



Independent
Evaluation Office
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Evaluating Climate Change Action for Sustainable Development

European Environmental Evaluators Network Forum

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Complex landscape of international climate finance

- Global Environment Facility
- Least Developed Countries Fund/Special Climate Change Fund
- Climate Investment Funds
- Adaptation Fund
- Green Climate Fund
- REDD+
- Other multi- and bilateral investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation

- Critical role for evaluation - Evidence of what works still limited

This presentation

- Draws upon state-of-the-art in evaluating climate change strategies and action in the developing countries, especially the GEF experience
- Evidence from comprehensive evaluations by multilateral and bilateral agencies
- Challenges and new approaches to evaluation

- *Evaluating Climate Change Action for Sustainable Development*, edited by Juha I. Uitto, Jyotsna Puri & Rob D. van den Berg (Springer, forthcoming in 2016)

The Micro-Macro Paradox - Evidence from comprehensive evaluations

- GEF: Intervention logic is catalytic and successful - but environmental trends continue to decline
- CIF: Resources are small relative to global needs - activities lack a convincing theory of change
- ECG: Energy efficiency is highly cost-effective, but undermined by subsidies - Successful demonstrations can lead to market transformation

- Funding gap: Subsidies to non-sustainable practices; Relatively low funding in terms of global needs; Unpredictability of funding

* Van den Berg & Cando-Noordhuizen 2016; van den Berg 2011

Evidence cont'd

- Lack of clear classification of climate related activities and investments - Coherent portfolio (++GEF, CIF, NICFI, UN-REDD; --WBG, IDB, SDC)
- Need coherent and mature portfolio to find evidence of direct impact (++GEF)
- Lack of transparent and consistent measurement system (++GEF, NICFI, UN-REDD; --CIF, IDB, ADB, SDC)

So what did the comprehensive evaluations conclude?

- Energy sector and policies (esp. energy efficiency) hold greatest promise, but need legal and regulatory frameworks for market transformation
- Bottom-up activism - Engage civil society
- Need for technological innovation and change
- Engage private sector - New technologies
- Need to remove harmful subsidies
- Adaptation to climate change will be needed - Pay attention to the most vulnerable

