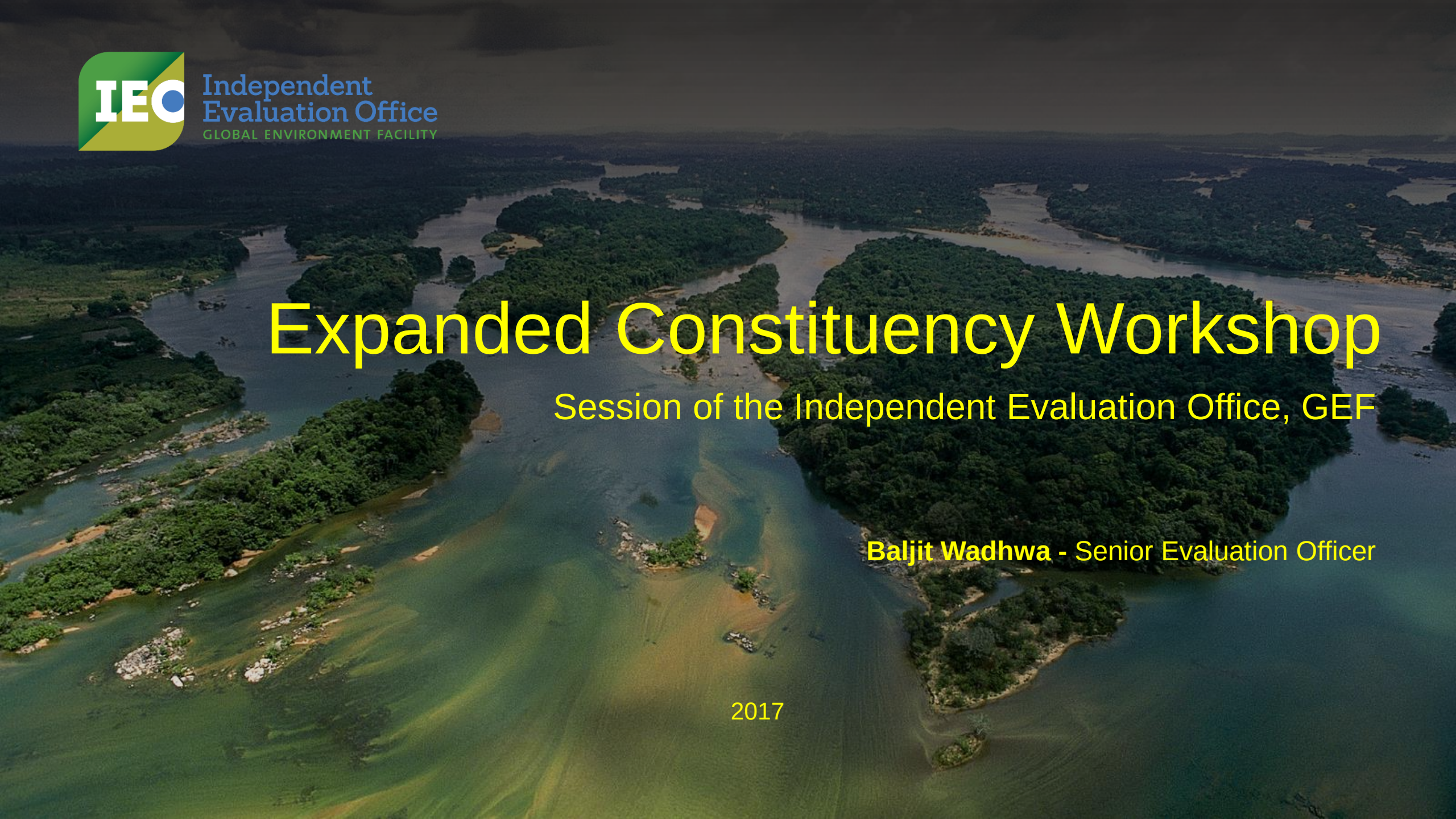

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Expanded Constituency Workshop

Session of the Independent Evaluation Office, GEF

Baljit Wadhwa - Senior Evaluation Officer

2017

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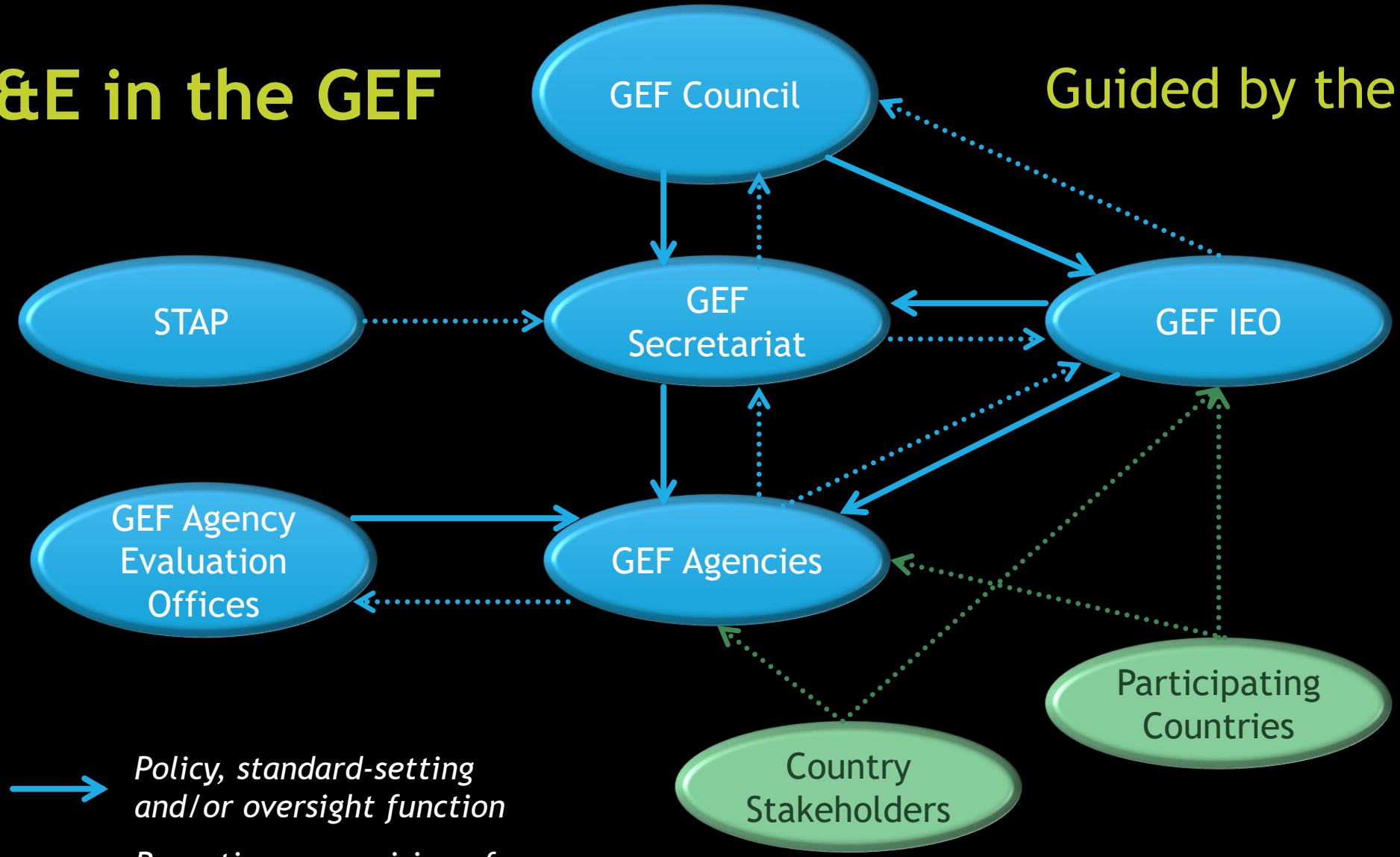
Evaluation Office
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

