Likelihood of Impact Assessment (LIA)

It is often not possible to measure actual impact of a project due to data and resource limitations, and the timing of the evaluation. To assess the likelihood of impact, UNEP evaluations often rely on a theoretical approach based on the intervention’s Theory of Change (TOC) called Likelihood of Impact Assessment (LIA). In a nutshell, the evaluation team will go through the following steps:

- **Assessment of the internal logic of the project.** Are outputs logically connected (from cause-to-effect) to intended outcomes, and are intended outcomes logically connected to expected impact? Have all essential outputs and outcomes been taken into account in project design? Have all drivers and critical assumptions been adequately considered? For this assessment, it is often useful to compare the formal logframe of the intervention with the reconstructed TOC.

- **Assessment of effectiveness.** To what extent have outcomes as per the reconstructed TOC been achieved?

- **Verification of drivers and assumptions.** Has the project made all possible efforts to ensure the presence of drivers, and made the necessary adjustments in case certain critical assumptions proved to be invalid?

- **Assessment of the likelihood of impact.** Based on the previous steps, the evaluation team will be able to conclude how likely the project contribution to impact may be. If the internal logic of the project is strong, outcomes have been achieved, and all drivers and assumptions are in place, it is highly likely that the intervention will contribute to impact. On the other hand, if there are flaws in the internal logic of the project, some key outcomes have not been achieved, or certain drivers or assumptions are not in place, the likelihood that the intervention will contribute to impact will be lower.