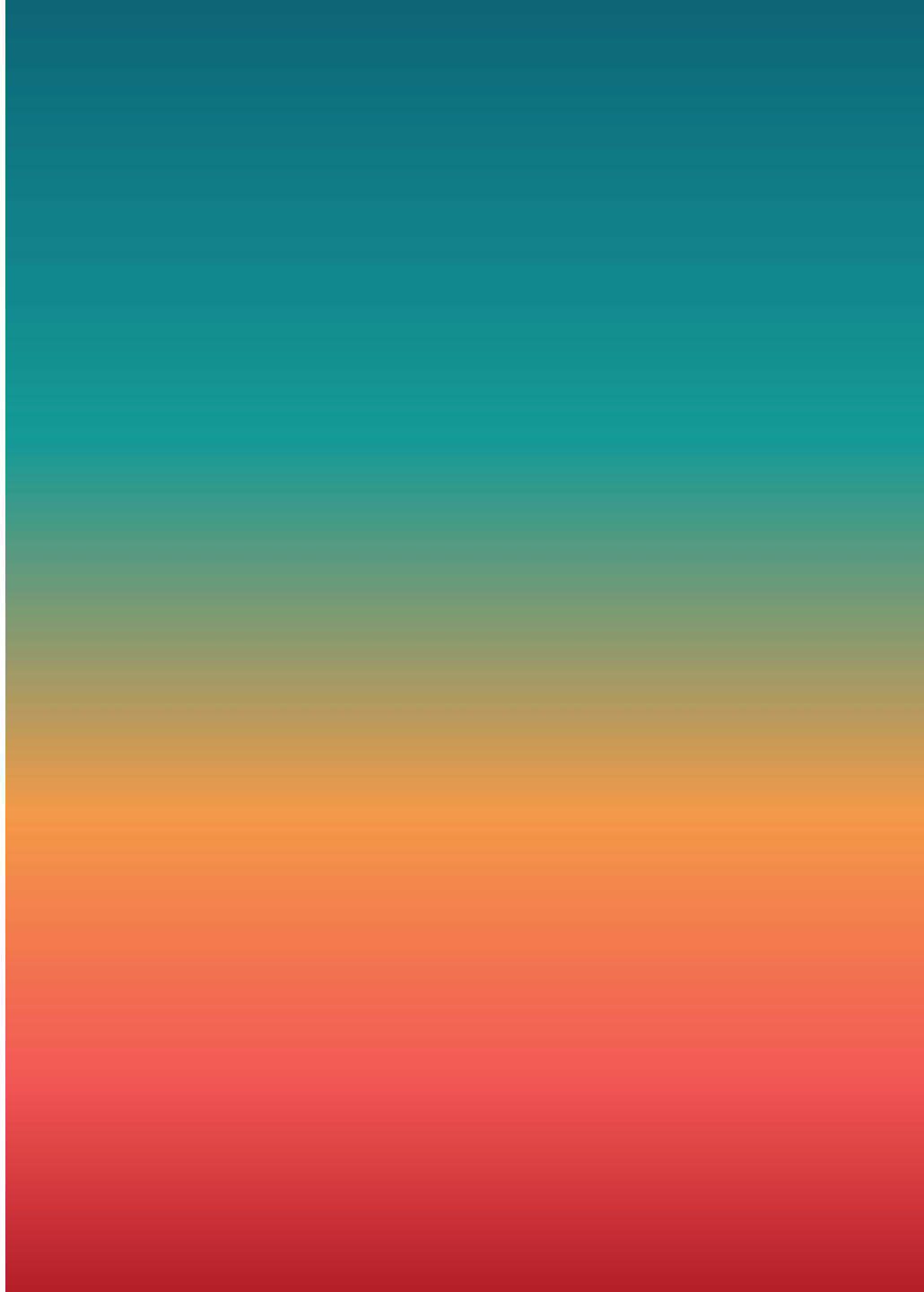
OCTOBER 2026

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Presentation to the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP

Evaluation Office of UNEP (EOU)