M&E in the GEF

Guided by the M&E Policy

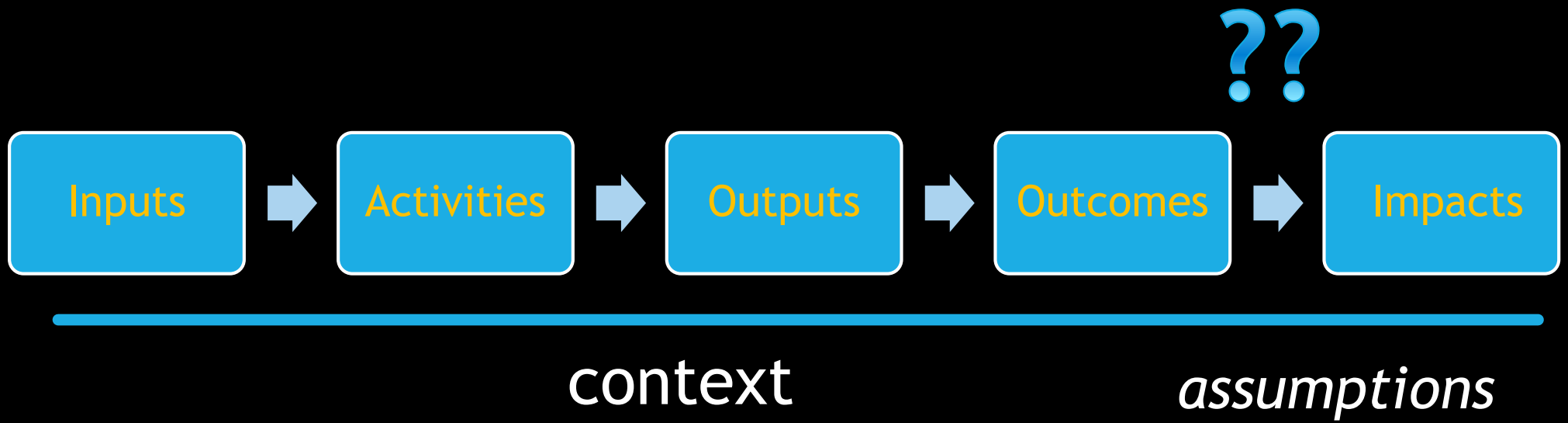


GEF Independent Evaluation Office

Functions

- Independent evaluation
- Setting of minimum standards (normative)
- Quality control (oversight)
- Knowledge sharing and dissemination

M&E starts with a THEORY OF CHANGE



How do we achieve IMPACT?

Enhancing global environmental benefits through excellence in evaluation

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Update on the Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS6)

OPS6 Update

1 Context
2 Performance and Impact
3 Policies and Institutional Issues
4 Financing, Governance and Partnership

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SECTION 1
Context

Completed (17/29) | March | April | May | June | July | August | September

Focal Area Studies

International waters

Chemicals and waste

- Land degradation
  - Climate change
  - Biodiversity

Mainstreaming / Cross cutting

Joint GEF-UNDP Evaluation of the Small Grants Programme

- The GEF Non-grant Instrument
- GEF Engagement with the Private Sector
- Evaluation of the Gender Mainstreaming Policy
- Review of the GEF Agency Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards
  - Review of the Indigenous Peoples Policy
    - Review of the Resource Allocation System STAR

Completed (17/29) | March | April | May | June | July | August | September

Performance and Impacts

Trends in Performance (replacing APR 2017)

A Value for Money Analysis of GEF Interventions in Land Degradation and Biodiversity

Measuring Environmental Outcomes Using Remote Sensing and Geospatial Methods

Program Evaluation of the Least Developed Countries Fund

Impact Evaluation of GEF Support to Protected Areas and Protected Area Systems

Impact of GEF Support on National Environmental Laws and Policies in Selected Countries

- Transformational Engagements
- Program Evaluation of the Special Climate Change Fund
- Evaluation of Programmatic Approaches in the GEF
- Project-Level Accomplishments/ Progress toward Impact
- Evaluation of Integrated Approach Pilots
- Evaluation of the Illegal Wildlife Trade Program Study
- Evaluation of the Multiple Benefits of GEF Support through Its Multifocal Area Portfolio

Completed (17/29) | March | April | May | June | July | August | September

Institutional Issues

Evaluation of the Expansion of the GEF Partnership

Evaluation of the GEF CSO Network

Review of the GEF Approach to Results-Based Management

GEF6 Strategy, Global Relevance

Evaluation of the Knowledge Management System

Review of the Comparative Advantage, Financing, and Governance of the GEF Partnership

OPS6

Early findings

Full OPS6 report

OPS6 Evaluation Briefs

Evaluation of Programmatic Approaches in the GEF - Brief

Climate Change Focal Area Study - Brief

Impact Evaluation of GEF Support to Protected Areas and Protected Area Systems - Brief

Review of the GEF Approach to Results-Based Management - Brief

Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF: Update and Synthesis - Brief

Review of the Comparative Advantage, Financing, and Governance of the GEF Partnership - Brief

Evaluation of the GEF - Civil Society Organization (CSO) Network - Brief

Joint GEF-UNDP Evaluation of the Small Grants Programme (SGP) - Brief

Evaluation of the Multiple Benefits of GEF Support - Brief

The GEF Nongrant Instrument - Brief

A Value for Money Analysis of GEF Interventions in Land Degradation and Biodiversity - Brief

Land Degradation Focal Area (LDFA) Study - Brief

GEF Engagement with the Private Sector - Brief

Measuring Environmental Outcomes Using Remote Sensing and Geospatial Methods - Brief

Project-Level Accomplishments - Brief

Program Evaluation of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) - Brief

International Waters Focal Area Study 2016 -Brief

Program Evaluation of the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) - Brief

Review of the GEF Agency Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards - Brief

Chemicals and Waste (CW) Focal Area Study - Brief

Evaluation of the Expansion of the GEF Partnership - Brief

Transformational Engagements - Brief

Impact of GEF Support on National Environmental Laws and Policies in Selected Countries - Brief

GEF IEO website

23 briefs

Terminal evaluations for all GEF countries

Site visits to 41 countries

GEF relevance

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Convention on Biological Diversity

UNFF

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNEP MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

Evolution of the focal areas strategies

Commitment to the mandate alongside innovation

Spread across countries and sectors

Responsiveness to convention secretariats

SURVEY RESULTS

Comparative advantages of the GEF

95%

Broad coverage of environmental issues

91%

Alignment with MEAs and conventions

SURVEY RESULTS

Comparative advantages of the GEF

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Toward an integrated approach

Multifocal projects
Programmatic approach

Addressing the drivers of environmental degradation

… while meeting Convention requirements

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SECTION 2

Performance and Impact

Continued good performance

79%

of the 581 completed projects have **satisfactory** outcome and implementation ratings

