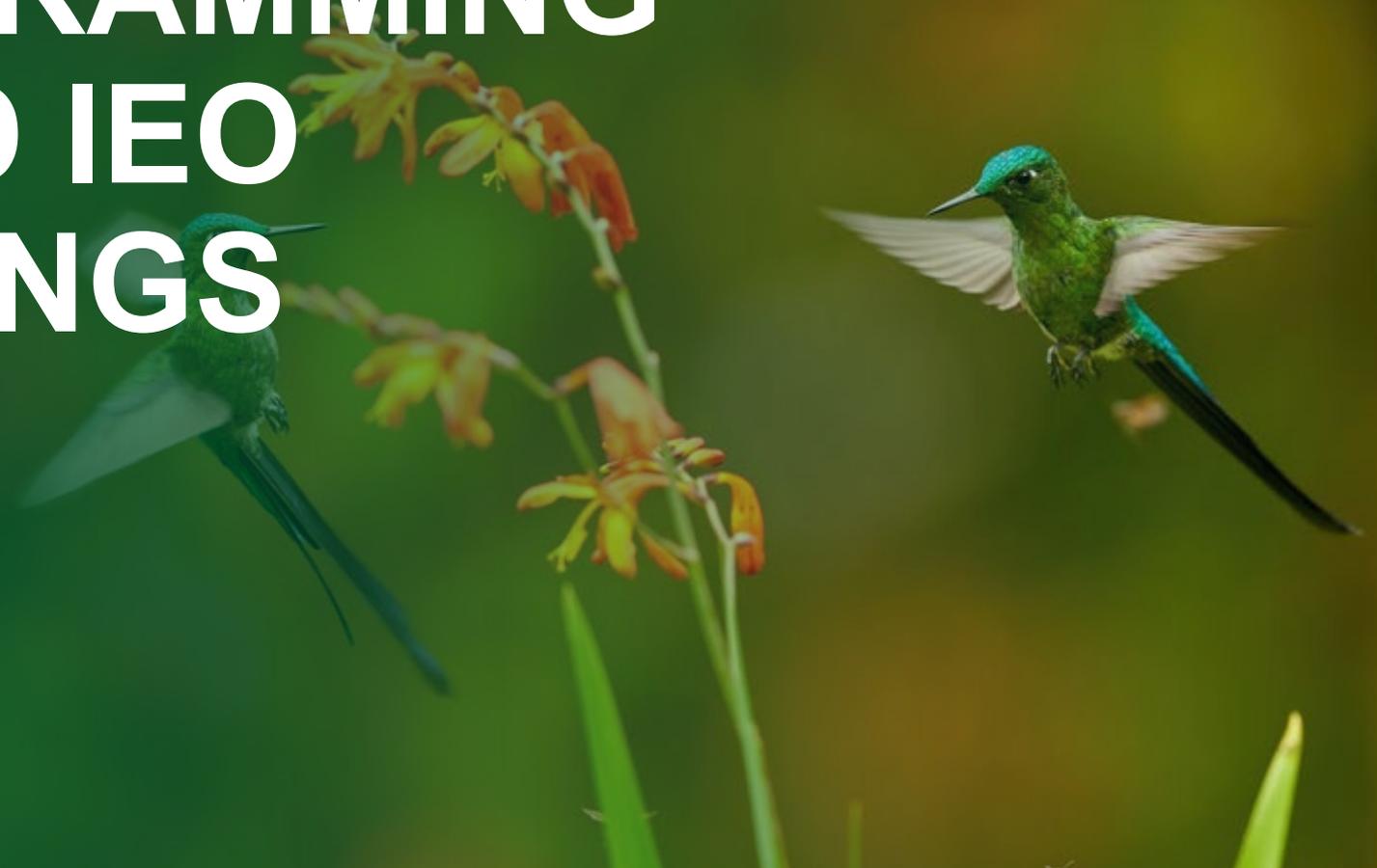




GEF-8 PROGRAMMING UPDATE AND IEO EARLY FINDINGS



global
environment
facility
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF-9 Replenishment Meeting, Paris.