New Members Induction



UNEP Evaluation Office — overview

- **Independent Office**: the Head of Evaluation reports directly to the Executive Director, separate from the management line of the work being evaluated *(UNEP projects and programmes report through Divisions to the DED).*
- High-quality **evaluation reports** are released without management approval.
- All UNEP evaluation reports are **publicly disclosed** through WeDocs.
- Every evaluation **requires a formal management response**, and recommendations are followed through a **compliance-assessment process**.
- The Evaluation Office reports **regularly to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.**

What this means

Independence

Public disclosure

Management response

Recommendation follow-up

UNEP Evaluation Policy

- First approved in 2009, revised in 2016, and fully updated in 2022.
- Covers projects, programmes, policies and initiatives under UNEP's Programme of Work / Medium-Term Strategy.
- Conforms to applicable UN rules and regulations, including ST/SGB/2018/3 and ST/AI/2021/3.
- Adheres to the UN Evaluation Group's (UNEG) Principles, Norms and Standards for evaluation.
- Within UNEP, only the Evaluation Office holds the mandate to carry out evaluations.

UNEG principles

- Utility
- Credibility
- Independence
- Ethics
- Transparency
- Professionalism
- Human rights & gender equality
- Environmental & social impact

Types of evaluation and review

Terminal Evaluation (TE)

A summative assessment at project completion, **managed by the UNEP Evaluation Office** and normally undertaken by external consultants.

Management-Led Terminal Review (MLTR/TR)

A summative assessment at project completion, **managed by the UNEP Project/Task Manager** and normally undertaken by an external consultant.

The Evaluation Office quality-assesses and validates the review report.

Both assess performance at completion; the principal distinction is who manages the process.

Types of evaluation

Subprogramme evaluations

All UNEP subprogrammes must be evaluated within a six-year period.

Recent examples include the Nature Action Subprogramme; the Finance and Economic Transformations Subprogramme is ongoing.

Thematic / issue-based / cross-cutting

Examine themes or issues across UNEP's work.

An example is the Formative Evaluation of the UNEP Delivery Model and associated Programmatic Approach.