63%

sustainability ratings of moderately likely or above

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

International waters

74% satisfactory outcomes

Highly relevant

Challenging transboundary conditions require cooperation

A catalyst for integration

Limited funding

Portfolio imbalance

Challenge in engaging the private sector

Missed opportunities in linking regional priorities with STAR

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Chemicals and waste

78% satisfactory outcomes

- Highly relevant
- An improved partnership
- Good private sector engagement

- Scaling up results need improvement
- Challenges in sector-wide approaches and regulatory reform focus
- Need for better results tracking

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Land degradation

78% satisfactory outcomes

Highly relevant

Effective in producing global environmental benefits

Greater scope leads to greater benefits

Inadequate attention to socioeconomic drivers

Need to integrate land degradation neutrality

M&E tools could be strengthened

FOCAL AREA STUDIES

Climate change

77% satisfactory outcomes

Integrated approaches

Multifocal area approaches

Strengthening the enabling environment

Private sector engagement

Identification of synergies with other funds

Multifocal area

77% satisfactory outcomes

Designed to produce multiple benefits

Emphasis on integration

BD+LD+CC

Most common combination

Challenges from complexity

Multifocal area

86%

Achieved positive **environmental outcomes** consistent with the combination of focal areas

88%

Achieved positive **socioeconomic outcomes** (primarily increased income or access to capital)

86%

Reported some form of **broader adoption** (mainly through mainstreaming and sustaining)

Programmatic approaches

Addresses environmental drivers

Perform better than standalone projects, except in complex programs

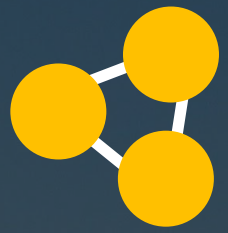
Improved program coherence

Efficiency declines with increased complexity

ISSUES

Programmatic approaches

Managing complexity



Managing coordination effectively

Measuring program performance

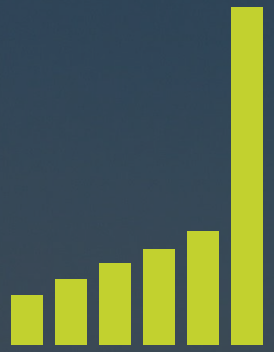
Program design

Small grants program

- Success in securing Global Environmental Benefits
- Attention to community level benefits, poverty and livelihoods
- More successful at mainstreaming gender than other GEF projects
- Differing views on the extent to which SGP should address socio-economic priorities
- The upgrading policy brought challenges
- M&E remains too complex

4 NECESSARY CONDITIONS

for successful transformational change



Ambitious objectives

High-quality implementation

Self-sustaining mechanism

Financially sustainable

STRONG POINTS

Legal and regulatory reform

GEF has contributed to enactment of environmental laws

Many factors influence reform

Often overly optimistic about the likelihood and pace of legal reform

ISSUES

Legal and regulatory reform

Capacity building and enabling activities

Institutional capacity and political will

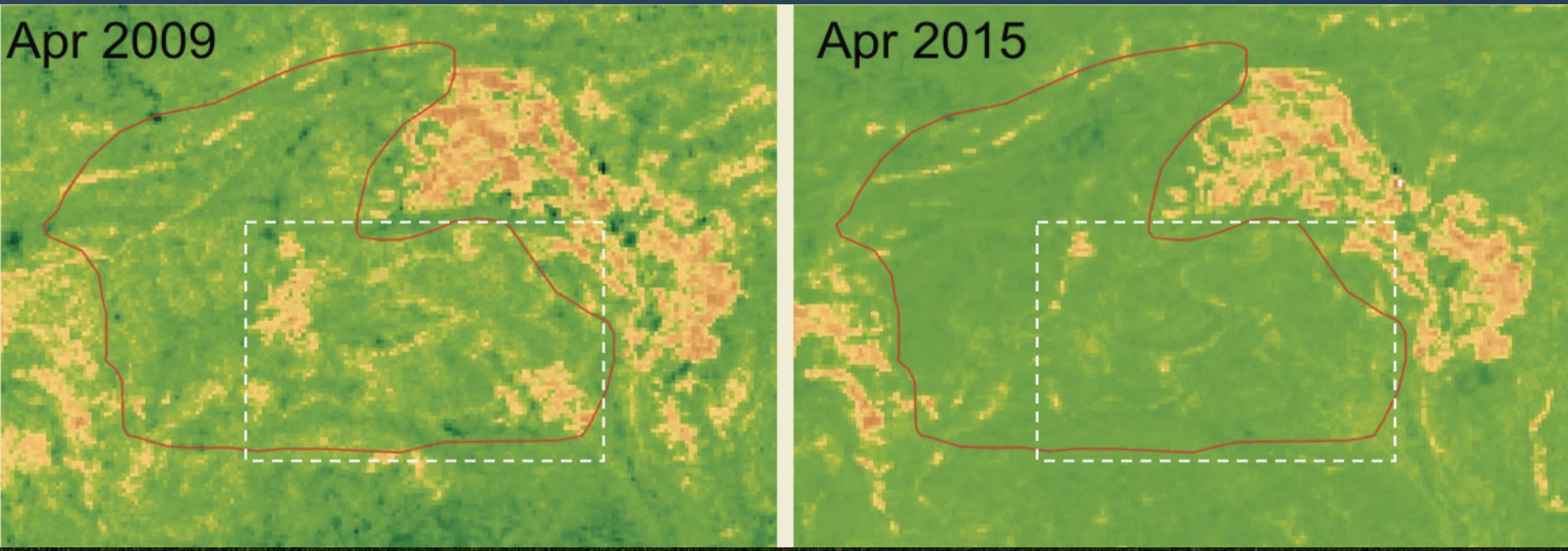
Stability of government

Technical capacity

Ownership

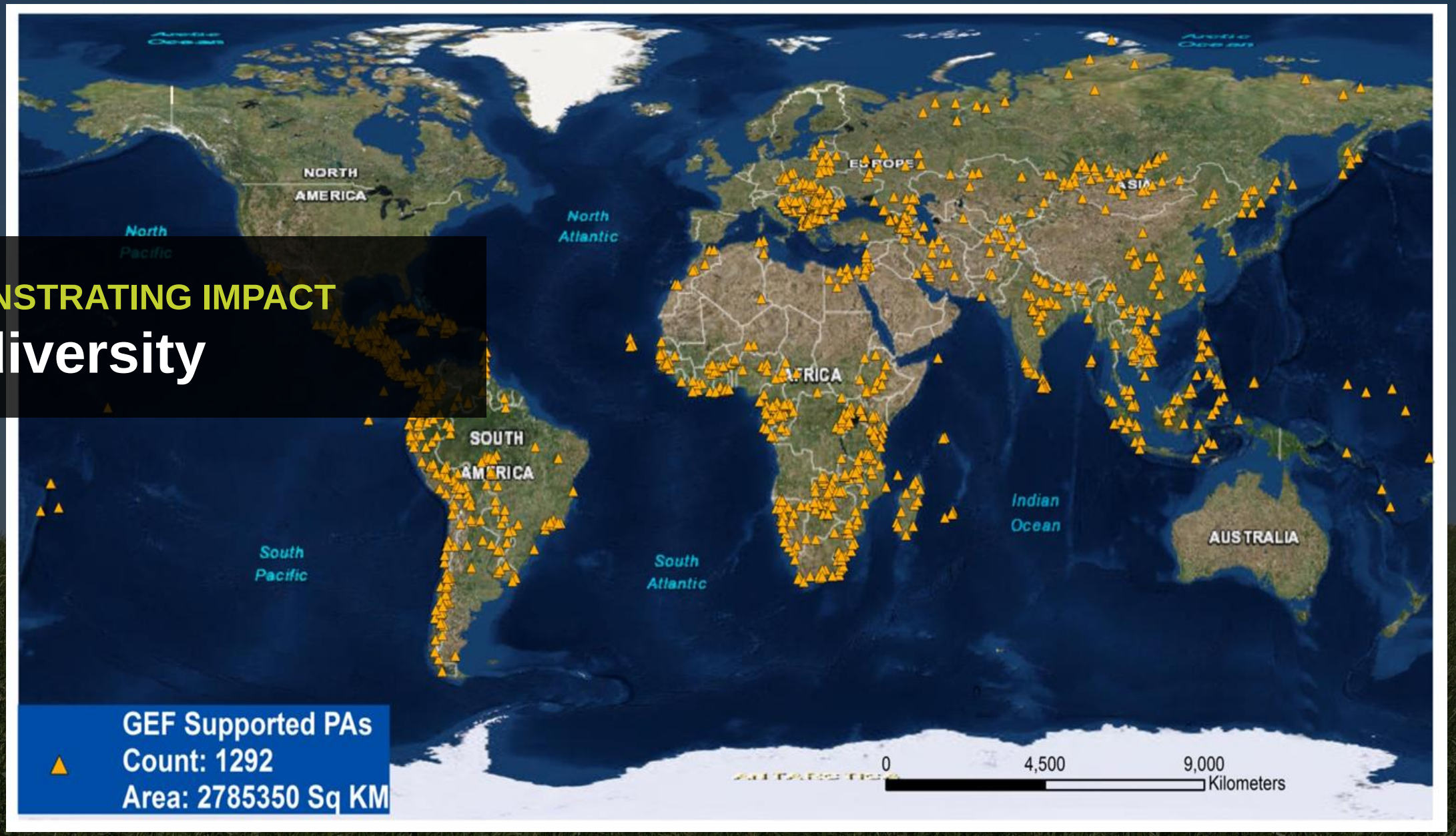
DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