* Van den Berg & Cando-Noordhuizen 2016

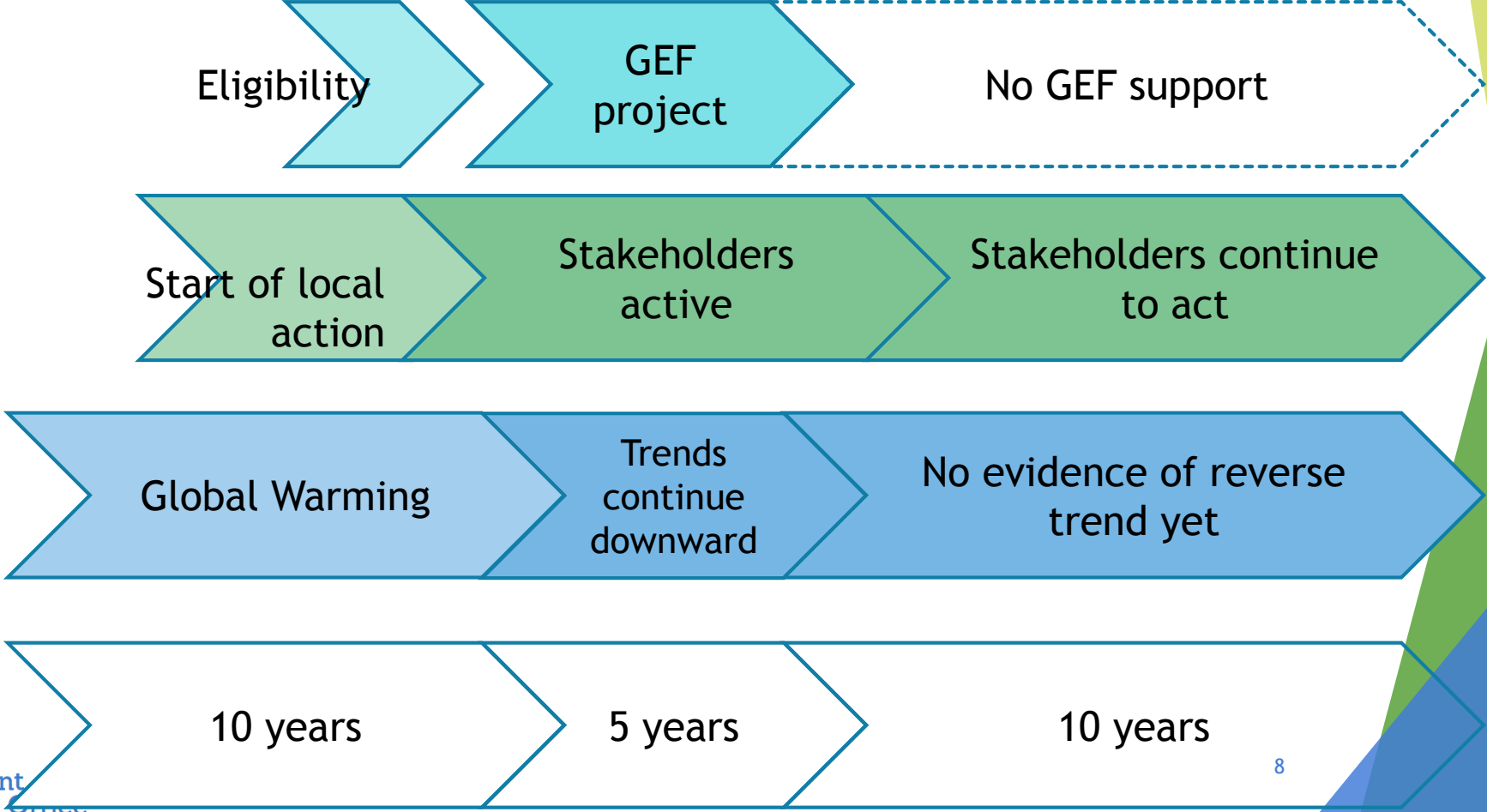
Evaluation challenges

- Time frames: Intervention vs. climate change
- Geographical scales: Human vs. natural systems
- Multidisciplinary perspectives