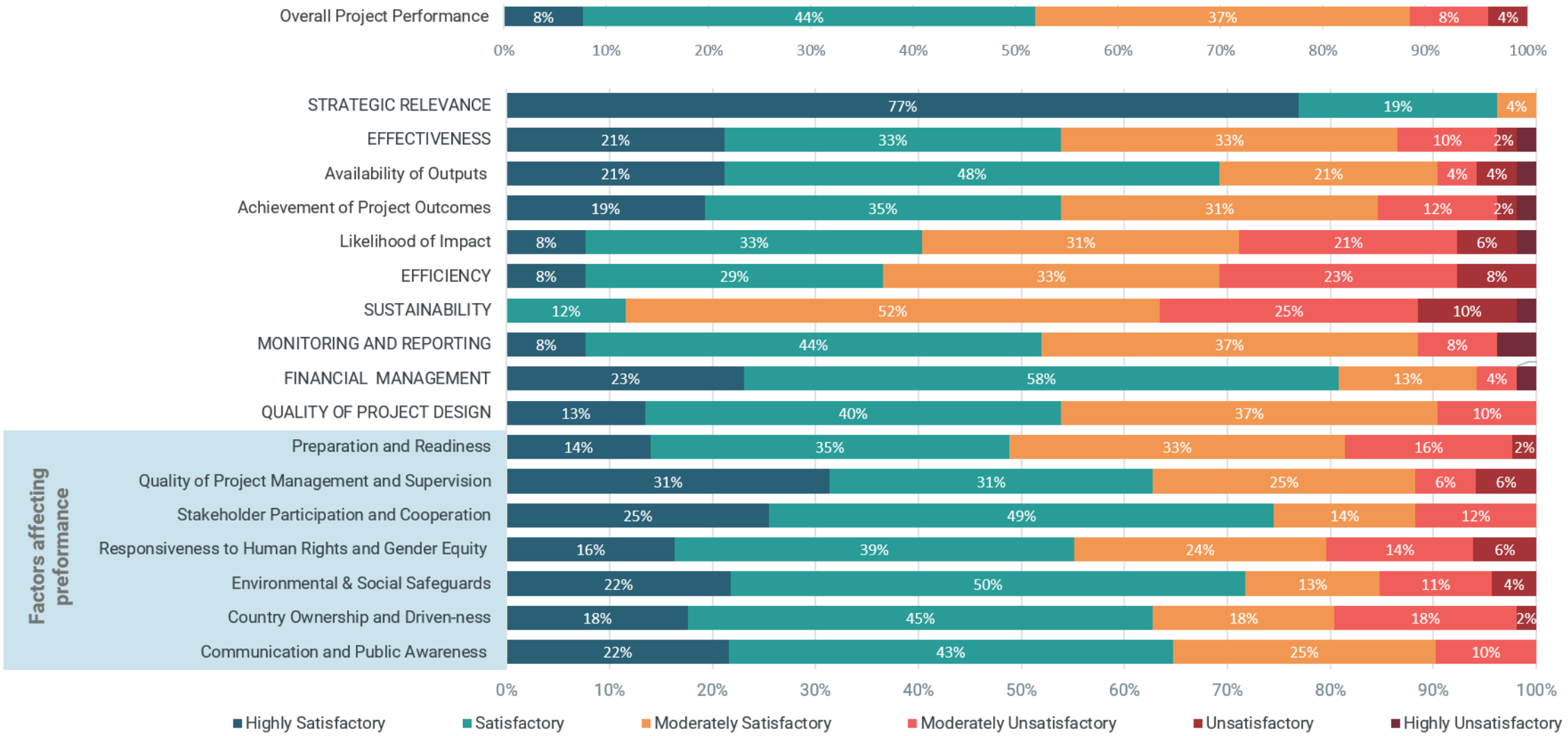
Meta level

Synthesize evidence across evaluations based on aggregated information.

The Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report regularly summarizes project performance using completed project-level evaluations.

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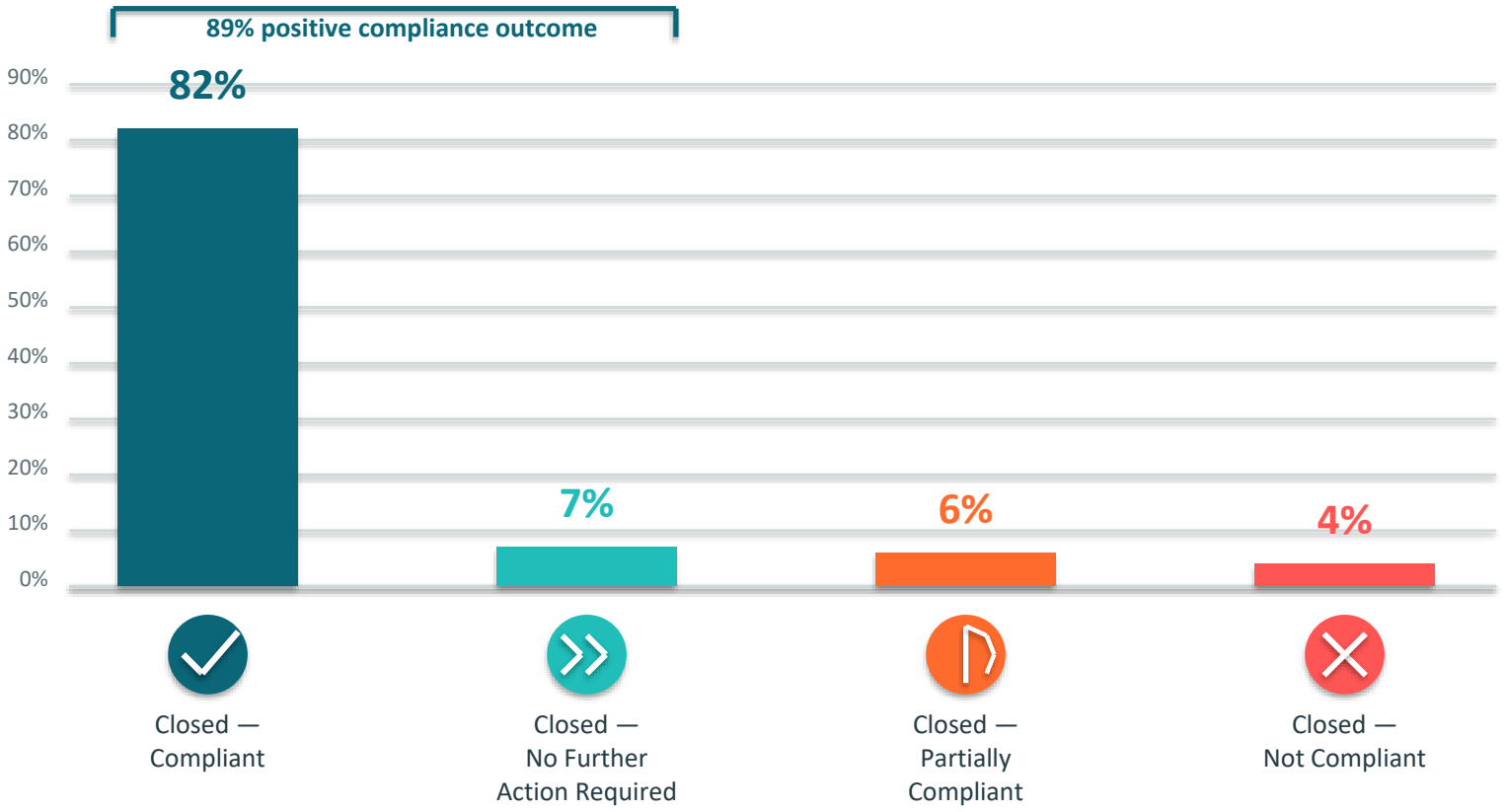
Project performance against evaluation criteria