Land Degradation (multifocal): Madhya Pradesh, India



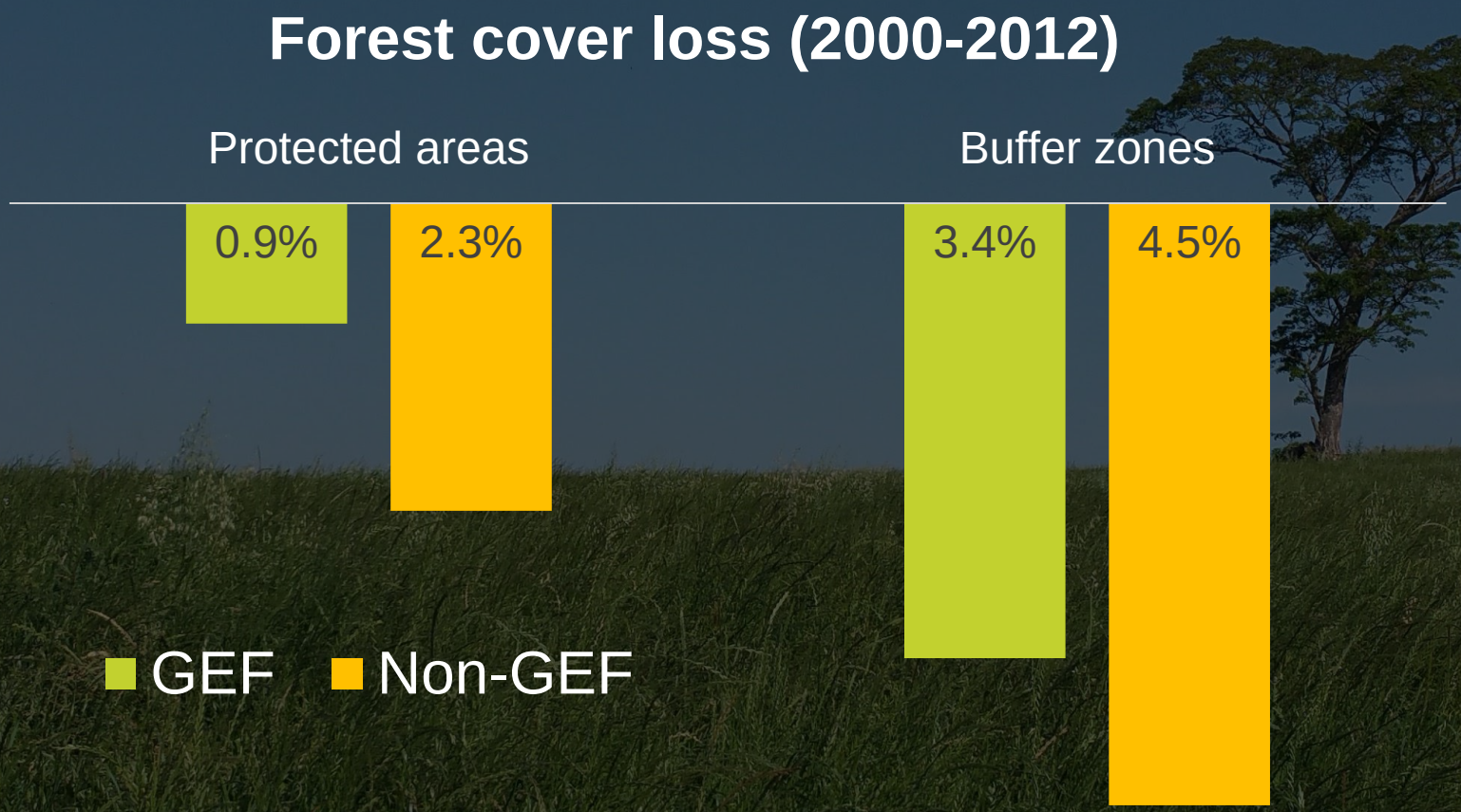
DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

