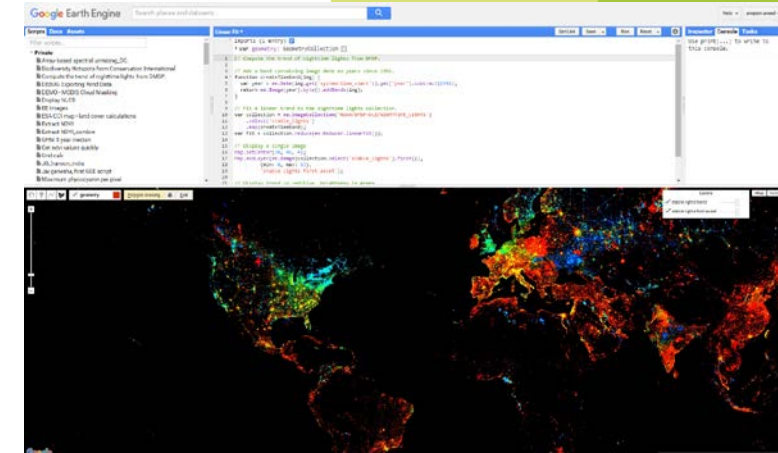
<https://www.thegef.org/projects>

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



RECENT EVALUATION FINDINGS

Performance in the Constituency

(73 national projects in the GEF IEO TER dataset)

74 % ✓

of projects had satisfactory
outcome ratings

Drivers of good performance:

- Quality of design
- Quality of implementation and execution
- Materialization of Co-financing

Examples from the Constituency: Performance

- Coastal Biodiversity Conservation and Management NACOMA (Namibia)

Quality of design (and implementation)

- ❑ Continuity among implementing staff cited as contributing to project success (and the scaling up of outcomes).
- ❑ Presence of champions embedded within institutions were key to establishing sustainable use regimes for Namibia's protected areas system.



Examples from the Constituency: Performance

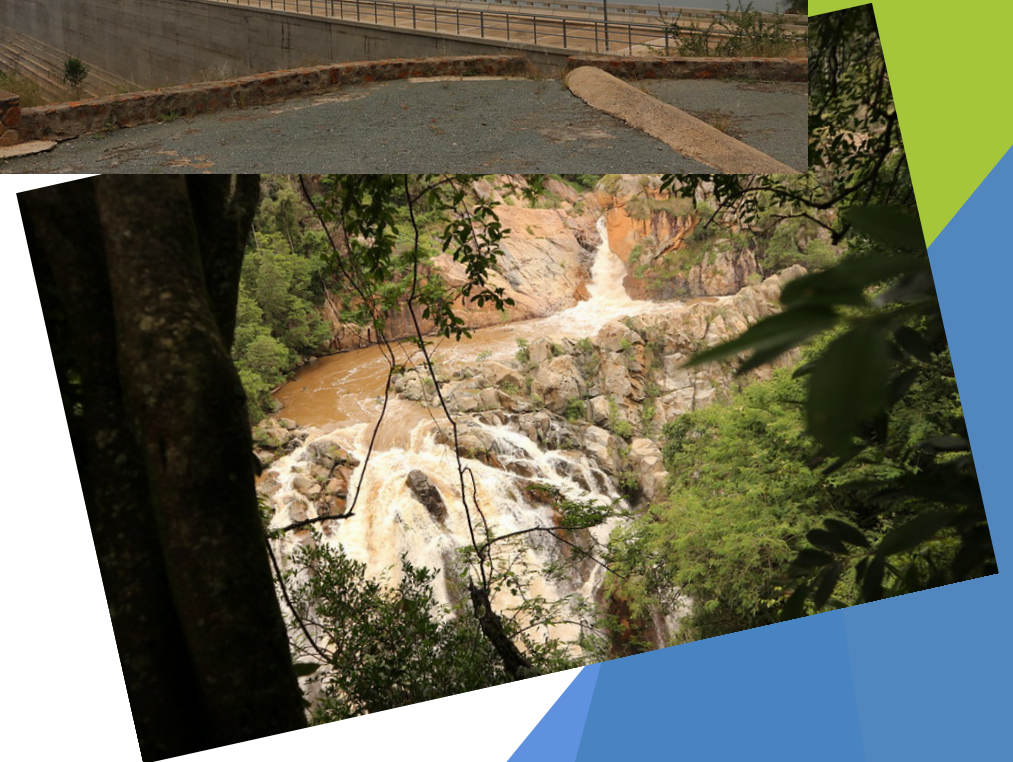
- Adapting National and Transboundary Water Resources Management to Manage Expected Impacts of Climate Change (Eswatini)

Quality of design (and implementation)

- ❑ Coordinated involvement of multiple agencies, adjustment of initial design in alignment with SCCF.

Materialization of Co-financing

- ❑ A huge amount of financing was mobilized, because of this the project managed to create the huge foot print that it will leave on the Swaziland community development landscape.



Progress toward Impact and Transformational change

66 %

achieved environmental stress reduction (n=32 national projects)

55 %

achieved broader adoption (n=32 national projects)

Success factors for transformational change:

- Clear ambition in design
- Addressing market and system reforms through policies
- Mechanisms for financial sustainability
- Quality of implementation and execution

→ May be achieved by projects of different size (not just large projects!)

