



Independent
Evaluation Office
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Evaluation for Transformational Change

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Global Context



Poverty remains and inequality grows



A hazardous planet:
pandemic, climate change,
hurricanes, wildfires...

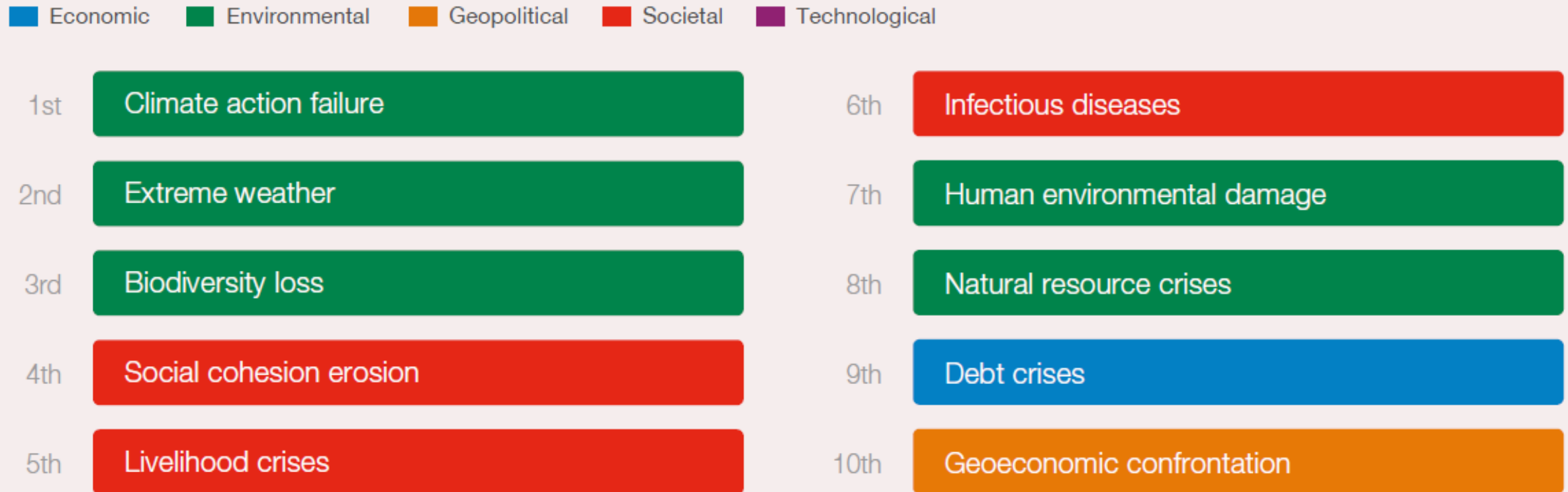


Everything is interrelated



Context: Global Risks Report 2022

“Identify the most severe risks on a global scale over the next 10 years”



Context: COVID-19

Expression of Human-Nature Interlinkages



Excessive expansion into natural systems



Habitat loss



Wildlife overexploitation



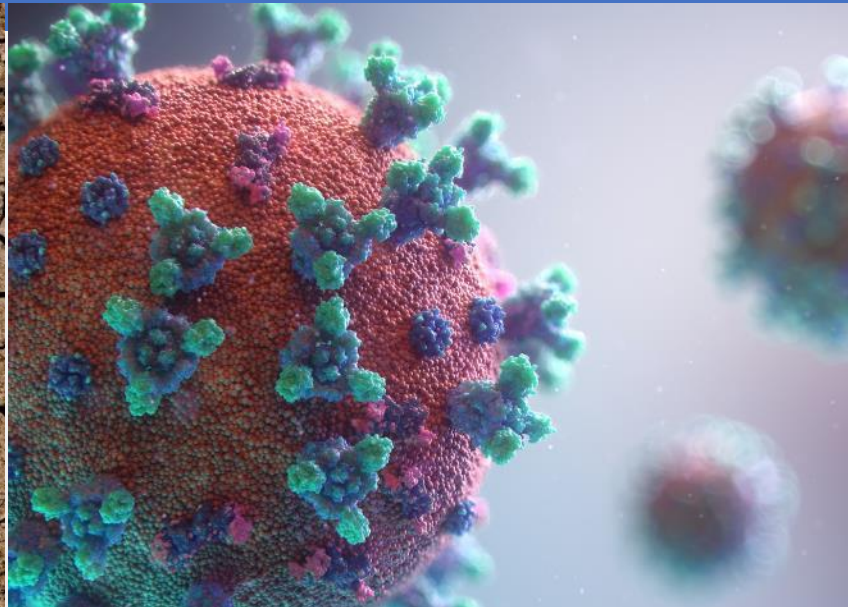
Human-induced climate change

**Create multiple pathways
to transmit zoonotic diseases
to domestic animals and humans**

Programs and Evaluation Need to Address Multiple Challenges...