Biodiversity

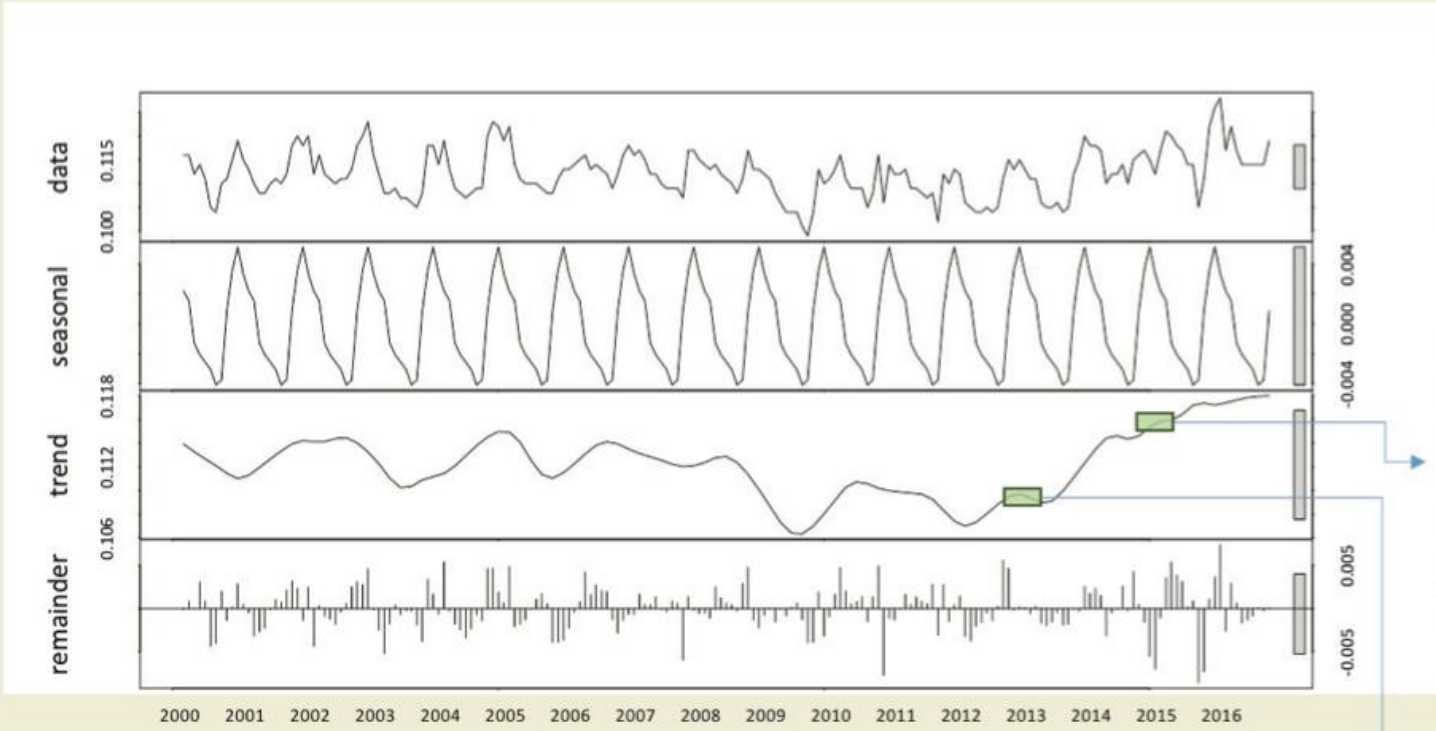


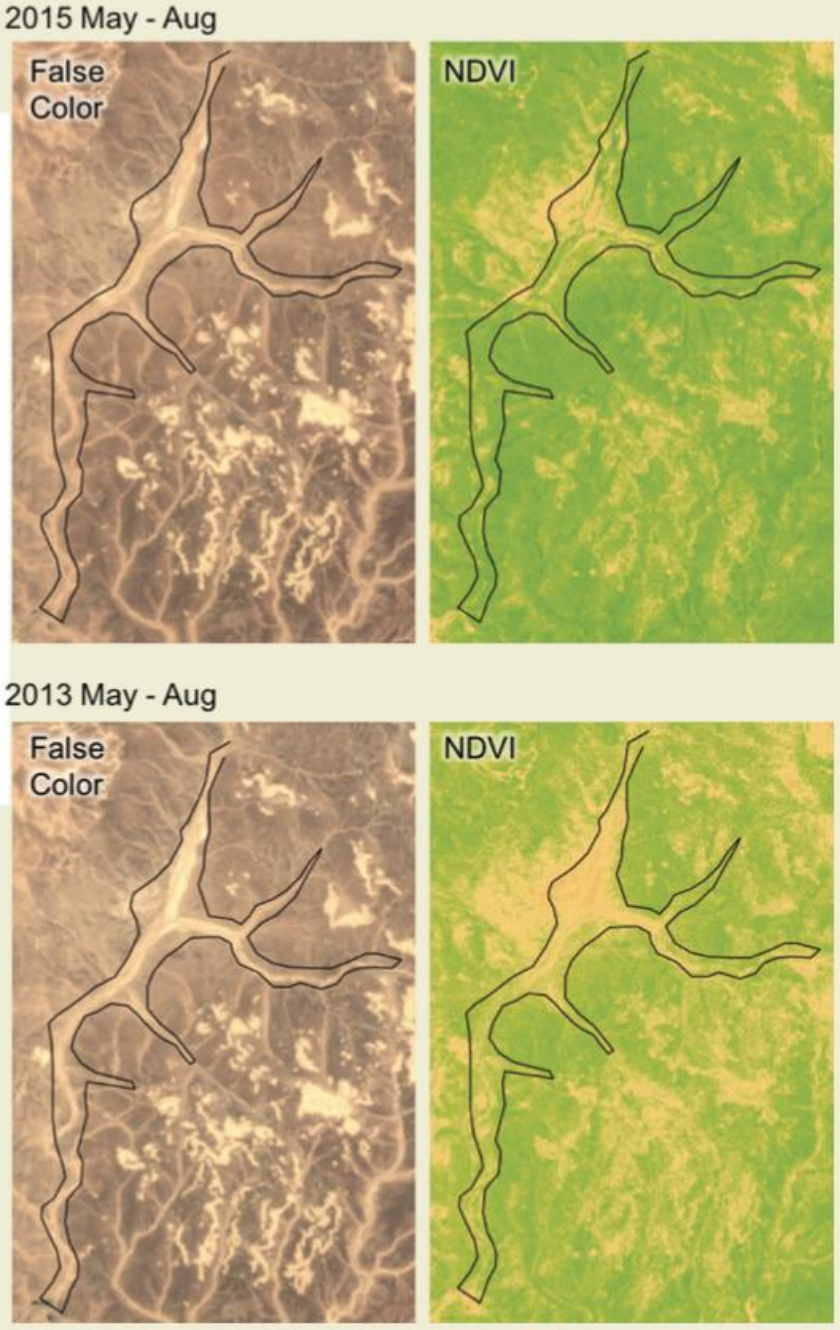
DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