Claude Gascon, Ph.D.

20 May 2025



Programming by Focal Area and Window

As of June 2025, GEF-8 programming has reached \$3,849 million, or 75% of budgeted resources

GEF-8 Programming Progress by Focal Area/Window as of June 2025

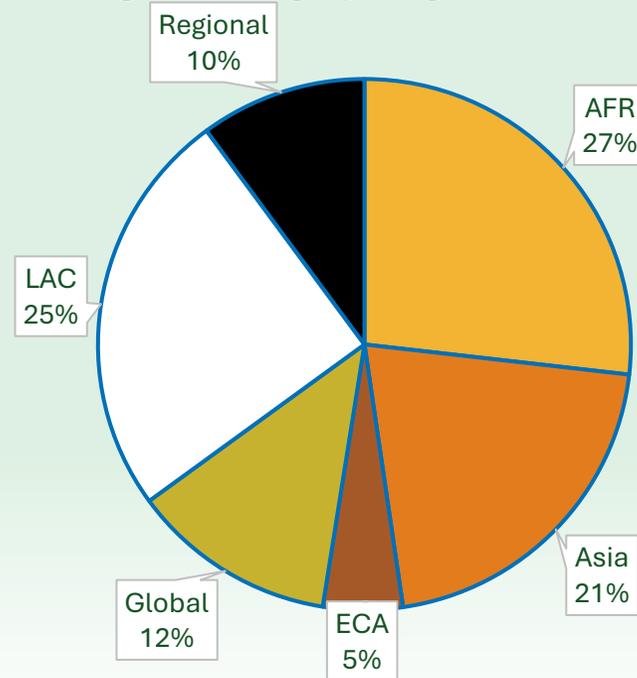


Programming by Region and Country

Africa accounts for largest share of GEF-8 programming, followed by LAC and Asia

SIDS and LDC programming increased in GEF-8

GEF-8 Programming by Region as of June 2025



GEF-8 Programming by Country Group as of June 2025

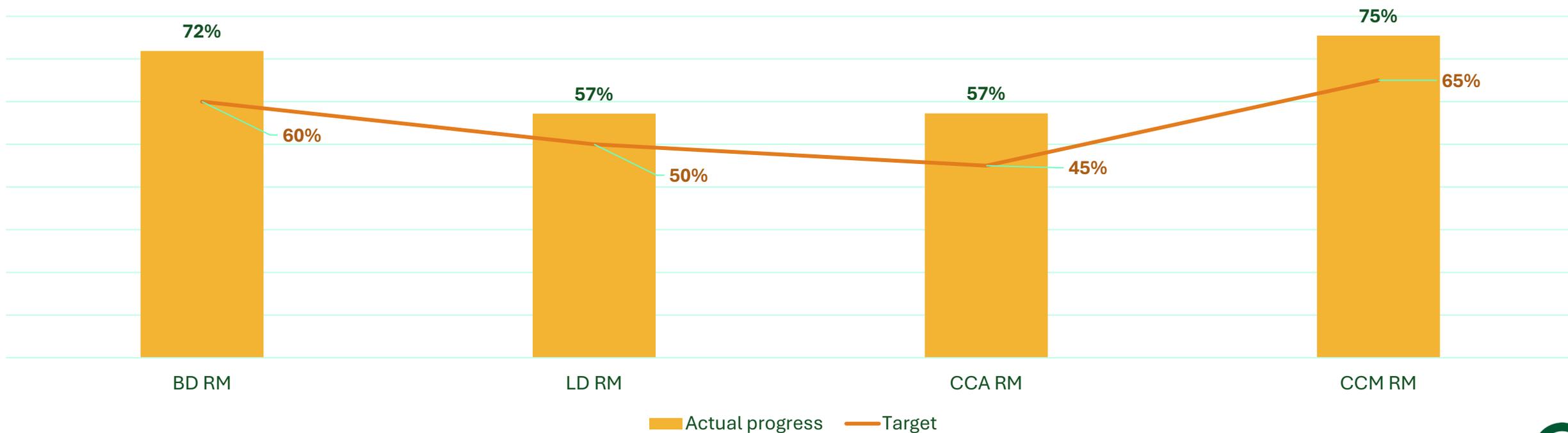


For GEF-7 SIDS were at 8% and LDCs at 17%

Rio Markers

GEF-8 financing is consistently higher than target levels for contributions to biodiversity, land degradation, climate change adaptation and mitigation as a principal or significant objective

