



Operationalizing the One Impact Framework: UNEP's Impact Measurement Initiative

Secretariat Briefing | 11th June 2026
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1

UNEP's New MTS & PoW – stronger focus on Impact

Strategic Shifts, One Impact Framework, Updates to baselines and targets

2

UNEP's Impact Measurement Initiative

Targets, framework, indicators, methodology, and implementation.

3

Investing in Impact Measurement

Why funding matters, what it enables, and how it strengthens credibility.



1

UNEP's New MTS & PoW – stronger focus on impact



Strategic Shifts in the 2026–2029 MTS

1 Strategic objectives

Addition of water, desertification, land degradation and drought in SP2.



2 Impact focus

One Impact Framework as an organizing device for results and impact.



3 Fewer indicators

Reduced number of outcomes and indicators, with clearer targets.



4 In-country emphasis

More focus on in-country impacts, especially in LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS.



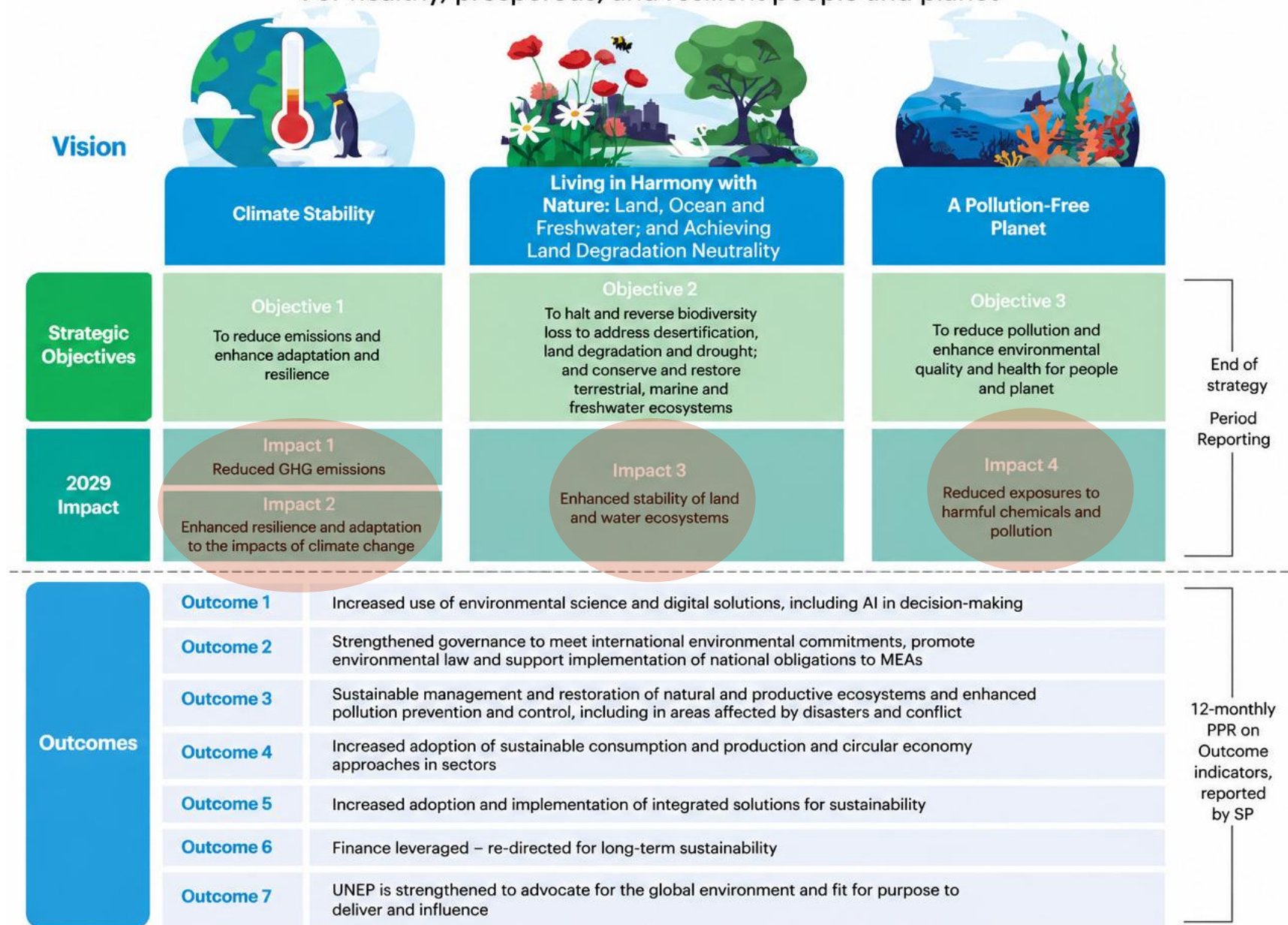
5 MEA collaboration

Stronger collaboration with MEAs, including indicator measurement.