Biodiversity: Global



Al Hashemiah Reserve, Jordan **GEFID#5026 (2013-2017)**



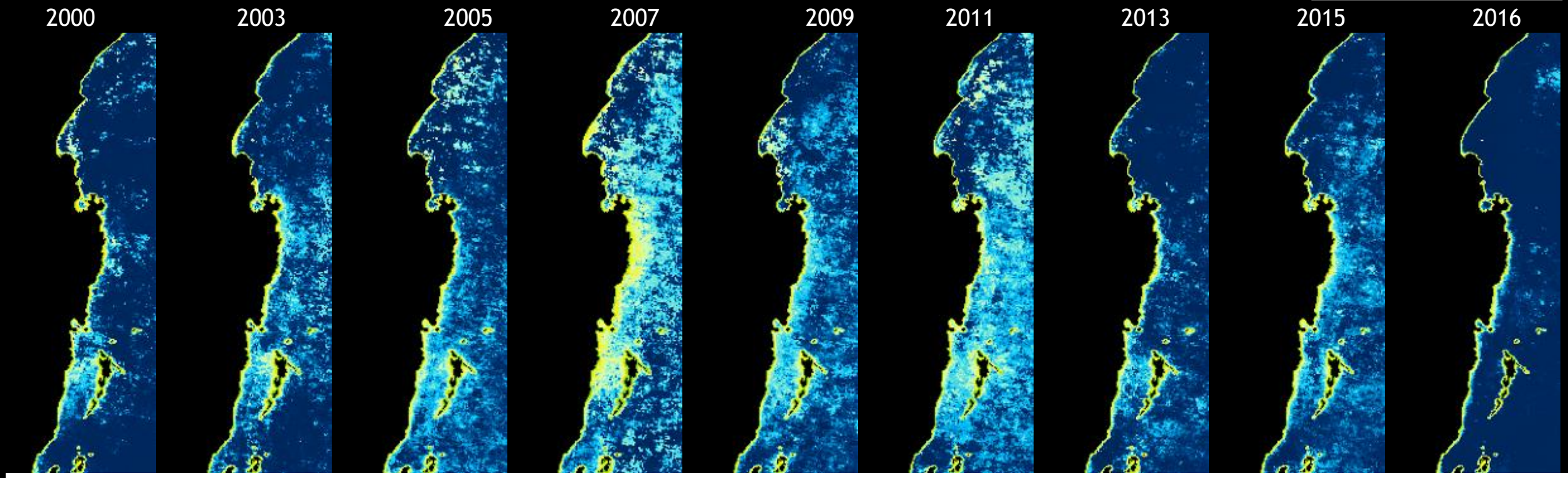


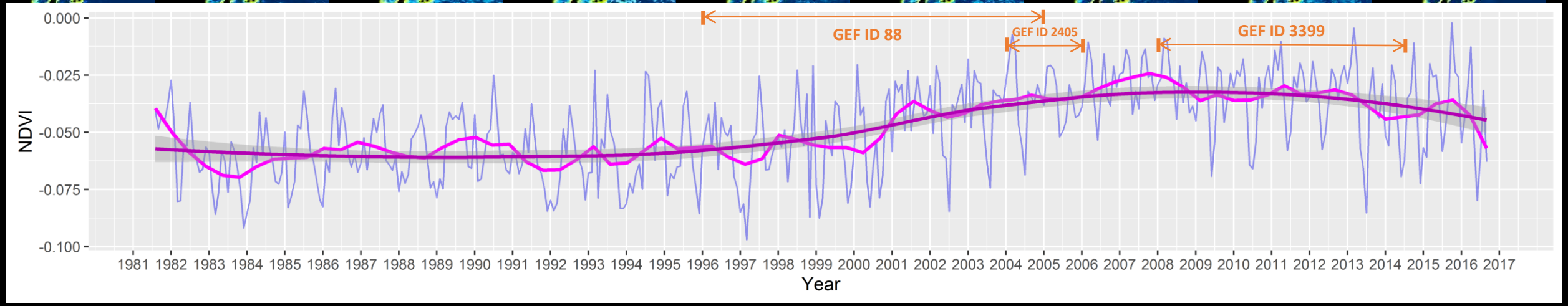
DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

Biodiversity (multifocal): Jordan

DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

International waters: Lake Victoria



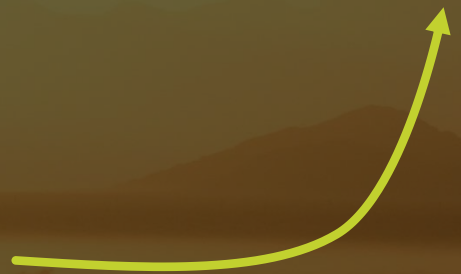


VALUE FOR MONEY

Land degradation

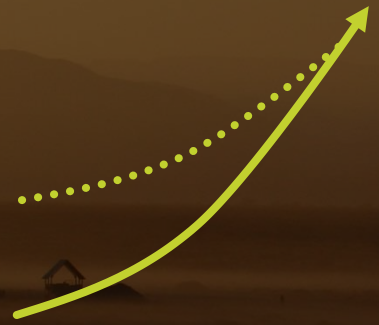
$1:1.08

Globally positive impacts on forest cover



Lag time of 4.5-5.5 years for larger impact

Access to electricity associated with larger impact



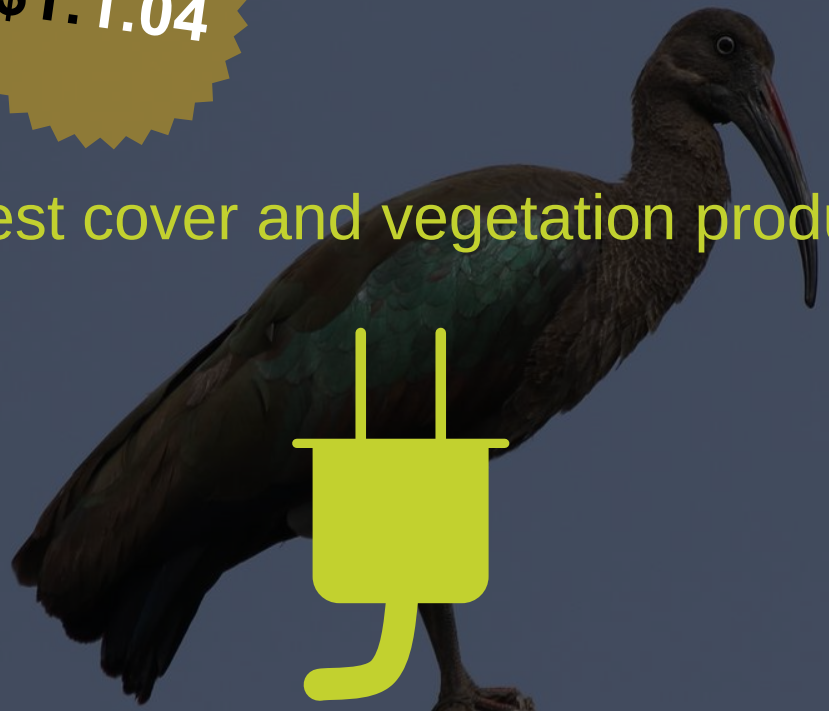
Larger impact observed in areas with poor initial conditions