Ecological crisis



COVID-19



Institutional and Market Challenges

Transformational change is imperative

Building back greener is rooted in the **socio-ecological nexus**

DEFINITION

Transformational change

Is deep, systemic, sustainable change with large-scale impact in an area of global environmental concern.

Adopted from IEG. 2016. Supporting Transformational Change for Poverty Reduction and Shared Prosperity.

4 criteria

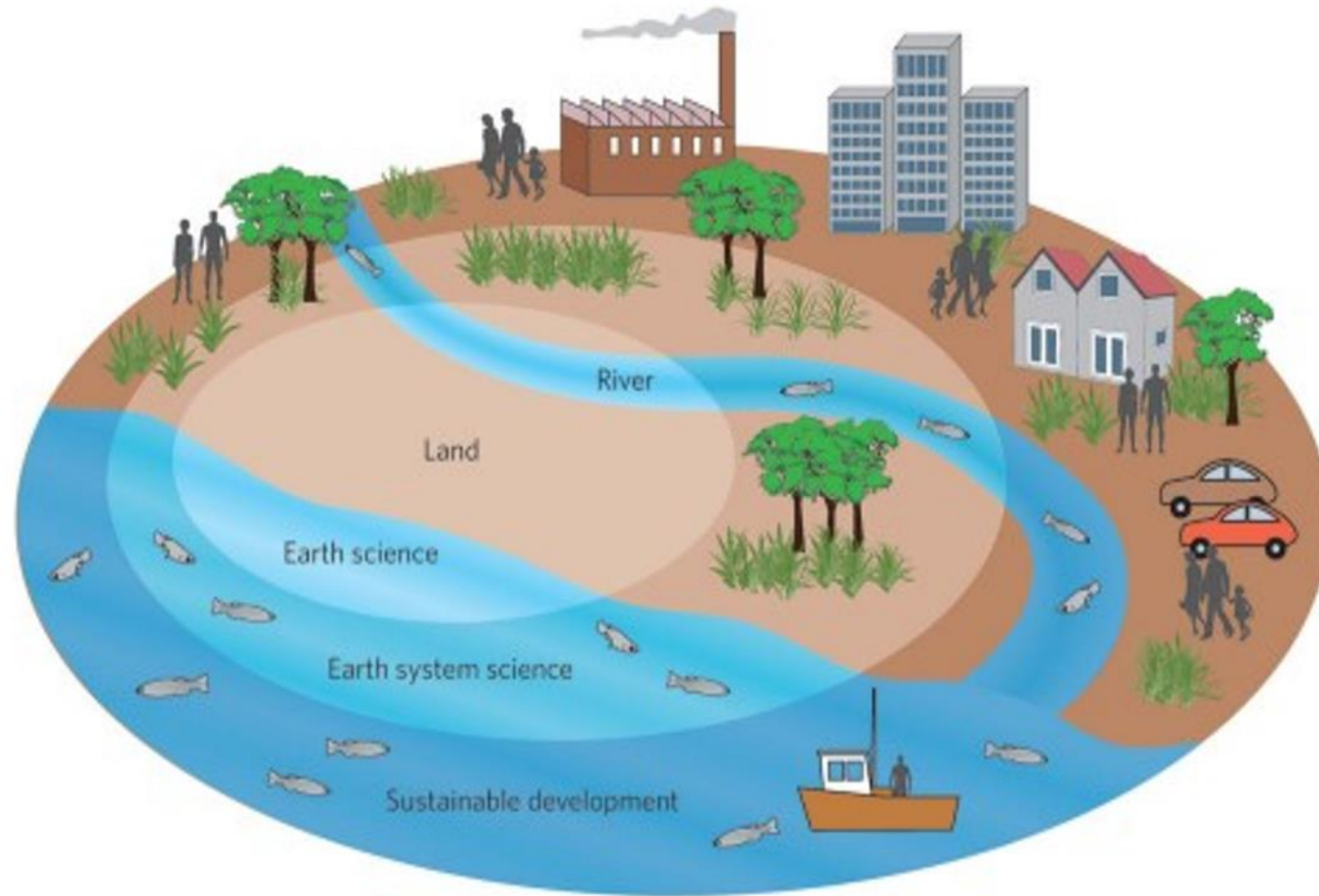
RELEVANCE

DEPTH OF CHANGE

SCALE OF CHANGE

SUSTAINABILITY

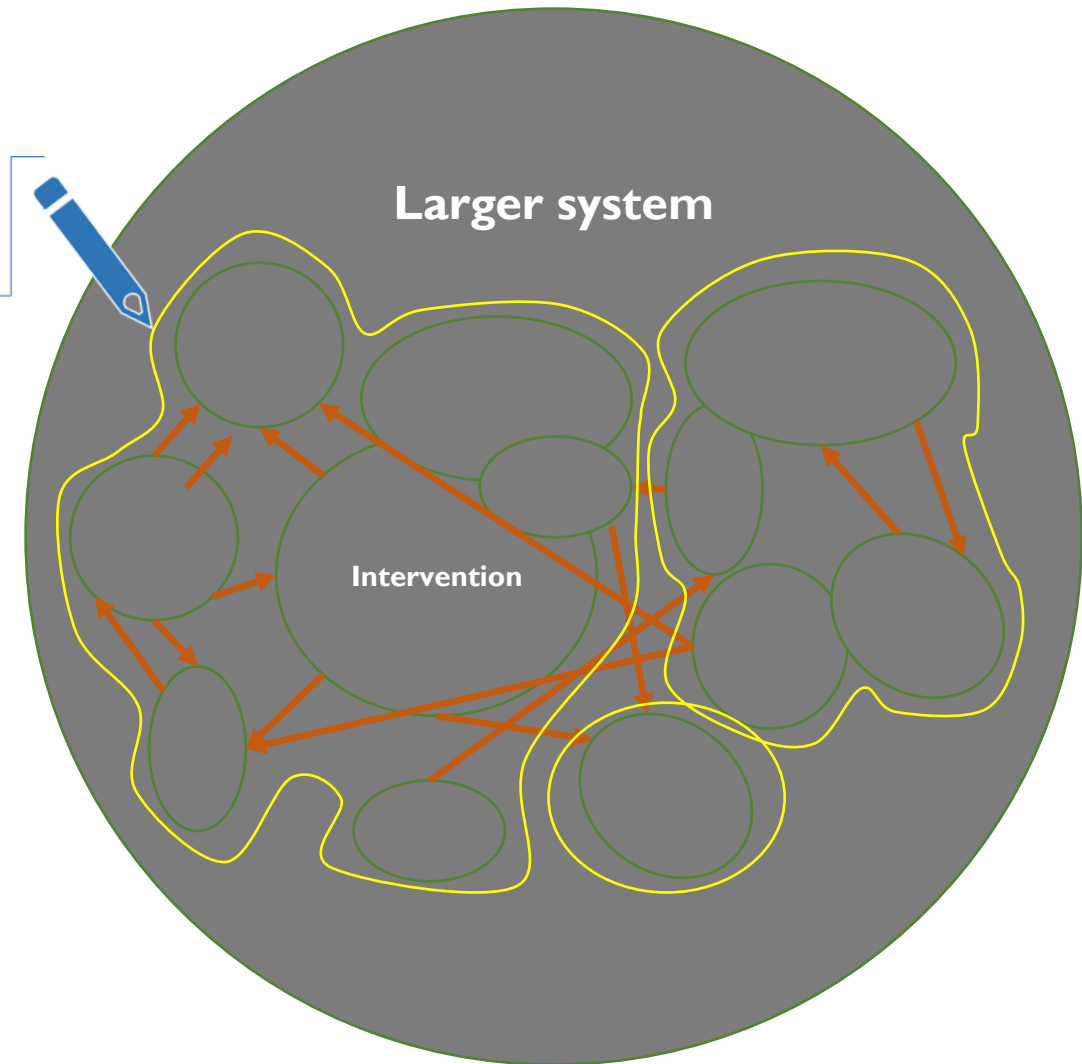
Integrating across Environmental, Social and Economic Domains



Evaluating Transformation Requires a Systems Approach

Cannot evaluate a project
in isolation

Need to define system
boundaries



Evaluating the Intervention through a Systems Lens

Comprehensive Theory of Change

Definition of the system and its elements

Quantitative and qualitative data on Environmental and social and economic outcomes

Broad stakeholder perceptions

Integration design and outcomes (across environmental domains as well as social and economic domains)