ONE IMPACT FRAMEWORK

For healthy, prosperous, and resilient people and planet



Indicators and targets

Impact	Indicator(s)	Baselines Targets
Reduced greenhouse gas emissions	11.1 Projected greenhouse gas emission reductions in supported countries	-3.5 million MtCO₂eq Progress by December 2029: 3.5 MtCO ₂ eq (unit of change updated to million tons of CO ₂ equivalent, from metric tons of CO ₂ equivalent)
Enhanced resilience and adaptation to climate change	12.1 Direct beneficiaries of UNEP adaptation and resilience initiatives 12.2 Number of countries with multi-hazard monitoring, forecasting and early warning systems	+1,000,000 beneficiaries +12 countries Progress by Dec 2029: beneficiaries (vs 480,443 baseline (previously 480,682)) and countries (vs 119 baseline (previously 101))
Enhanced stability of land and water ecosystems	13.1 Extent of land- and seascapes under improved ecosystem management	+8,531,000 ha Progress by Dec 2029: under improved ecosystem management (above 28,112,645 ha baseline (previously 11,205,281 ha))
Reduced exposures to harmful chemicals and pollution	14.1 Reduction in releases of pollutants and waste to the environment avoided	-4,000 metric tons Progress by Dec 2029: reduced or avoided (vs 3,399 metric ton baseline (previously 3,298))



Updates to baselines and targets: Overview

Paragraph 8 on page 4 of the PoW: *“UNEP will issue an amendment of the baselines and targets in the first half of 2026, upon completion of the programme performance verification exercise for the programme of work and budget for 2022-2025.*

	Total number of indicators	Number of indicators with updated baselines and/or targets	Note
Impact Indicators	5	5	Unit of measure updated for I1 (reduced GHG emissions).
Subprogramme Indicators	19	14	Indicators for all subprogrammes updated except for Digital Transformations.
Corporate Indicators	18	13	All sections updated.



Pivoting operationally

Project Closures

- GEF projects: 420 of 489 “aged” projects closed (86%)
- Non-GEF projects: 85 of 128 “aged” projects closed (66%)

Results Based Budgeting

- Applies RBB for Regular Budget in 2027 as per UN Secretariat overall framework.

Implementing Audit Recommendations

- JIU, OIOS, MOPAN

Strengthened Programme Coordination

- Ongoing discussion on a new set of projects for enabling activities for seven Subprogrammes and the ONE Impact Framework.



2

UNEP's Impact Measurement Initiative



Why is UNEP prioritizing impact measurement?

It is over & above UNEP's continuous effort for results-based management and budgeting



ARE WE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

**GLOBAL URGENCY: CLIMATE,
NATURE, POLLUTION, RESILIENCE**



CAN WE DO IT BETTER?

**LEARNING AND INNOVATION:
IMPROVING DELIVERY, ADAPTING TO
CONTEXTS, SCALING EFFECTIVELY**



ARE WE BEING ACCOUNTABLE?

**RESPONDING TO MEMBER
STATES'S DEMAND FOR
TRANSPARENCY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY**



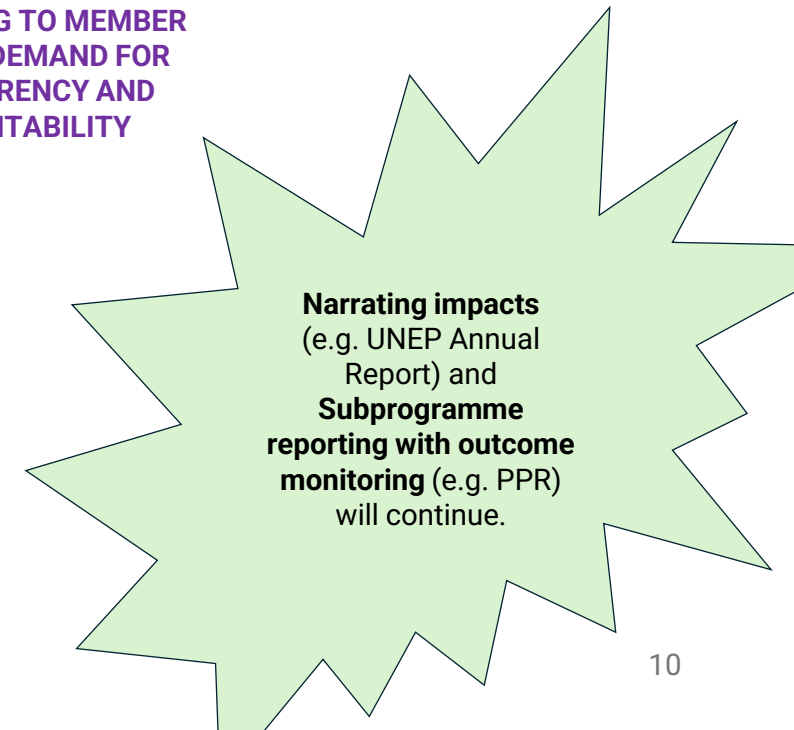
ARE WE DOING IT EFFICIENTLY?

**VALUE FOR MONEY: COST-
EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERVENTIONS
PARAMOUNT**



ARE WE KEEPING UP?

**GLOBAL SHIFT IN EVIDENTIARY
STANDARDS: WORLD BANK,
BILATERALS, IMPACT
INVESTING**



Narrating impacts
(e.g. UNEP Annual
Report) and
Subprogramme
reporting with outcome
monitoring (e.g. PPR)
will continue.



The core questions of impact measurement

Did UNEP's support **cause measurable additional** change in environmental conditions, behaviour, policy uptake, institutional performance, and the protection of people and ecosystems?