VALUE FOR MONEY

Biodiversity

$1:1.04

Positive impact on forest cover and vegetation productivity



Noticeable impact after 1st year

Access to electricity linked to larger impact

Performance improved as projects increased in size

STRONG POINTS

Private sector programs

80% satisfactory outcomes

High co-financing ratio of 8:1

GEF is a valued partner

Technical knowledge

Helps mitigate risk

Flexible financing instruments

CHALLENGES

Private sector programs

80% satisfactory outcomes

Skewed portfolio

Need to find comparative advantage

Raise awareness of the GEF

Improve processes and mechanisms

Nongrant instruments

78% satisfactory outcomes

LOAN
Most popular

EQUITY
More prevalent recently

GUARANTEES
Mixed evidence on effectiveness

ISSUES

Diversification beyond climate change

Monitoring complexity in financial structures

Setting realistic targets for reflows

Defining a niche for the GEF

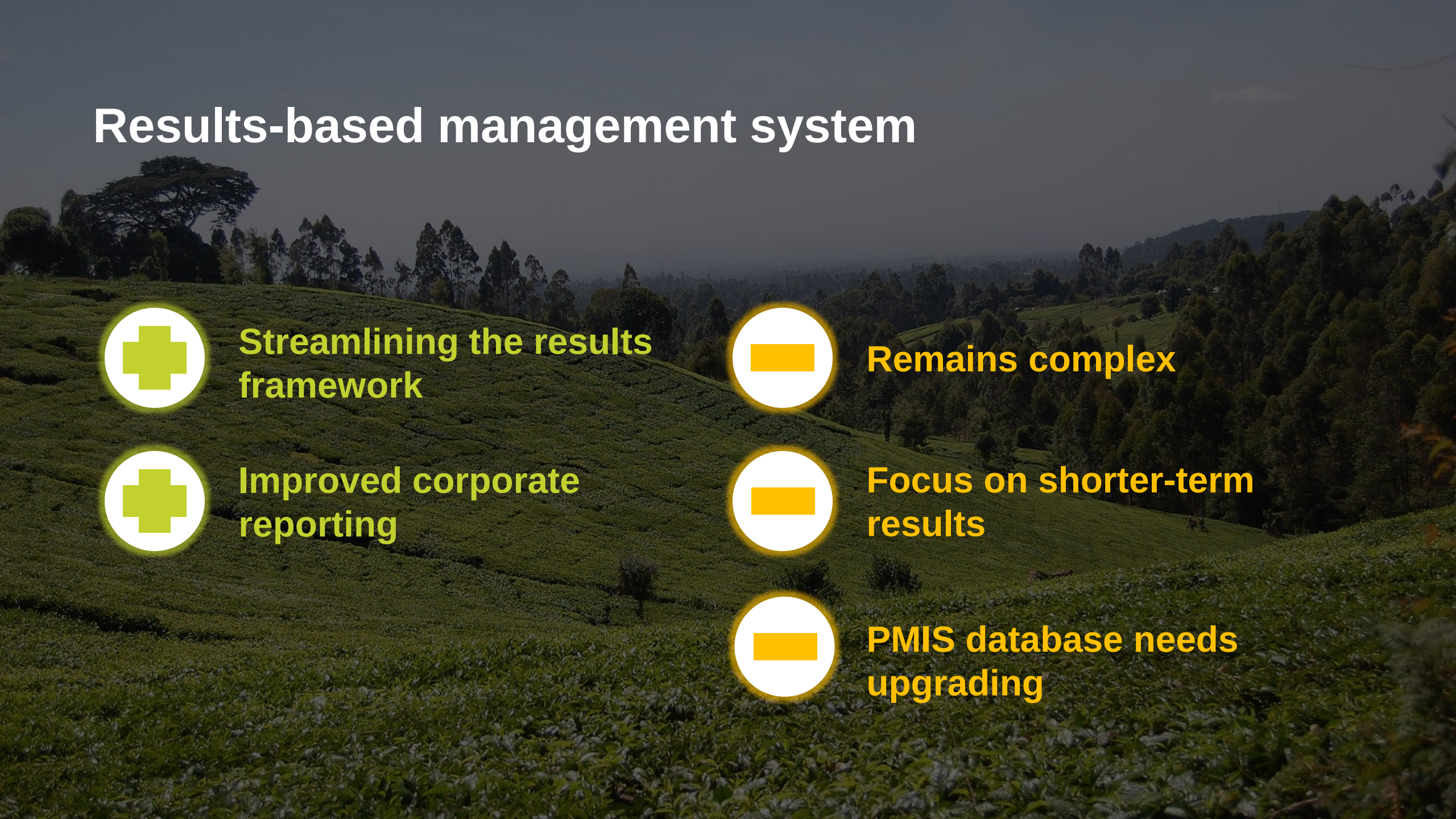
SECTION 3

Policies and Institutional Issues

New policies have positive impact

- Consolidation of the project cycle
- Cancellation policy
- Harmonization pilot with the World Bank

Results-based management system



- Streamlining the results framework
- Improved corporate reporting

- Remains complex
- Focus on shorter-term results
- PMIS database needs upgrading

Knowledge management is getting attention

Only 1 in 3 respondents happy with mechanisms in place

BUT

Recognition of shortcomings and efforts under way

STAP

Positive contribution of STAP

Safeguard policies

Catalyst among many GEF Agencies to strengthen existing safeguard policies

Gaps in the GEF Minimum Standards

Need for enhanced monitoring and reporting

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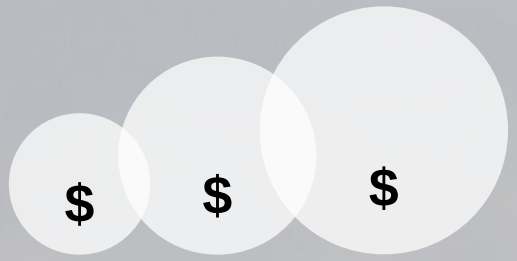
SECTION 4

Financing, Governance, and Health of the Partnership

Financing



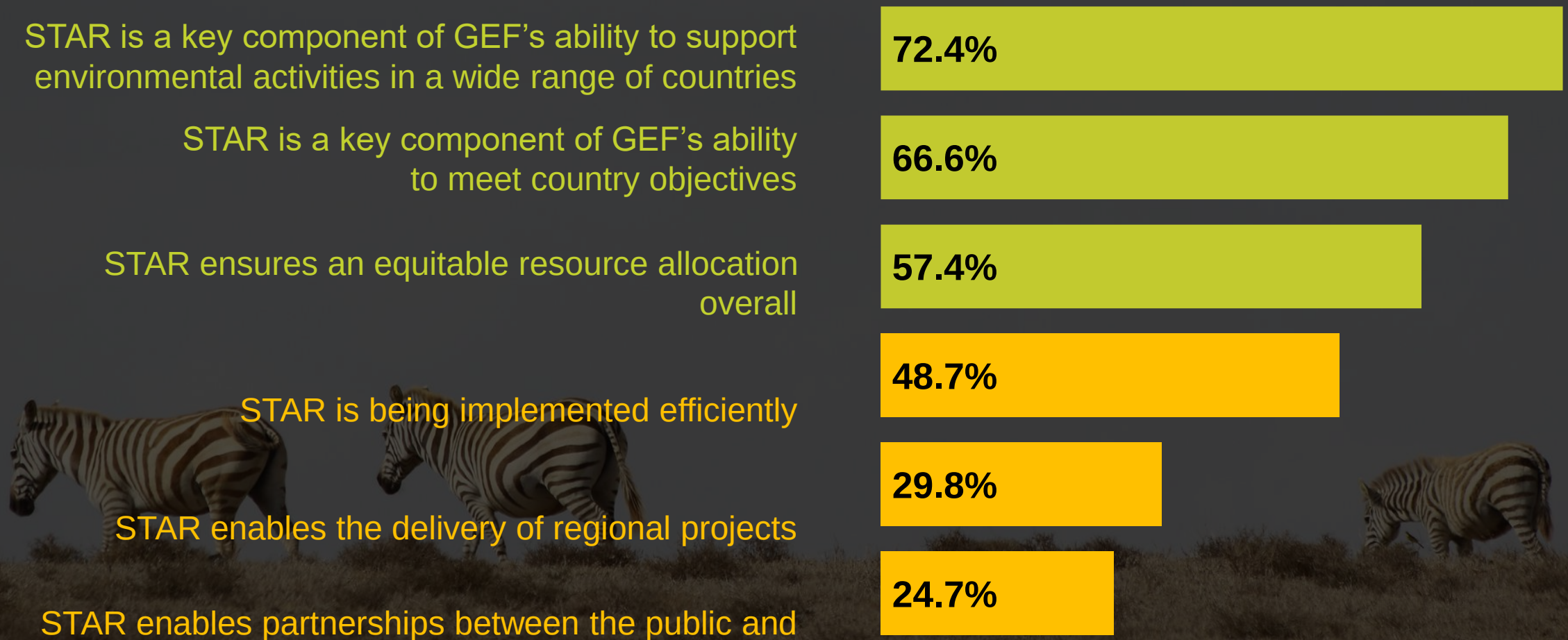
Modest funding to meet global needs

62%
of completed projects

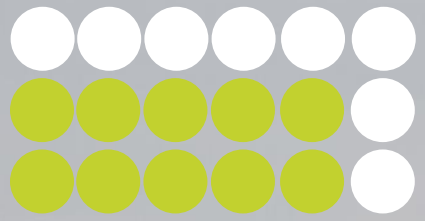
Co-financing consistent with policy (6:1)