Rio Markers GEF-8 Financing Progress vs. Targets



Global Impact during GEF-8



BIODIVERSITY

132 (achieved)
213 (expected)
million hectares of
protected areas created
or managed sustainably

That's **larger** than the
size of India



RESTORE LAND

25 (achieved)
45 (expected)
million hectares of land
under sustainable land
management

That's **over 98 million**
soccer fields



MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

840 (achieved)
1,885 (expected)
million tons of CO₂e in
greenhouse gas
emissions expected to
be reduced

That's equates to **1 billion**
roundtrip flights from New
Delhi to Nairobi



MANAGE INTERNTL. WATERS

10 (achieved)
35 (expected)
shared water
ecosystems under
cooperative
management

That's over **100** countries
collaborating in Large
Marine Areas



REDUCE CHEMICALS & WASTE

43.9 (achieved)
261.7 (expected)
thousand tons of
chemicals of global
concern and their waste
reduced

That's the equivalent of
the weight of more than
2,000 blue whales

Socio-Economic Co-Benefits of GEF

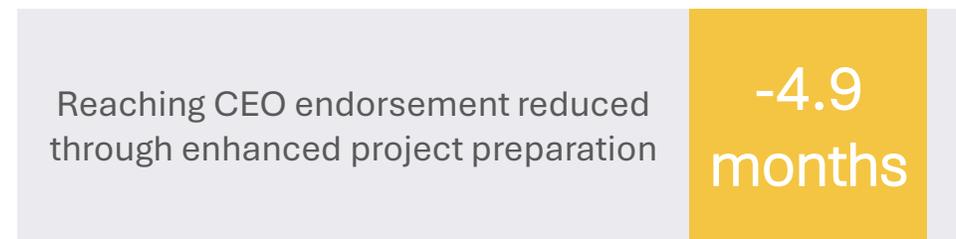
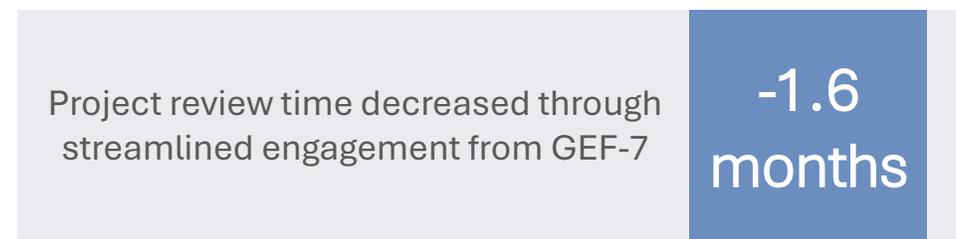
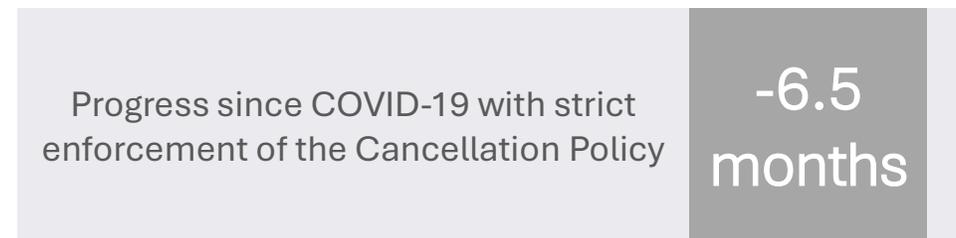
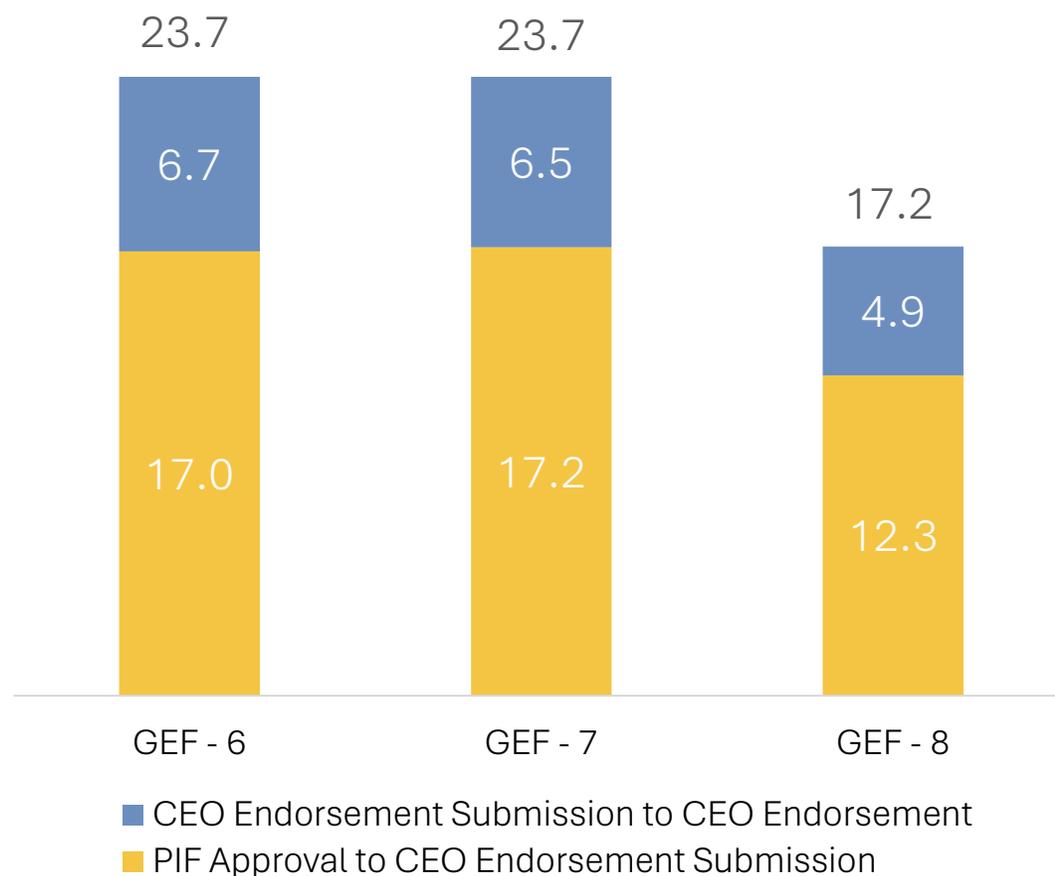
Results framework for a sample of GEF-7 projects

THEME	SHARE
SOCIAL	35%
Livelihoods, wealth, and quality of life	29%
Health and safety	16%
Access to essential services	10%
ECONOMIC	26%
Employment	8%
Agriculture, Food	23%
MARKET DEVELOPMENT	17%
Competitiveness and industrial development	17%
CROSS-CUTTING AREAS	55%
Inclusion and empowerment	20%
Institutional, policy and human capacity	41%
Gender equality	100%

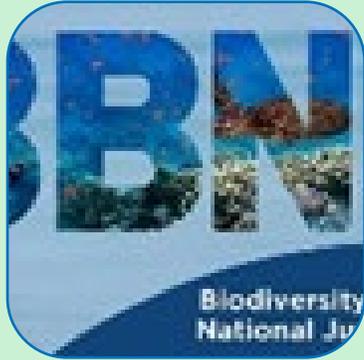
Directions of travel:

- Identify new socio-economic co-benefits indicators
- Disaggregate results by IPLCs and Youth