Examples from the Constituency: Transformational Change

- Cape Peninsula Biodiversity Conservation Project (South Africa) triggered a proclamation accelerating alien species clearing program by 15 years. Large impact on the environmental problem.



Clear ambition in design

- ❑ The project responded to severe threats. Design consistent with Government efforts and emphasized building partnerships to create commitment and ensure sustainability.

Addressing system reform through policy change

- ❑ The GEF investment was the single most crucial factor resulting in the CAPE Strategy being developed. Replication effect in other biomes within South Africa and elsewhere.

Discussion

Based on your experience, discuss

- What are the factors that affect sustainability of project outcomes?

Sustainability at Project Completion

(73 national projects from the region in the GEF IEO dataset)

49 %

have outcomes that are
likely to be sustained

Example from the Constituency: Sustainability

- Improvement of Early Warning Systems and Capacity Building for Climate Change (Lesotho)
 - ❑ strong ownership, interest, and commitment among stakeholders and government.
 - ❑ A national coordinating committee is in place, providing a mechanism to advocate and coordinate climate change initiatives, ensuring that policy recommendations and other priorities identified by the project remain visible in the government planning processes.

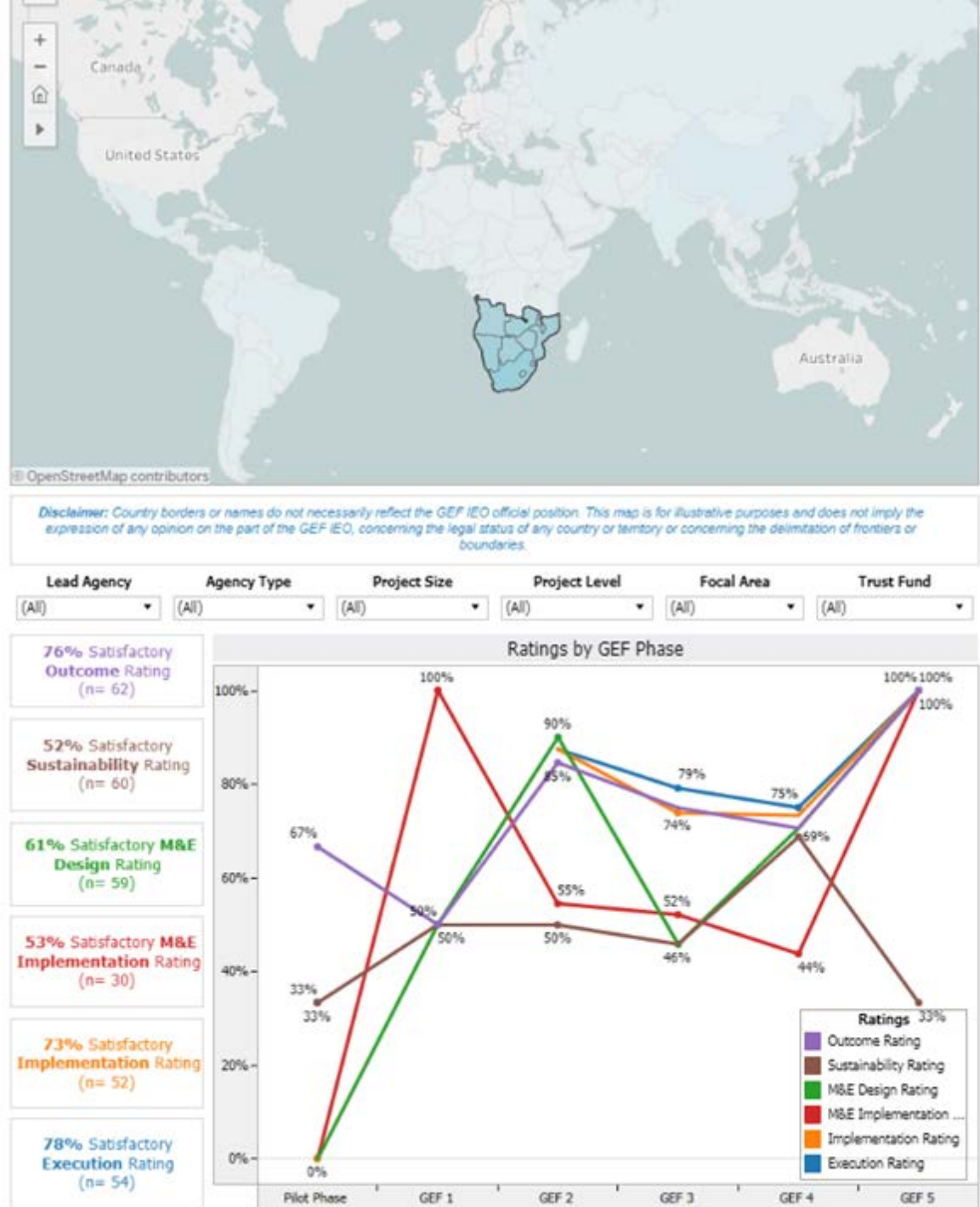


EVALUATIONS ON THE IEO WEBSITE



Data by Country and other resources on the IEO website

<http://www.gefio.org/data-maps>



FOR MORE
VISIT US AT www.gefieo.org

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