STAR encourages country ownership but leads to fragmentation of resources

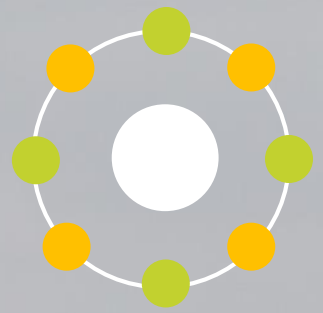
Financing: STAR



Partnership



From 10 to 18 agencies

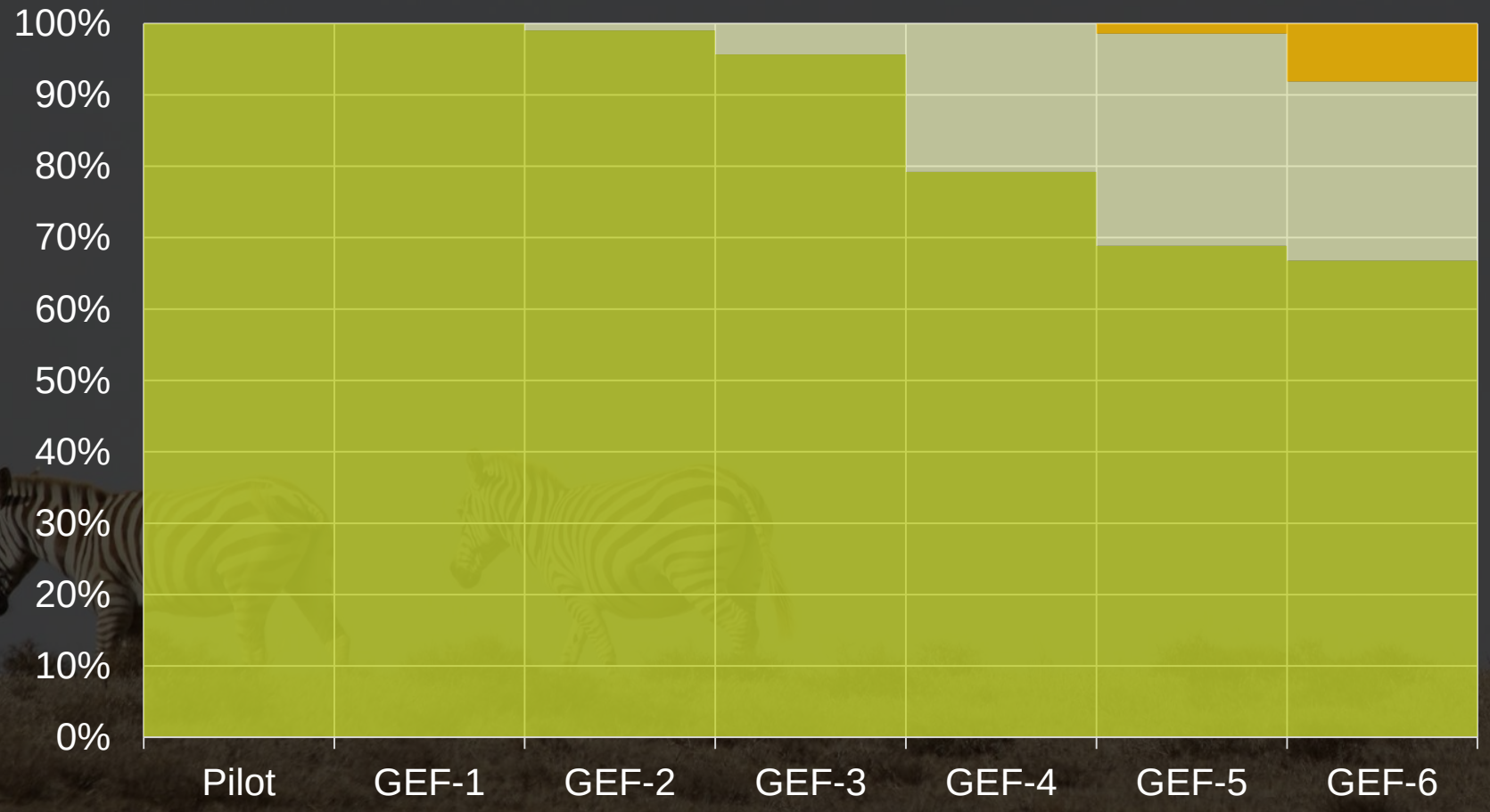


Increase in access to new capacities and networks

More competition and higher transaction costs

Partnership

Share of GEF Portfolio by lead agency in million $



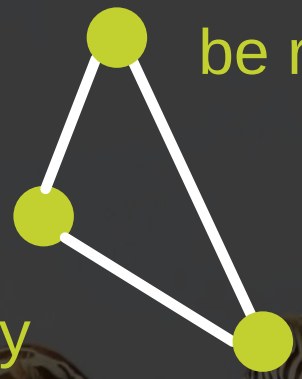
Second expansion

First expansion

Original agencies

Civil Society Organizations Network

Strong points

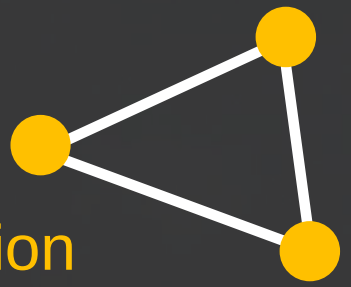


Continues to be relevant

Good credibility

Influence on GEF policy agenda

Issues

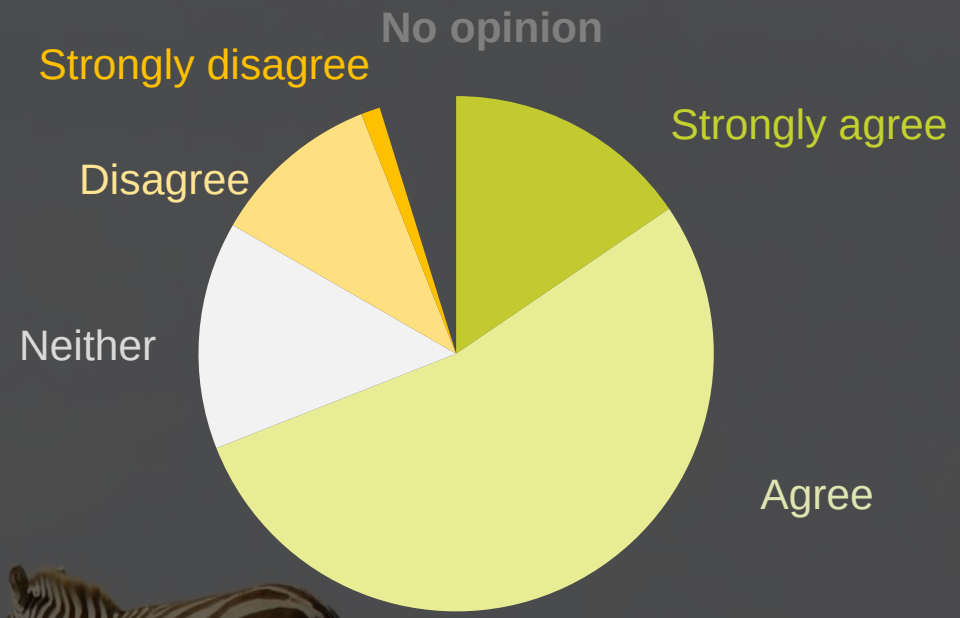


Governance

Lack of a shared vision

Lack of connectivity to the country level

Good governance



Overall, the GEF is effectively governed

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Update on the Sixth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS6)