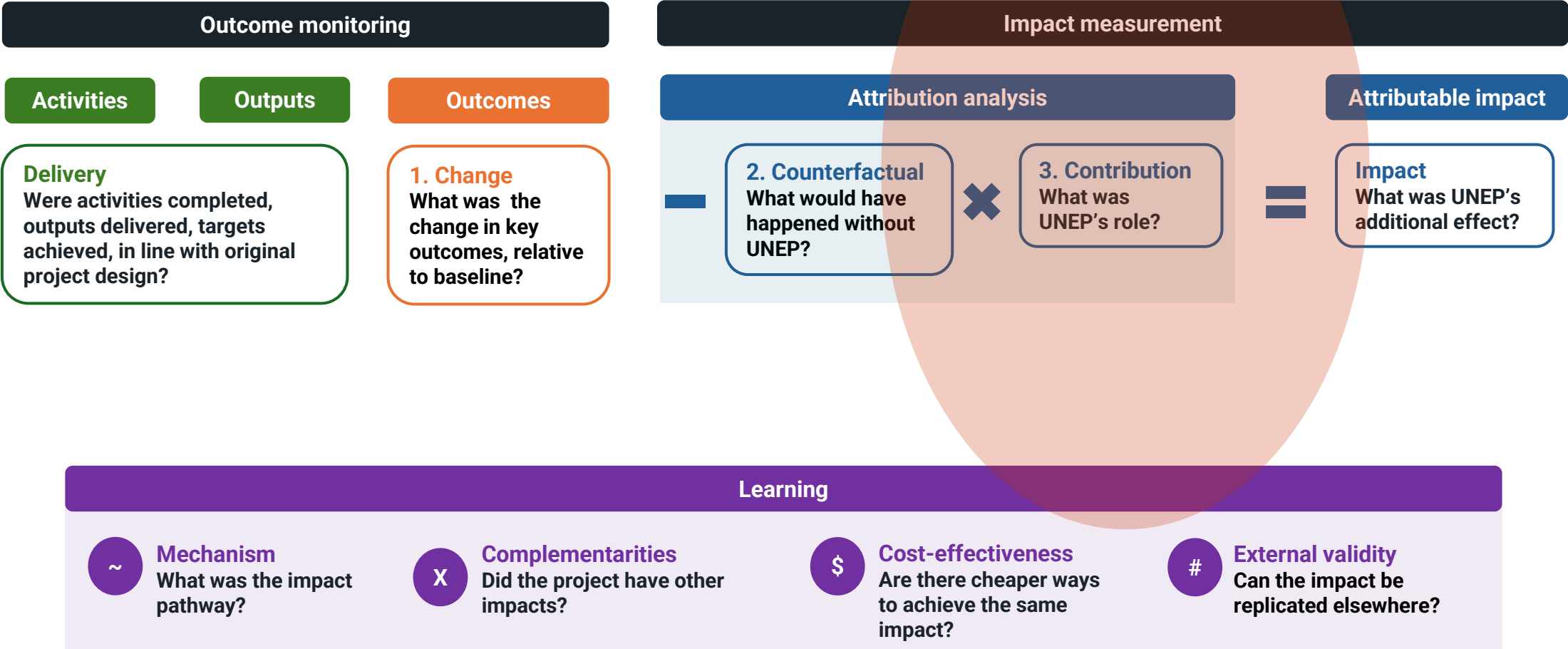
Three core questions:

1. **Change:** What changed?
2. **Counterfactual:** Would have happened anyway?
3. **Contribution:** What was UNEP's role?

$$(\text{CHANGE} - \text{COUNTERFACTUAL}) \times \text{CONTRIBUTION} = \text{IMPACT}$$

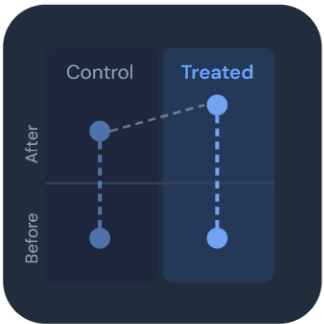
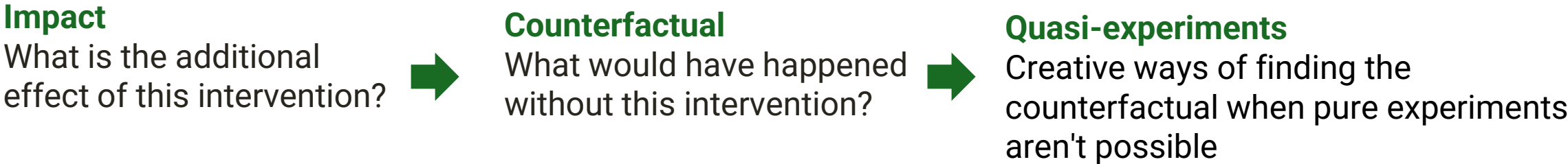


Attributing impact to UNEP's work



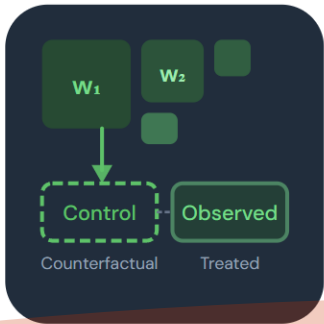
I.a. UNEP's methods are
state of the art.

