

Overview of Evaluation



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Evaluation Delivery

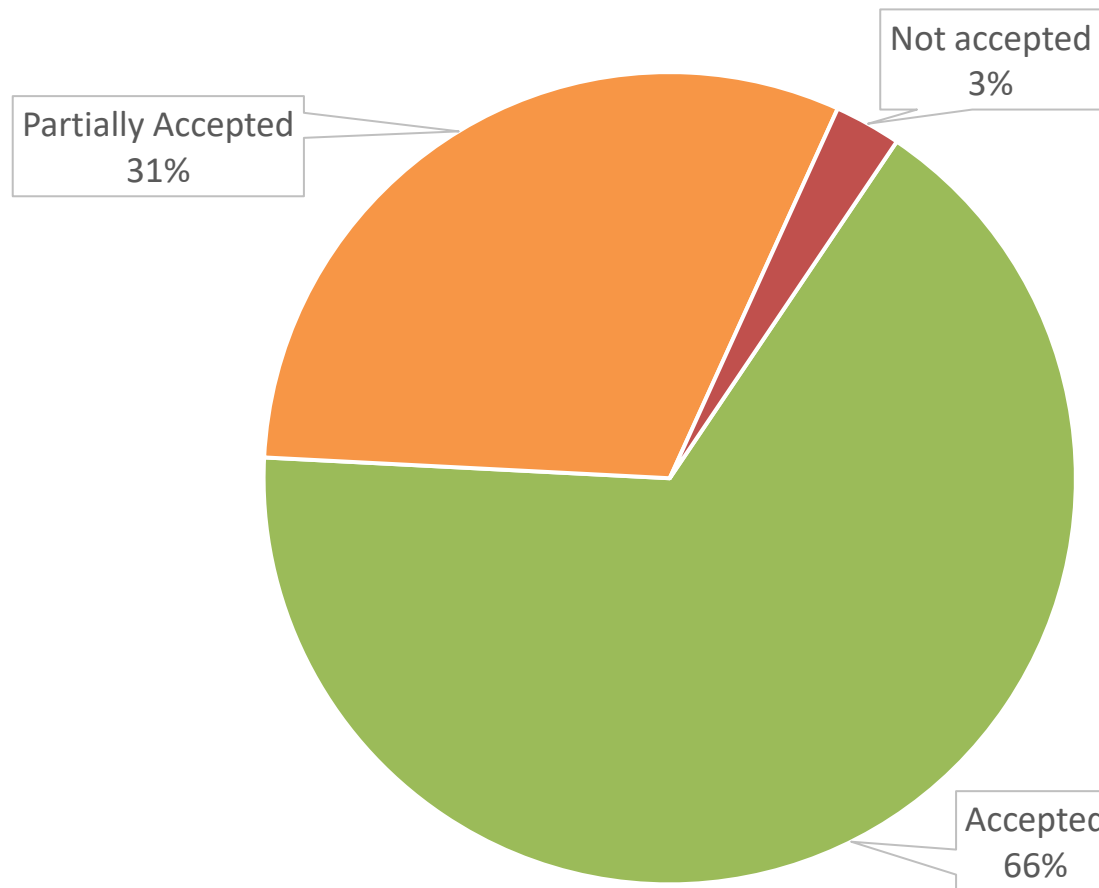
During 2023:

- First year under a new Evaluation Policy for UNEP
- 20 Independent Project Evaluations completed (to date)
- 14 Management-led Terminal Reviews (independently validated by the Evaluation Office)

Evaluations of strategic importance :