Unintended effects

Synergies and trade offs

Additionality and transformational change

RELEVANCE

- Climate Change
- Biodiversity
- Land Degradation
- Chemicals and Waste
- International Waters
- Sustainable Forest Management

INTERNAL FACTORS

- Quality of implementation
- Quality of execution
- Pre-intervention analytical and advisory activities
- Partnerships with donors

OUTCOME

- Depth of change
- Scale of change



TRANSFORMATIONAL MECHANISM

A mechanism to expand and sustain the impact of the intervention
(through mainstreaming, demonstration, replication, or catalytic effects)



AMBITION LEVEL AND FOCUS (OF INTERVENTION OBJECTIVES)

- Depth of change
(market and
system focus)
- Scale of change

CONTEXTUAL CONDITIONS

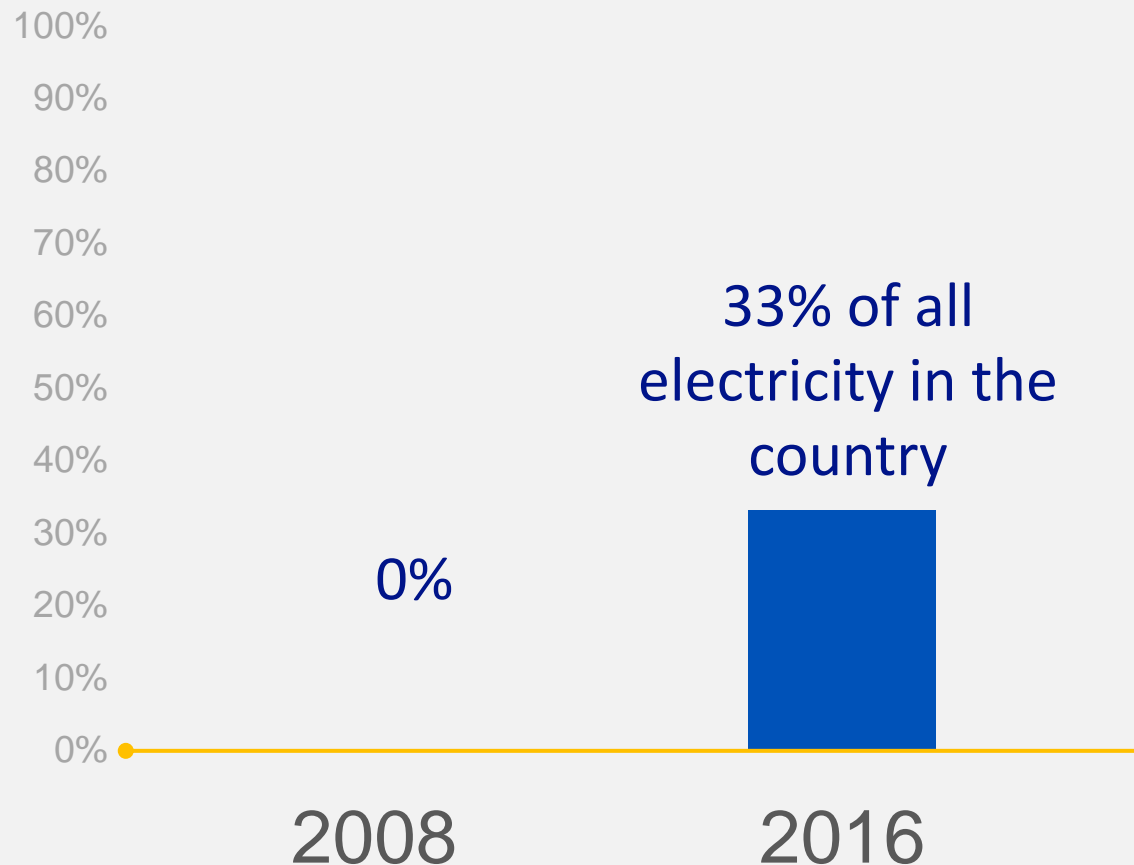
- Government ownership and support
- Implementation capacity
- Policy environment
- NGO & community participation
- Private sector participation
- Economic and market conditions