Measuring impact using quasi-experimental methods



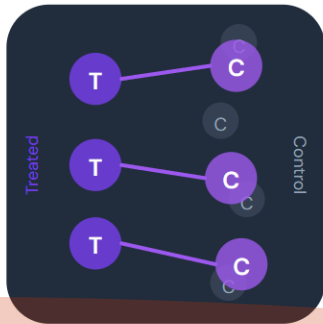
DIFFERENCE-IN-DIFFERENCES

Before/after × treated/control



SYNTHETIC CONTROL

Weighted composite of comparison units



MATCHING

Pair treated with closest controls



REGRESSION DISCONTINUITY

Jump at a threshold cutoff



Impact of REDD+ on tree cover loss in Guyana

REDD+ program

Implemented in 2010 through bilateral agreement between Norway, the largest donor of global REDD+ climate finance, and Guyana, a high forest cover, low deforestation (HFLD) country

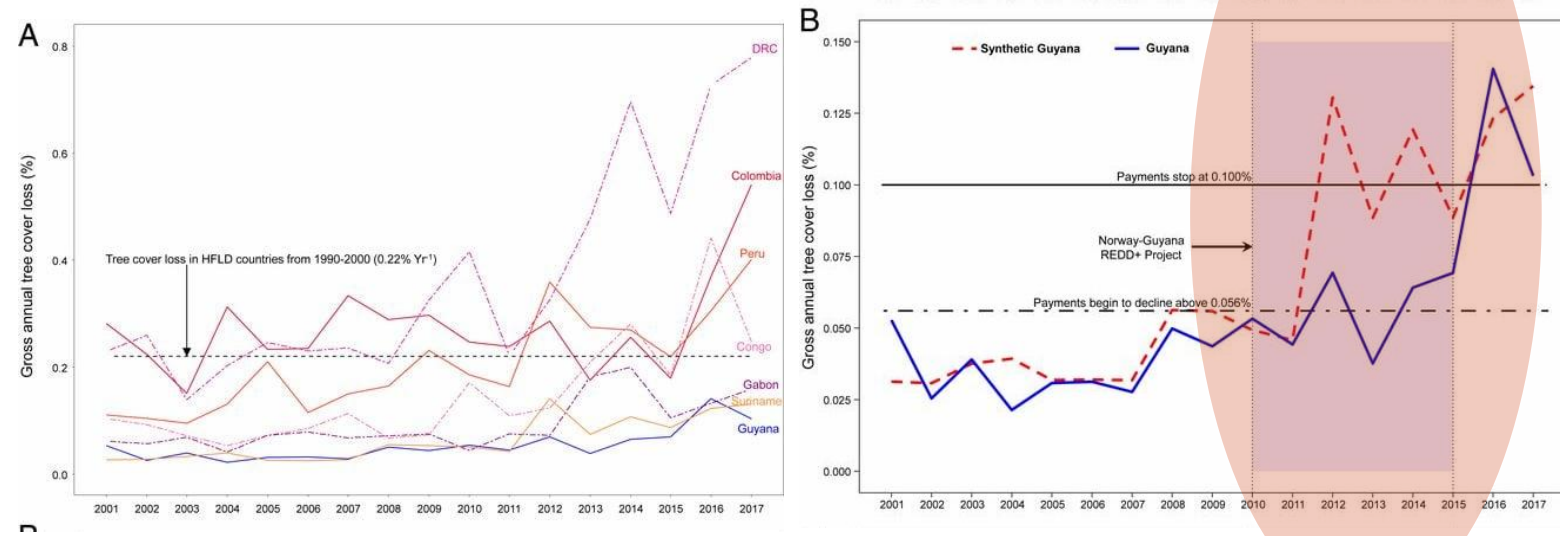
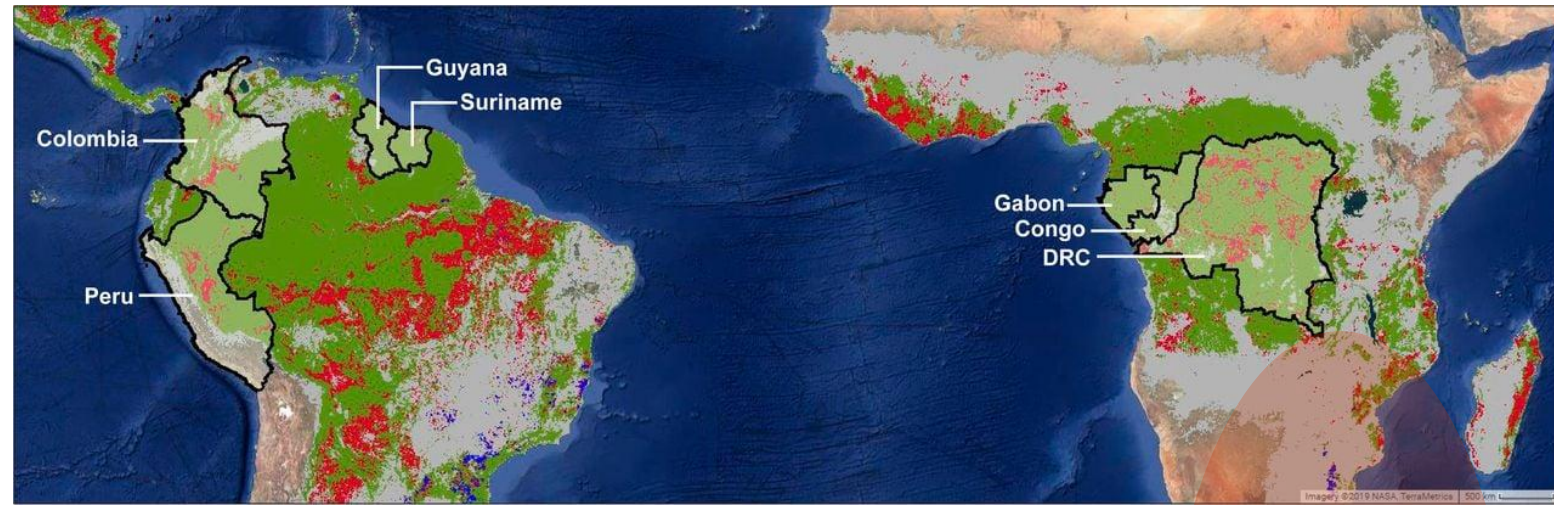
Quasi-experiment: Synthetic control