- Need to focus on the Big Picture rather than individual projects

* Birnbaum & Mickwitz 2009; Rowe 2012; Uitto 2016

Evaluating GEF and Climate Change

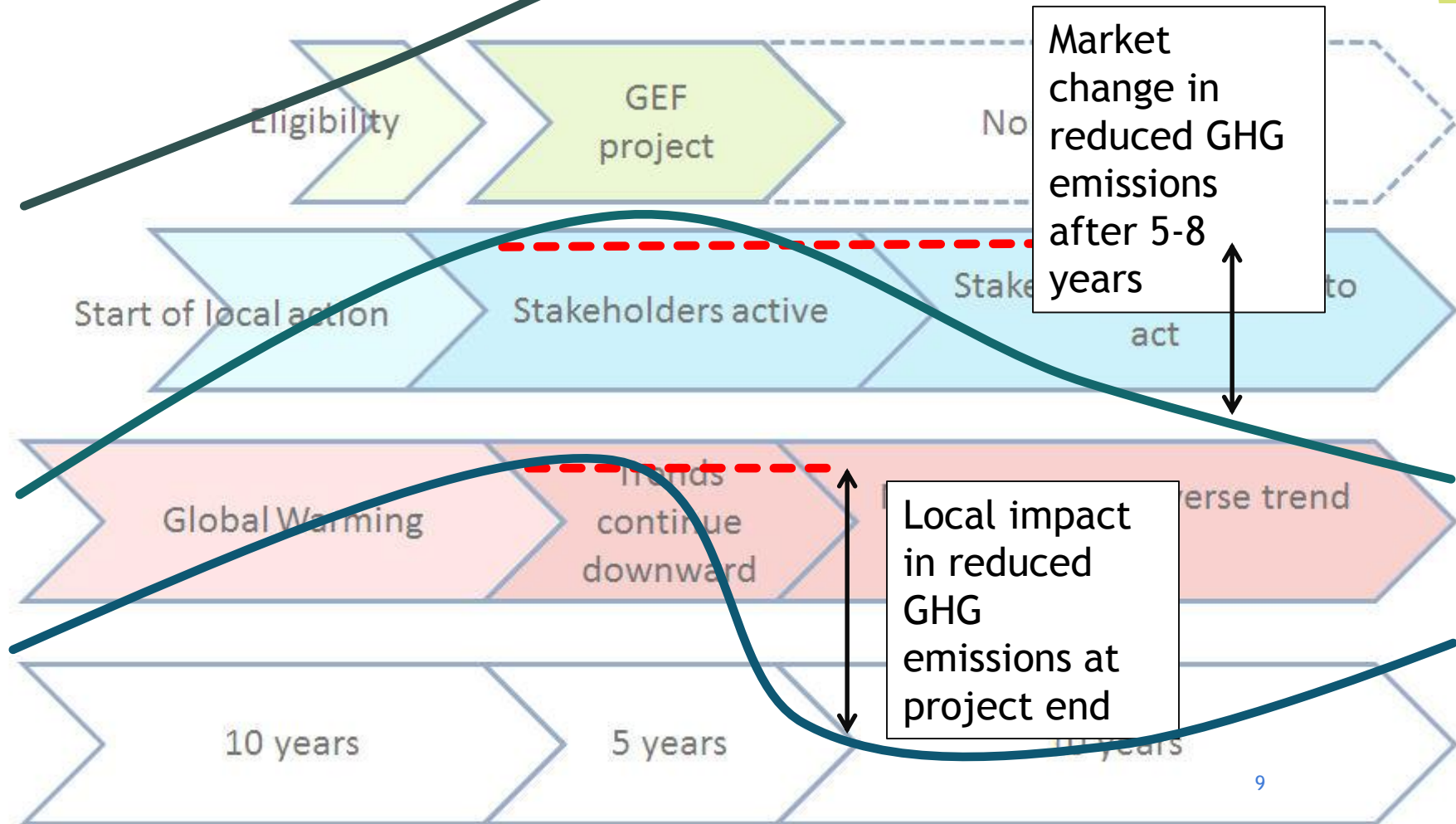




Local impact measured in GHG emissions

Market change measured in GHG emissions

Global GHG emissions



Challenges of scaling

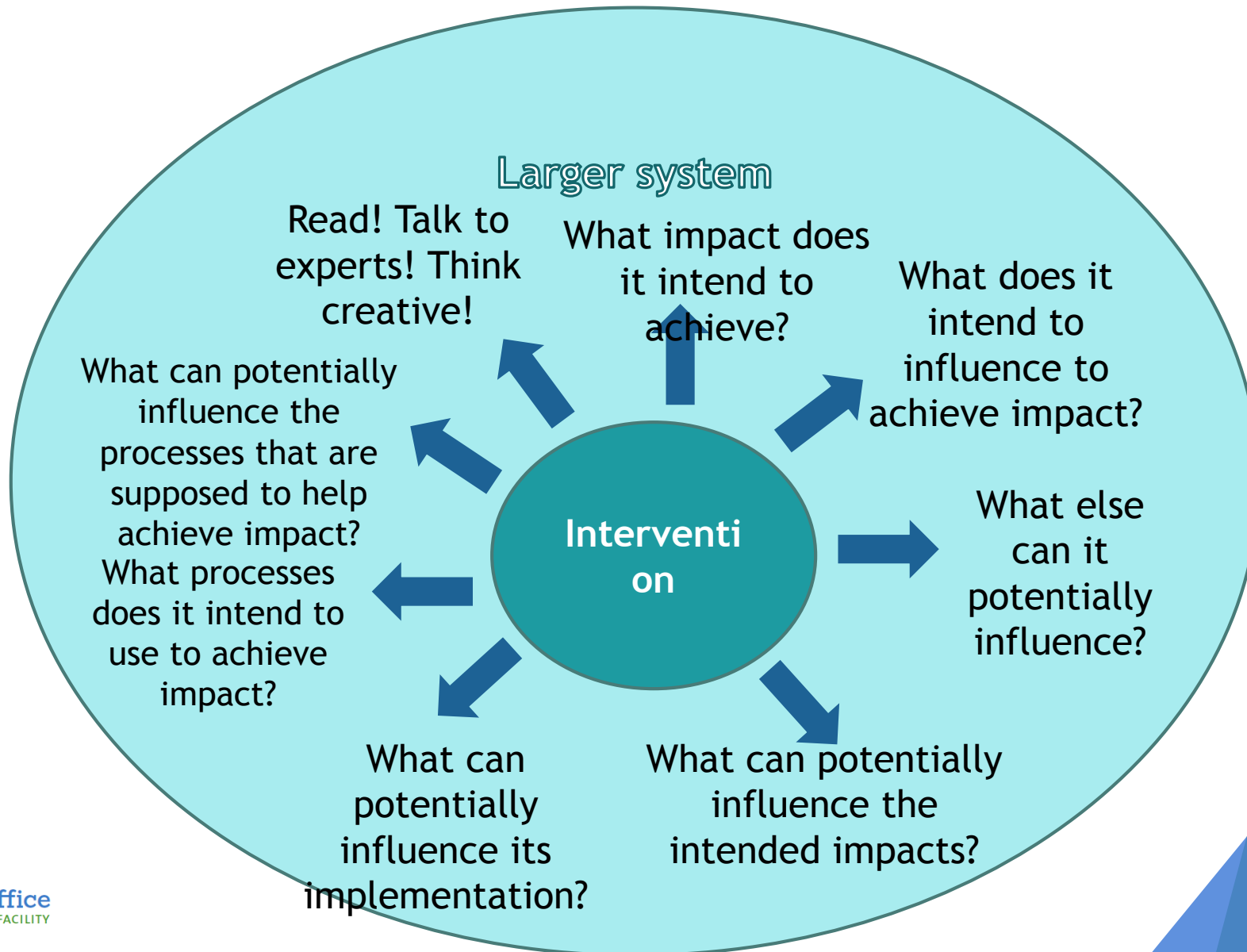
- Numerous spatial scales
- Environmental phenomena do not adhere to political and administrative boundaries
- Differing mobility of impacts in terrestrial systems, water, air
- Migratory species cross boundaries

- Evaluators need to understand how human (politics, economics, organizations) and natural (science) systems work
- Need to define system boundaries, components, emergent properties

* Rowe 2012; Garcia & Zazueta 2015

What is the “system” we need to look at?

* Garcia & Zazueta 2015



What this understanding helps us define

- Evaluation scope
- Appropriate units of analysis
- Appropriate methods for data collection and analysis based on
 - Variables that need to be measured
 - Existing data sources and gaps
 - Available technologies and resources
 - Lines of questioning to be used

Evaluations referred to

- Real-time evaluation of ADB's initiatives to support access to climate change. Asian Development Bank Independent Evaluation Department 2014
- External evaluation of the UN-REDD programme. UNDP, UNEP & FAO 2014