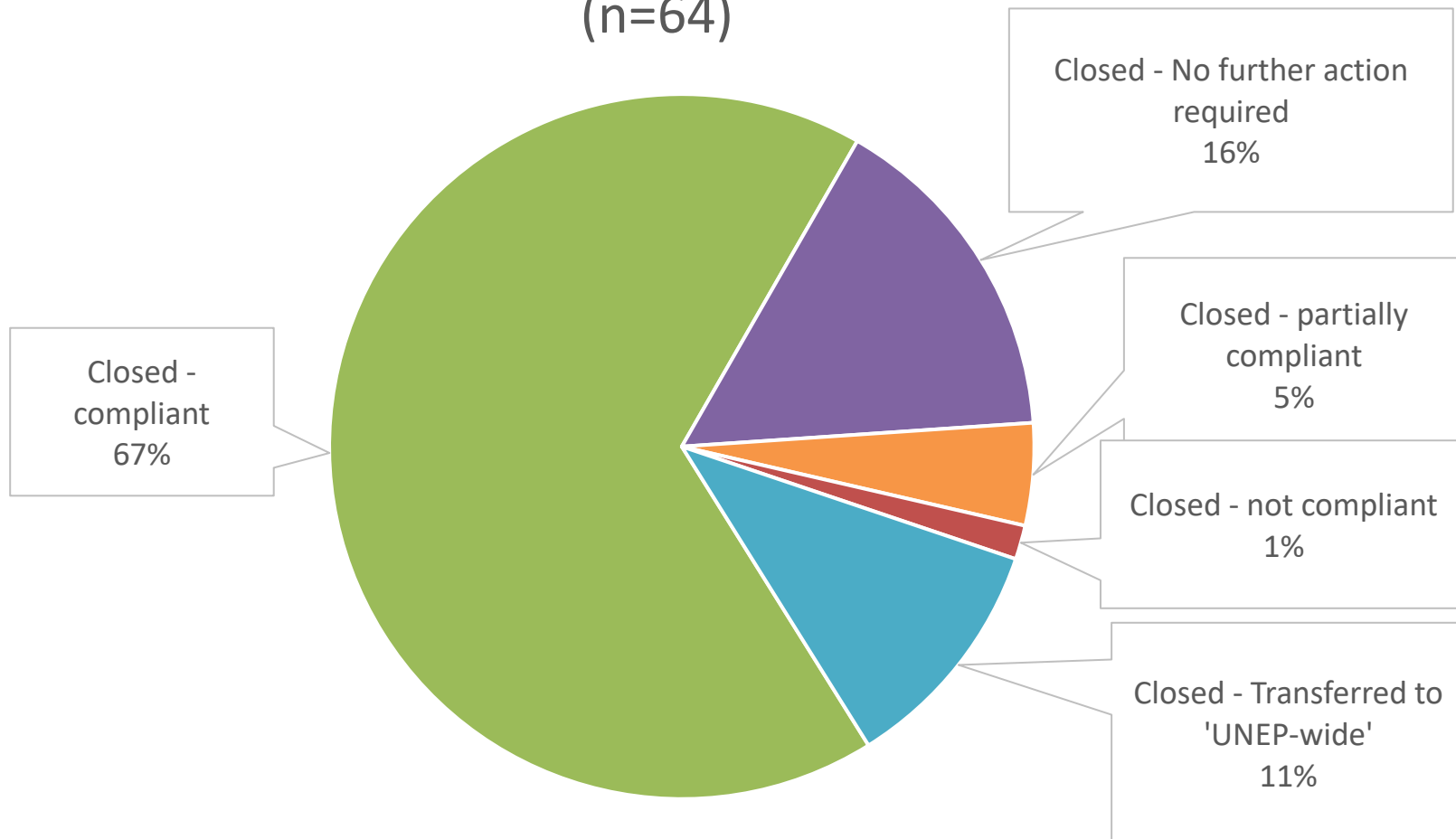
- Sub-Programme Evaluation on Environmental Governance
- Partnership for a Green Economy
- Sub-Programme Evaluation on Climate Action (ongoing)
- The Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report 2022-2023 (ongoing)
- Formative Evaluation of the UNEP Programmatic Approach, introduced in the 2022-25 Medium-Term Strategy (launching)

Evaluation Recommendation Acceptance Jan-October 2023 (n=113)



Evaluation Recommendation Compliance Status in Implementation Plans 'closed' Jan-October 2022

(n=64)



Purpose:

- Support accountability by analyzing, at a meta level, the performance of all the Sub-Programme projects evaluated during the evaluation period, and
- Contribute to institutional learning by providing formative reflections based on further analysis of the Sub-Programme's effectiveness as a coherent and coordinated unit within UNEP's results framework and considering lessons that are relevant to its role in the 2022-2025 Medium-Term Strategy.

Scope:

- Performance of the Sub-programme since last evaluation (2013)
- Draws on 41 completed EG project level evaluations (2014-2021)
- The evaluation did not cover the work of Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Secretariats but did cover Sub-programme activities that support the work of MEAs (e.g. MEA secretariat support, joint projects, support for Conference of the Parties (COP)-preparations and trainings for negotiators.)

Process:

- Team: Two external evaluation and governance / institutional analysis evaluation experts paired with two senior Evaluation Office staff
- Consulted widely to develop TORs and key strategic questions
- Evaluators had extensive interactions with staff from Divisions, MEAs and external stakeholders
- Report finalized after comments
- Findings and recommendations discussed extensively

LESSONS


Limited shared knowledge and understanding more broadly within UNEP about EG and this contributes to a fragmented approach to the design and implementation of the Sub-Programme.

Huge potential for involvement in the UN Reform process to increase with several benefits for UNEP and the EG Sub-programme. Where engagement has occurred, the outcomes are positive.

Little evidence of tools or processes in place for cross-sub-programme coordination. Practical processes for coordination needed for work towards UNEP's three thematic priorities – Climate action, Nature action, Chemicals and Pollution action.

Approach to programming expected through the sub-programme modality framed around themes (e.g. environmental governance, climate action, etc.) is not reflected in current management structures.

Support to MEA priorities is of significant importance for global and national EG. The current review of MEA support in collaboration with the MEAs will inform future arrangements.



Environmental governance needs to be considered as a synergistic function across divisions rather than as a separate SP that makes synergy difficult to achieve.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop a clearer focus, strategic priorities and more specific outcomes that supports UNEP's leadership role and approach to environmental governance.

Take a more cross-cutting and mainstreamed approach to developing the EG PoW to achieve the MTS 2022-2025 vision of a foundational sub-programme.

Amend the structure for key functions linked to the focus and priorities of EG Theory of Change and specific outcomes.

Be proactive in the supporting role across UNEP and clarify and seek expertise required to fill roles in support of cooperation, skills enhancement activities and establishing specific coordination mechanisms.



Take more opportunity of UN Reform to mainstream EG initiatives as well as other UNEP activities at the national level.

End of Presentation

Thank You