Synthetic matching to estimate tree cover loss that would have occurred in the absence of the national REDD+ program

Findings

Norway-Guyana REDD+ program reduced tree cover loss by 35% during the implementation period (2010 to 2015), equivalent to 12.8 million tons of avoided CO₂ emissions.

Gains were wiped out after end of REDD+ implementation.



A. Roopsind, B. Sohngen, & J. Brandt, Evidence that a national REDD+ program reduces tree cover loss and carbon emissions in a high forest cover, low deforestation country, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 116 (49) 24492-24499, (2019).



Impact of the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit system

Does the Dar BRT

- Reduce travel times?
- Improve safety and security of commuters?
- Create jobs and boost income?
- Encourage firm productivity, trade and growth?
- Improve property values?
- Increase the health, wealth and happiness of Dar residents – especially the poor?



I.b. Implementing
the approach and
sampling
approaches

Implementing the initiative

I. DESIGN

1

Portfolio review

Internal consultations,
resource mobilization

2

Sample selection

Project sampling,
representativeness checks

II. MEASUREMENT

3

Data collection

Data collection, research
design and implementation

4

Project-level analysis

Impact estimates and
insights

III. SYNTHESIS & LEARNING

5

Meta-analysis

Aggregate impacts across
projects and subprogrammes

6

Projection

Extrapolate to full portfolio
using sampling weights

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Reporting and learning

Briefs, dashboards, lessons
for UNEP & governing bodies

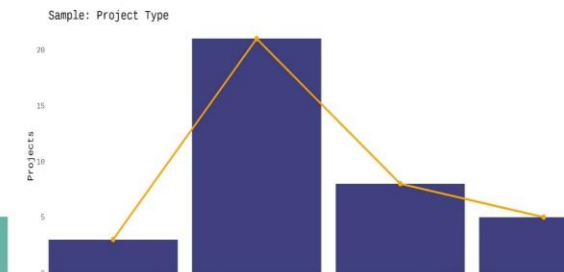
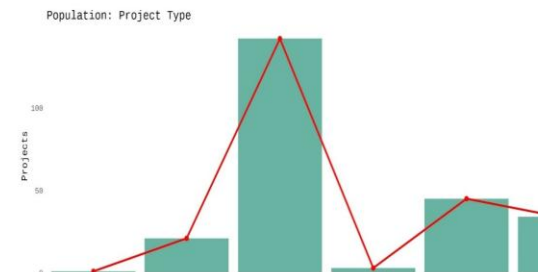
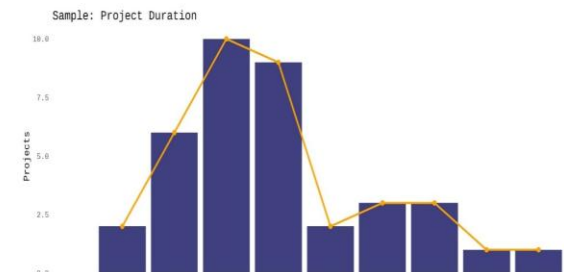
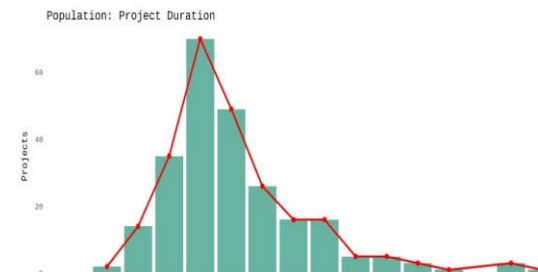
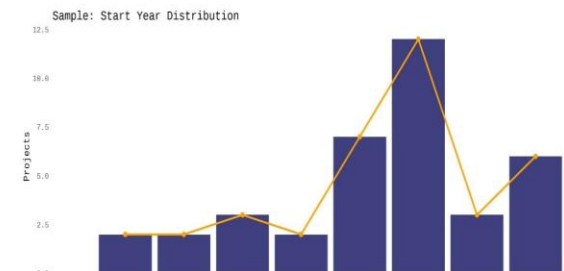
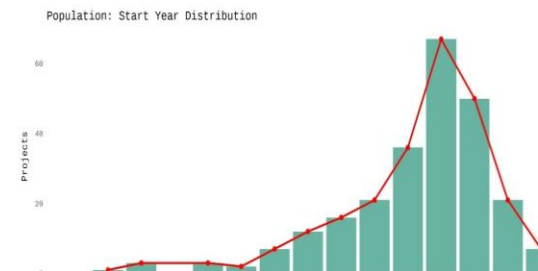
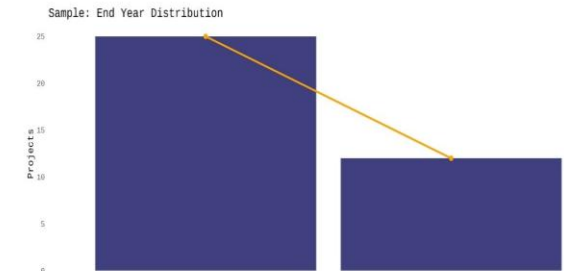
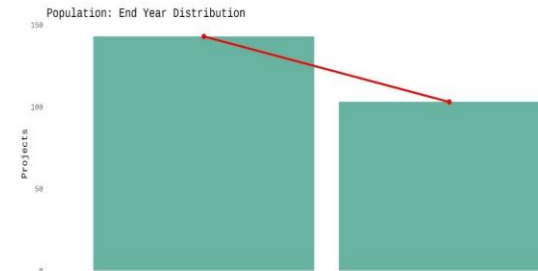


