Sustainability and relevance of GEF projects in Small Island Development States

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- Trond Norheim, PhD
- GEF-IEO (Senior Consultant)
- Evaluation for Transformative Change: Bringing experiences of the Global South to the Global North
Hantsindzi fisher village, Comoros
Comoros and SW Indian Ocean
Objectives of the evaluation

- To provide a deeper understanding of the determinants of sustainability of the outcomes of GEF support in SIDS
- To assess the relevance of GEF support towards SIDS’ main environmental challenges from the countries’ perspective.
Key evaluation questions and Cross-Cutting Issues

**Key Evaluation Questions (KQs)**

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<th>KQ1</th>
<th>KQ2</th>
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<td>Drivers of sustainability</td>
<td>Environmental and socio-economic context and the water-energy-food nexus</td>
<td>The relevance of GEF support, considering</td>
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<td>3.1 expansion of the GEF partnership</td>
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<td>3.2 changes in support modalities</td>
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<td>3.3 other changes to the environmental finance landscape</td>
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**Cross Cutting Issues (CCIs)**

- CCI1 – Gender and gender equality
- CCI2 – Resilience and risk management
- CCI3 – Private sector engagement

**Objective 1:** Deeper understanding of the determinants of sustainability of outcomes

**Objective 2:** Relevance of the GEF from the countries’ perspective
Context related factors causing fragility in SIDS - Climate Change

- Sea-level rise
- Increased impact of natural disasters and beach erosion
- Un-predictable climate variations
- Reduced biodiversity and coral reef degeneration
- Stronger impact of IAS
Context related factors
- not Climate Change induced

- Volcano eruptions, Earthquakes and Tsunamis
- Destruction of mangroves
- Communication problems
- Waste management problems and waste from the ocean
- Unfilled energy demands
SIDS-related factors contributing to sustainability

- Improved coastal protection
- Ridge-to-Reef
- Regional programs benefitting small countries
- Realistic approach to IAS combat
- Improved waste management and waste-to-energy
- Renewable energy: solar, wind, waves, thermal
- Recycling, and alternatives to plastic and polystyrene foam
Not SIDS related factors for sustainability

- Governments’ support to environmental priority areas
- Improved governance and institutional strengthening
- Decentralized environmental governance
- PPP, also involving NGOs/CSOs
Project related factors for sustainability in SIDS

- Realistic project design
- Awareness-raising and capacity building
- Participation and influence - creating ownership
- Gender mainstreaming - more than headcount
- Adaptive project management, improved M&E and procurement
- Strengthening existing structures
- Sustainable financing for post-project period
- Replication and scaling-up based on lessons learned
Emerging findings

- The projects reviewed have variable expectations of sustainability, mostly positive, and some have improved sustainability rating after closing.
- The projects are relevant for Government priorities, but not always involving local stakeholders from the design phase.
- Older projects were often “gender blind” while new projects have better gender rating, but still a long way to go.
- Resilience is often understood as climate- and disaster-related.
- Little private sector engagement, except when it is the main project topic.
- Often replicated and scaled-up by larger projects, while NGOs replicate local components.
- Strong interest for financing targeting SIDS.
Thank you!