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Recommendation compliance status (project level)

Distribution of closed recommendations, 2024–25



2024–2025 Strong compliance

82% Closed — Compliant

7% Closed — No Further Action Required

Compliance over the years

89% Compliance in 2024–25

74% 8-year average

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How evaluation recommendations are tracked and assessed

Project-level recommendations

12-month cycle

- Following finalization of the Recommendations Implementation Plan, the Evaluation Office assesses compliance every six months over a 12-month period.
- Interim compliance statistics are reported to the Senior Management Team every quarter.
- Project-level compliance statistics (% of closed recommendations assessed as 'compliant') are also reported to Member States through the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report.

Strategic-level recommendations

18-month cycle

- For subprogramme and thematic evaluations, the finalized Management Response is translated into an internal Recommendations Implementation Plan.
- Management provides progress updates every six months over an 18-month tracking period.
- At 18 months, the Evaluation Office assesses compliance based on reported progress and supporting evidence and determines the final closure and compliance status.
- Strategic-level compliance is reported to senior management in a narrative form.

For both project- and strategic-level recommendations, the final compliance status is recorded as:
Closed – Compliant, Closed – Partially Compliant, or Closed – Not Compliant.

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Performance of the Evaluation Office and evaluation quality

OIOS — 2023

(Evaluation Dashboard and Report A/78/70 to the General Assembly)

- UNEP recognized as having all elements of a **strong evaluation system**, with improvements in evaluation planning and quality.
- **High-quality, well-structured evaluations** integrating cross-cutting issues, and the highest evaluation-report output in the UN Secretariat (41 reports in 2020–2021).

UN-SWAP — 2025

- Of 31 evaluations reviewed, 64% met requirements, **up from 23% in 2024**.

JIU — 2025

(Review of Management and Administration in UNEP)

- The review gave an **overall positive assessment** of UNEP's evaluation function and recognized its model combining directly managed (centralized) terminal evaluations with validated management-led reviews (decentralized).

MOPAN — 2026

- MOPAN identifies UNEP's independent **evaluation function as an institutional strength** and notes that it has strengthened since the 2021 assessment.
- Evaluation sits under KPI 8, "Evidence-based planning and programming applied," **rated Highly Satisfactory** by MOPAN.

About the Evaluation Office

UNEP Evaluation Office	Evaluation Office | UNEP - UN Environment Programme
Evaluation reports	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/48904
Evaluation tools	INDEPENDENT EVALUATION TOOLS AND TEMPLATES - Evaluation Office of UNEP - Global Site

Thank you

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www.unep.org/about-un-environment/evaluation

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