Sample is representative of global portfolio

Statistical testing shows no difference between distribution of sampled projects and global portfolio in terms of

- Project type
- Region
- Duration
- Start/end year

Region	Sample	Population	Sample (%)	Population (%)	Conclusion
Africa	8	65	21.6%	28.3%	Fail to reject H0; no significant difference.
Africa, Asia & the Pacific	1	3	2.7%	1.3%	Fail to reject H0; no significant difference.
Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Europe	1	1	2.7%	0.4%	Reject H0; significant difference.
Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Europe	1	4	2.7%	1.7%	Fail to reject H0; no significant difference.
Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Europe	2	2	5.4%	0.9%	Reject H0; significant difference.
Africa, Europe and Central Asia, Asia & the Pacific	1	2	2.7%	0.9%	Fail to reject H0; no significant difference.
Asia & the Pacific	8	48	21.6%	20.9%	Fail to reject H0; no significant difference.
Asia & the Pacific, Latin America	1	1	2.7%	0.4%	Reject H0; significant difference.
Europe and Central Asia	1	9	2.7%	3.9%	Fail to reject H0; no significant difference.
Europe and Central Asia, Unassig	1	1	2.7%	0.4%	Reject H0; significant difference.
Global/Interregional	1	24	2.7%	10.4%	Fail to reject H0; no significant difference.
Latin America and the Caribbean	8	55	21.6%	23.9%	Fail to reject H0; no significant difference.
Multiple categories	1	8	2.7%	3.5%	Fail to reject H0; no significant difference.
West-Asia	2	7	5.4%	3.0%	Fail to reject H0; no significant difference.