- Swiss international cooperation in climate change 2000-2012. SDC & SECO 2014
- Fifth overall performance study of the GEF: At the crossroads for higher impact. Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF 2014
- Independent evaluation of the Climate Investment Funds. World Bank 2014
- Climate change at the IDB: Building resilience and reducing emissions. Inter-American Development Bank Office of Evaluation and Oversight 2014

Other key resources used

- Berg, R.D. van den. 2011. Evaluation in the context of global public goods. *Evaluation* 17(4): 405-415
- Berg, R.D. van den & Cando-Noordhuizen, L. 2016. Action on climate change: What does it mean and where does it lead to? In J.I. Uitto, J. Puri & R.D. van den Berg, eds. Springer forthcoming
- Birnbaum, M. & Mickwitz, P. 2009. Environmental Program and Policy Evaluation: Addressing Methodological Challenges. *New Directions for Evaluation* 122
- Garcia, J.R. & Zazueta, A. 2015. Going beyond mixed methods to mixed approaches: A systems perspective for asking the right questions. *IDS Bulletin* 46(1): 30-43
- Rowe, A. 2012. Evaluation of natural resource interventions. *American Journal of Evaluation* 33(3): 382-392
- Uitto, J.I. 2016. The environment-poverty nexus in evaluation: Implications for the sustainable development goals. *Global Policy* 7(3)



Thank you!

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