The GEF's performance improved in recent phases



MEAs and Funds in GEF-8



New MEA Served

- Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction treaty added in June 2023, with ratification support rolled out by early 2024
- GEF considered as financial mechanism option for ongoing plastic treaty negotiations



New Fund Operationalized

- Global Biodiversity Framework Fund established in June 2023
- Operationalized quickly
- Streamlined project cycle



Cross Funds Collaboration

- GEF and GCF Long-Term Vision (LTV) implemented in GEF-8
- Multilateral Climate Funds collaboration with joint action plan launched in 2024

Overview of Integrated Programs

Number of Integrated Programs:

11 programs
(15 PFDs)

Total GEF Grant:

\$1.65 billion

Co-financing leveraged:

\$11.2 billion

Number of GEF agencies involved:

15

Participating GEF agencies include:



Sample of partners:



IP Country Participation

• 98 countries

(68%) participating from all GEF regions

• 31 LDCs

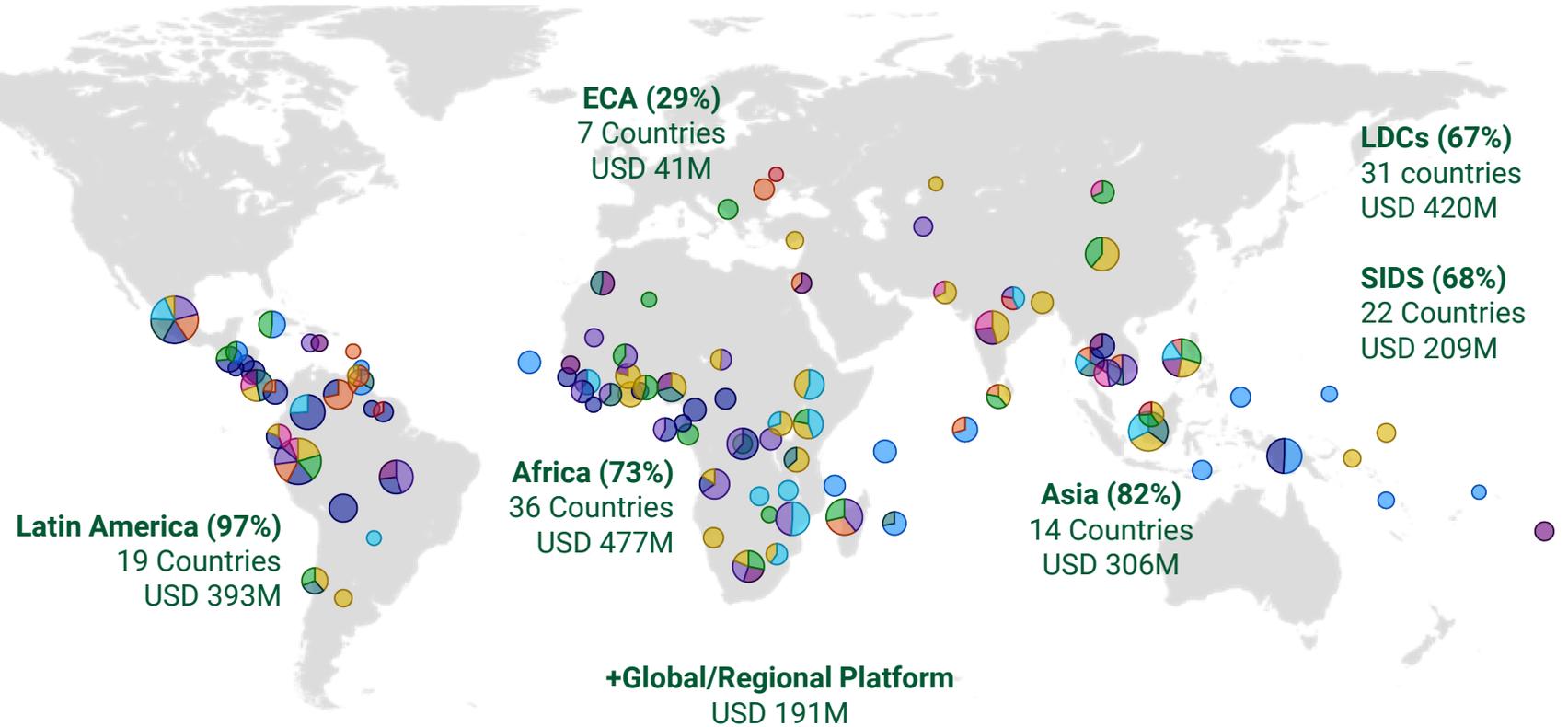
(67% of all LDCs)