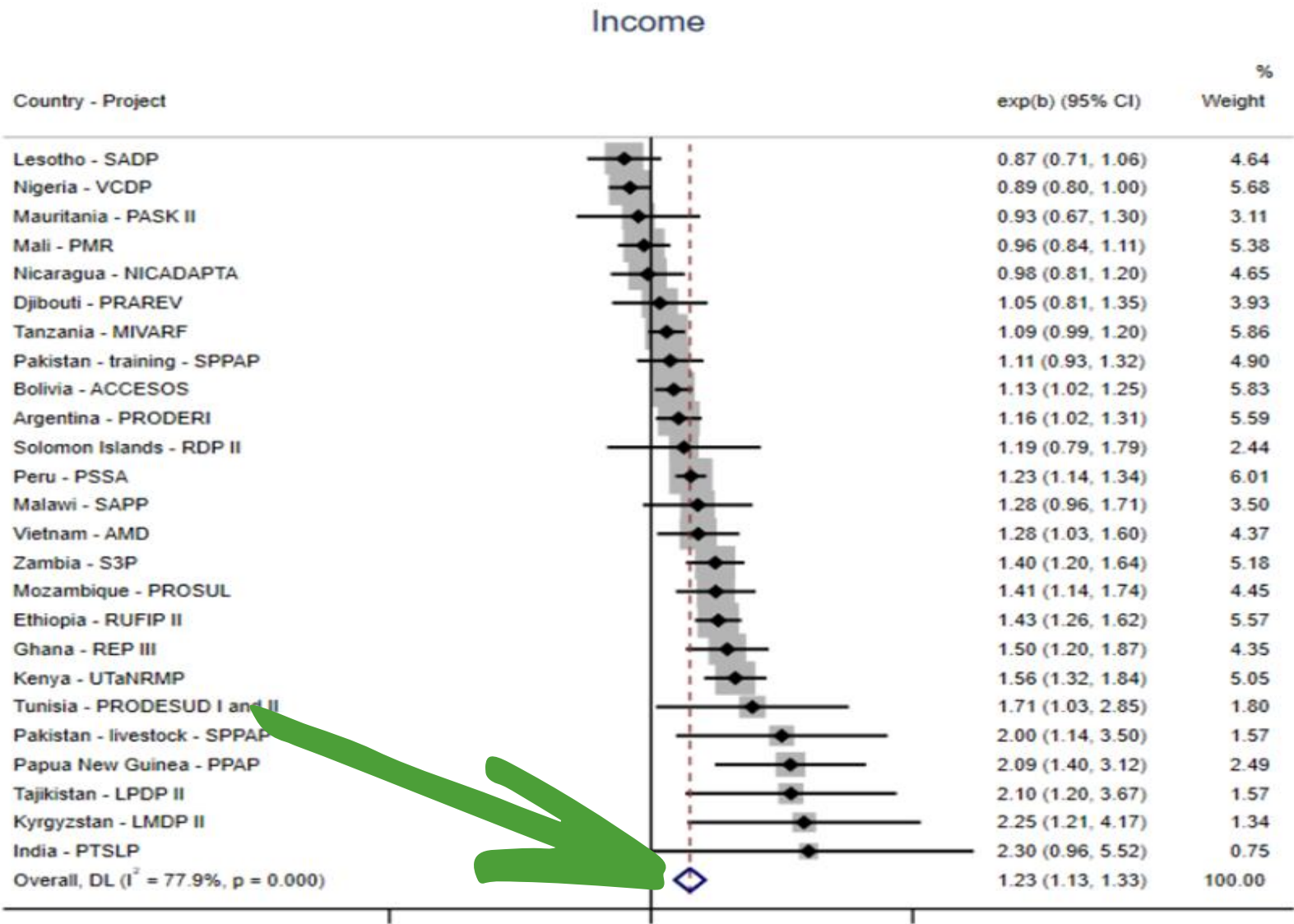


I.c. Learning
from others.

We used counterfactuals and meta-analyses.



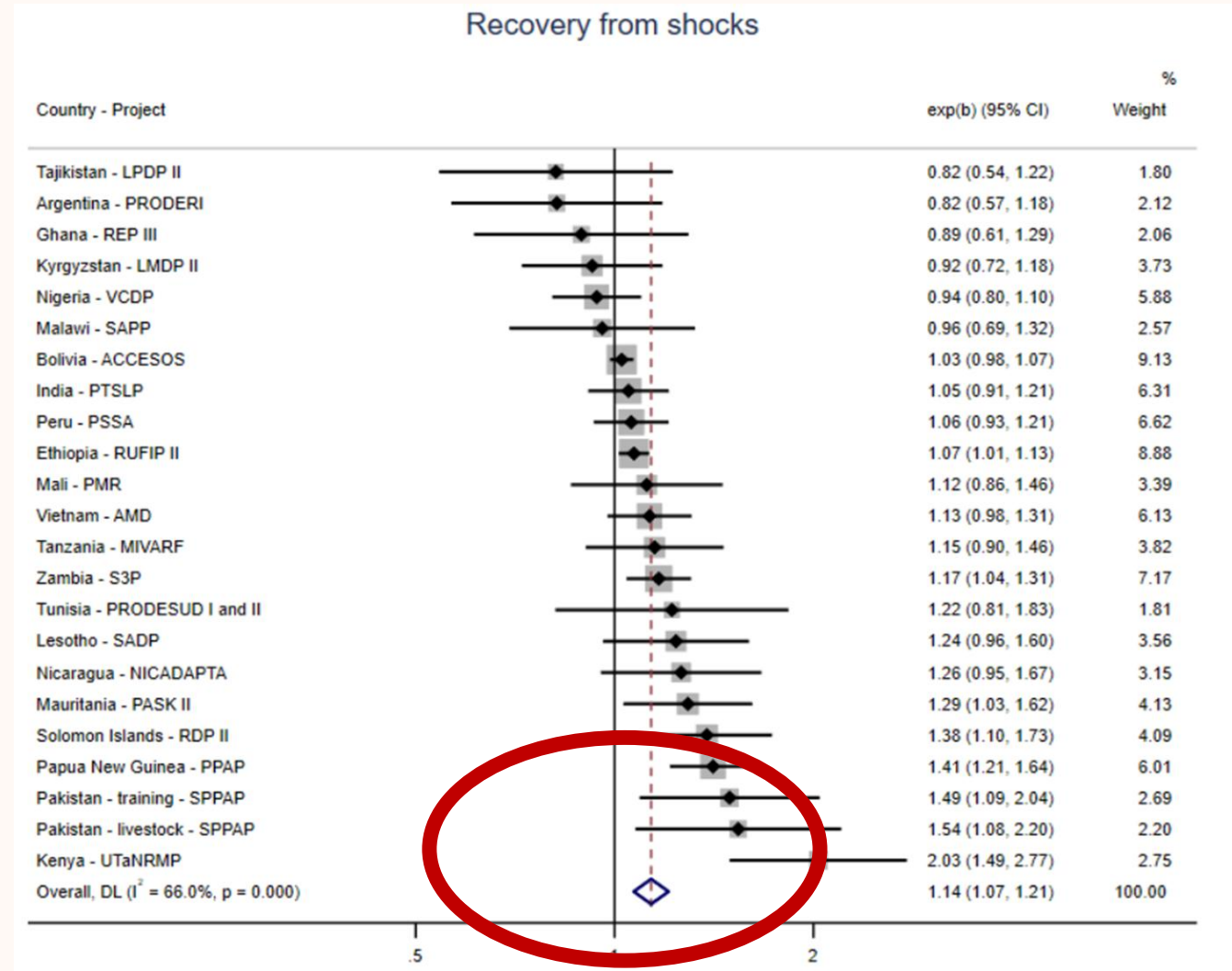
IFAD beneficiaries
had **23% higher**
income than the
comparison group



IFAD'S EVIDENCE ON ATR – INFORMED IFAD REPLENISHMENT DISCUSSION AND SUSTAINABLE BONDS.