SUSTAINABILITY

- Financial
- Economic
- Environmental
- Social
- Political

Application: Uruguay Wind Energy Program

Wind power



Relevance

- Decreasing greenhouse gas emissions

Depth of change

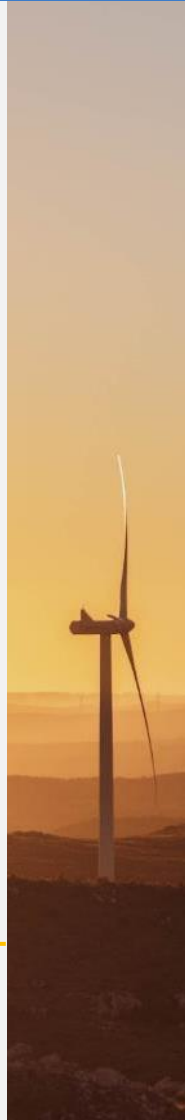
- System and market-level
(removing barriers to the wind energy market)

Scale of change

- National

Sustainability

- Credible financial sustainability of investments
- Prices competitive with those of the fossil-fueled alternatives



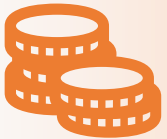
LESSONS: Conditions for Transformational Change



Clear ambition
in design



Addressing market
and system changes
through policies



Mechanisms for financial
sustainability



Quality of
implementation and
execution



May be achieved by projects
of different sizes

Implications for Evaluation

Holistic View

Context Matters!

Systems Approach

Factors/Drivers of Transformation

**Integration between Human and
Natural Systems**

**Quantitative and Qualitative
Approaches to Measure
Transformation and Sustainability of
Change**



SPRINGER NATURE
Sustainable Development Goals Series

SDG: 17
Partnerships for the Goals

Juha I. Uitto
Geeta Batra *Editors*

Transformational Change for People and the Planet

Evaluating Environment and Development

OPEN ACCESS

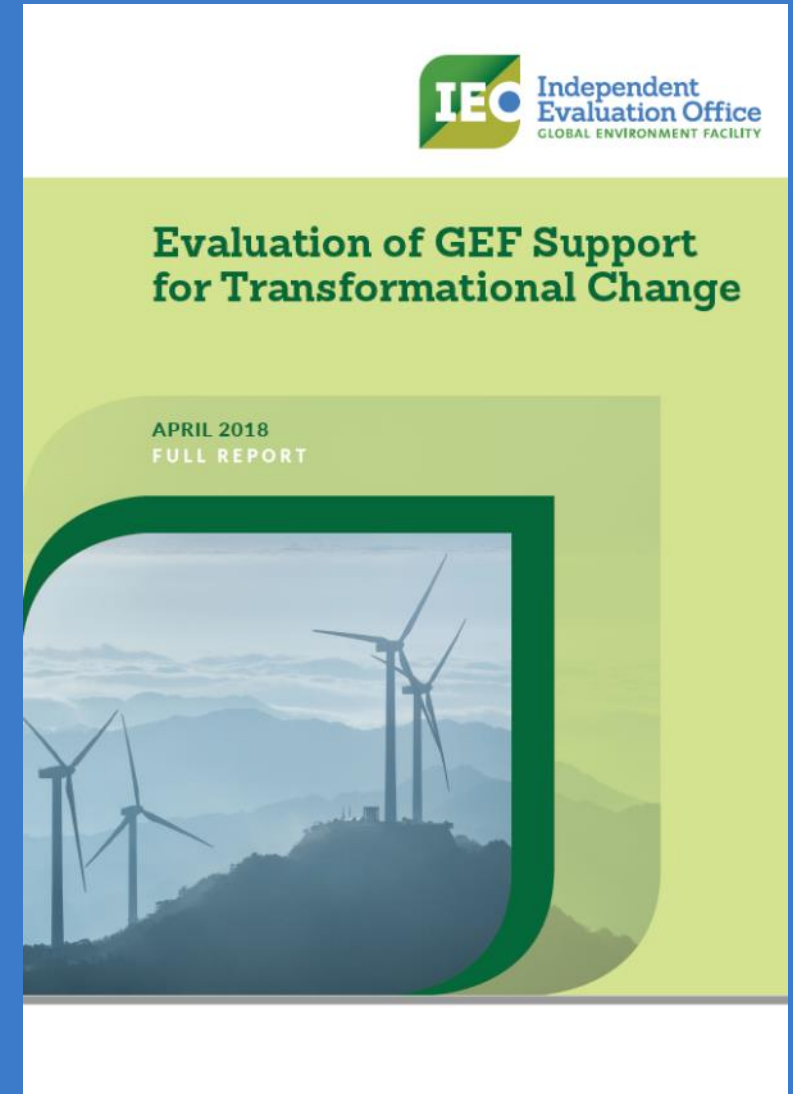
 Springer



<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-78853-7>

Evaluation of GEF Support for Transformational Change

<https://www.gefio.org/evaluations/transformational-change>



Thank you!

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