• 22 SIDS

(68% of all SIDS)

- **CFB:** Critical Forest Biome
- **FS:** Food Systems
- **ER:** Ecosystem Restoration
- **SC:** Sustainable Cities
- **WCD:** Wildlife Conservation for Development

- **BGI:** Blue and Green Island
- **CHO:** Clean and Healthy Ocean
- **NZNPA:** Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator
- **CSPP:** Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution
- **EHCSC:** Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains
- **GRID:** Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development



Overview of Focal Areas



72% of all GEF investment BD relevant (\$3.0 billion equivalent)



Major investments supporting Drought reduction and building resilience



Close to 3/4 billion tons of GHG emissions avoided



Over 64 million hectares of improved management of marine area in ETPS region



Renewed focus on key and new chemicals from COP guidance

Whole of Society Approach



Diversified SGP with New Models

- New Agencies (now UNDP, FAO, CI)
- New Initiatives (CSO Challenge Program, Microfinance Initiative)



Gustavo Fonseca Leadership Program

- 12 partnerships covering all GEF regions
- Over 200 students receiving fellowships and grants



Direct Financing to IPLCs (ICI)

- New Agency (WWF added in GEF-8)
- 80% of funds go directly to IPLC-led NGOs

Policy Coherence

- GEF-8 Approach defined
- Integration of Policy Coherence in GEF-8 project design and Cover Note
- GEF-8 STAR Competitive Window

China

Promote policy coherence in the regulation of key ecological spaces, focusing on addressing incomplete laws and regulations, insufficient coordination mechanisms and inconsistent technical standards

Indonesia

Mainstream standardized and integrated "ocean accounts" as a common baseline to enable coherent multi-ministry and national-provincial marine and coastal development planning, policies and investment

Mexico

Support the development and implementation of the first national agriculture livestock policy focused on achieving deforestation-free and low emission production and provide a platform to articulate cross-sectoral national public policy

Brazil

Increase nature-positive investment by reducing harmful subsidies and restructuring public funding, focusing on regional development funds



GEF-9 and the IEO Early Findings

- OPS-8 is an umbrella study comprised of **34 evaluations**
- As of the time of writing the Programming Directions and Policy Directions, the GEF Secretariat had available:
 - *17 completed, 4 draft, and 13 ongoing evaluations*
- The emerging findings from the OPS-8 study and its 34 component evaluations (completed and ongoing) continue to be a **critical, ongoing input as the programming and policy strategies are developed**



GEF-9 and the IEO Early Findings

- **The GEF Portfolio**
 - Increase focus on blended finance, private sector, and MDB delivery
- **Relevance**
 - Strengthen focus on Country engagement and drivenness in CES
- **Performance**
 - Enhance Results-based Framework with socio-economic co-benefits and systems indicators
 - Policy modernization will positively impact sustainability



GEF-9 and the IEO Early Findings

- **Integrated Programming**
 - Strengthen IP design and implementation for better learning and adaptive management
- **Partnerships and Policies**
 - Mainstream Whole of Society and Whole of Government approach across Programming Directions and in CES and Strategic Initiatives
- **Financing and Operational Effectiveness**
 - Enhance co-financing transparency and streamline business model



GEF-9 and the IEO Early Findings

- **Innovation and Risk**
 - Promote innovation and a risk-based approach to project management
- **Country Engagement, Results, and Learning Systems**
 - Enhance CES with OFP as central driver
 - Expand Results-based Management System to include “systems transformation” indicators
 - Expand results to include socio-economic co-benefits

Thank you