Strategic Objective
Ability to recover from shocks

Average Effect Size
14%

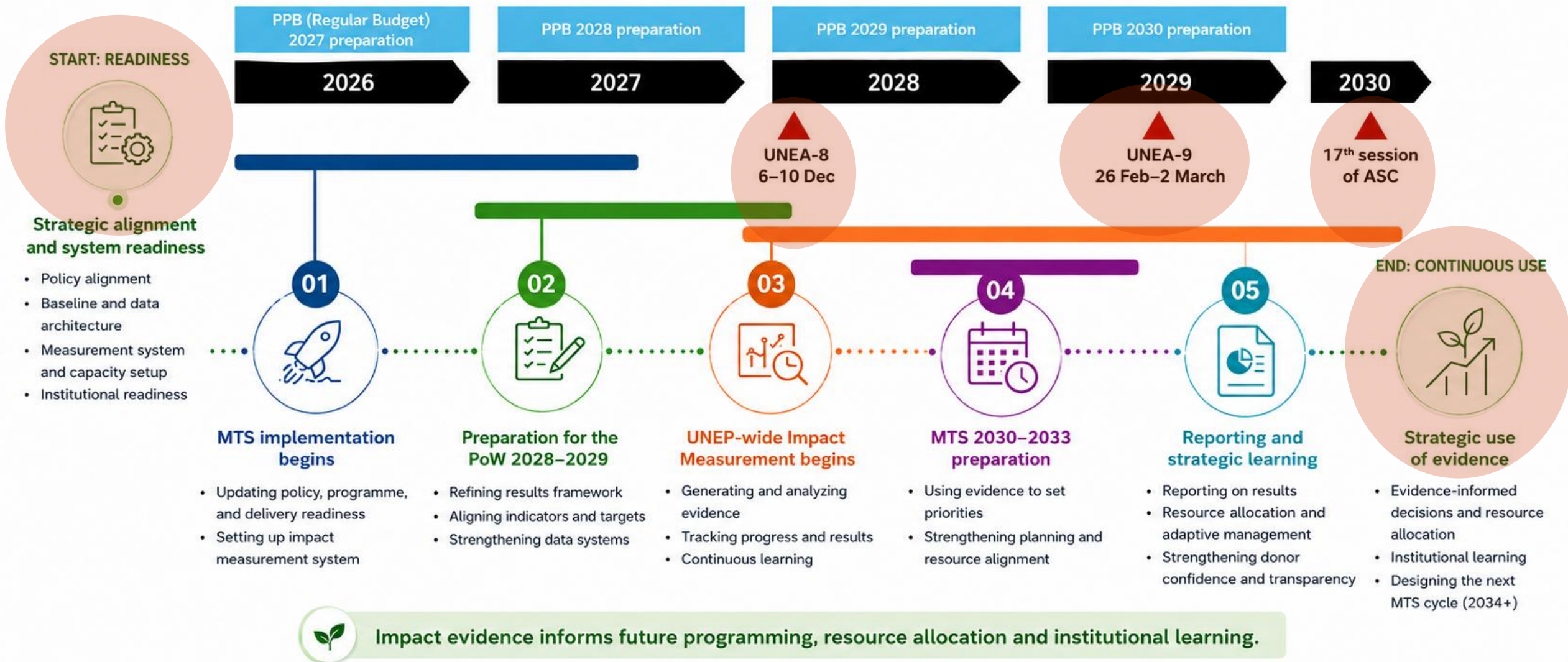




I.d. The Timeline.

UNEP MTS cycle and UN Secretariat cycle

A continuous cycle from readiness to impact and back to better decisions



3

Investing in Impact Measurement: Why? What?



Why Funding for Impact Measurement Matters

Rigorous measurement is the bridge between project activity and institutional credibility



Eliminates Over-claiming

Moves beyond "gross headcounts" to identify the **net impact specifically attributable to UNEP's intervention.**



Reduces Risk

Provides early detection of underperforming pathways, allowing for **adaptive management and resource optimization.**



Attracts Investment

Donor confidence relies on empirical proof. **Causal evidence justifies long-term investments.**

Trust is built on results, not
ANECDOTES.



What Funding Will Enable



Robust Impact Measurement



Improved Data Systems



Build Capacity



Generate Evidence



Mobilize Resources

**Budget
Required
for the First
18 Months**

Budget Category	Amount (USD)
Staffing	77,060
Consultants	120,000
Travel	90,000
Contractual Services	58,940
Equipment / Software Licenses	4,000
Grants & Contributions	250,000
Total excluding PSC	600,000
Programme Support Costs (13%)	78,000
Total including PSC	678,000



Feedback from Member States

Secretariat Briefing 11 June 2026

**Agenda Item 2: Operationalizing UNEP's Impact
Measurement**

What We Heard: One Impact Framework

Comments & Questions from Delegations

→ Welcomed the Framework

Recognised the One Impact Framework as an **important step toward strengthening UNEP's credibility** in a crowded environmental space.

→ Methodology & Transparency

Requested **detail on how baselines and targets were determined**, including data sources, assumptions, causal pathways, indicator reference sheets, quality assurance and the handling of reporting burdens.

→ Resource Needs

Sought clarity on **longer-term resource needs beyond the first 18 months**, and queried the extent to which Environment Fund resources should cover impact measurement as a core function.

→ Capacity & Country Support

Emphasized that **PoW indicators should remain practical** for countries with limited capacity and asked how the framework **will strengthen national capacities and incorporate lessons learned** from country implementation.

Thank you

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