



# Sustainability and relevance of GEF projects in Small Island Development States

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# Hantsindzi fisher village, Comoros











# Comoros and SW Indian Ocean

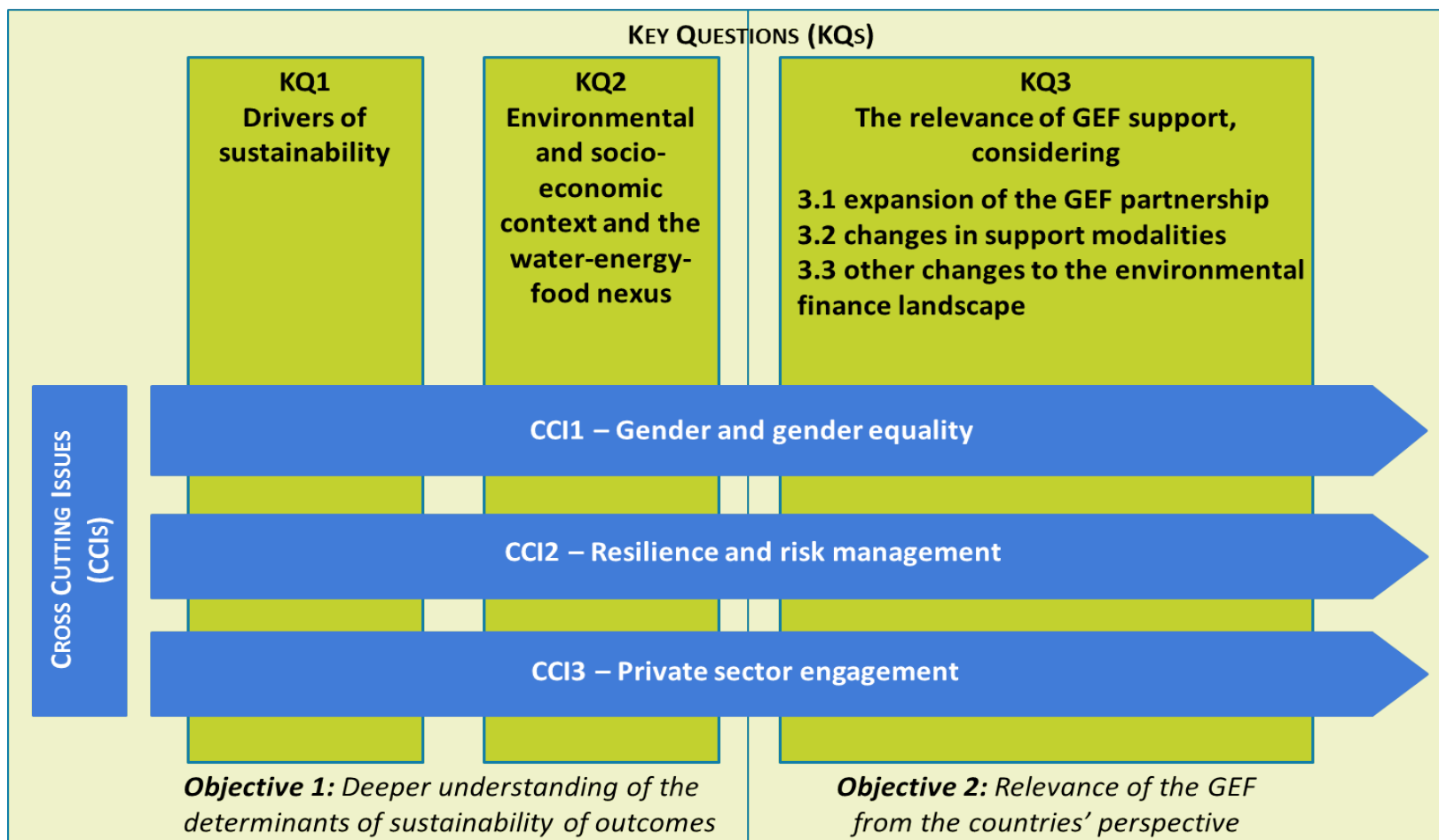




# Objectives of the evaluation

- ▶ To provide a deeper understanding of the **determinants of sustainability** of the outcomes of GEF support in SIDS
- ▶ To assess the **relevance** of GEF support towards SIDS' main environmental challenges from the countries' perspective.

# Key evaluation questions and Cross-Cutting Issues



# Context related factors causing fragility in SIDS - Climate Change



- ▶ Sea-level rise
- ▶ Increased impact of natural disasters and beach erosion
- ▶ Un-predictable climate variations
- ▶ Reduced biodiversity and coral reef degeneration
- ▶ Stronger impact of IAS





# Context related factors

- not Climate Change induced

- ▶ Volcano eruptions, Earthquakes and Tsunamis
- ▶ Destruction of mangroves
- ▶ Communication problems
- ▶ Waste management problems and waste from the ocean
- ▶ Unfilled energy demands



# SIDS-related factors contributing to sustainability



- ▶ Improved coastal protection
- ▶ Ridge-to-Reef
- ▶ Regional programs benefitting small countries
- ▶ Realistic approach to IAS combat
- ▶ Improved waste management and waste-to-energy
- ▶ Renewable energy: solar, wind, waves, thermal
- ▶ Recycling, and alternatives to plastic and polystyrene foam

# Not SIDS related factors for sustainability



- ▶ Governments' support to environmental priority areas
- ▶ Improved governance and institutional strengthening
- ▶ Decentralized environmental governance
- ▶ PPP, also involving NGOs/CSOs





# Project related factors for sustainability in SIDS



- ▶ Realistic project design
- ▶ Awareness-raising and capacity building
- ▶ Participation and influence - creating ownership
- ▶ Gender mainstreaming - more than headcount
- ▶ Adaptive project management, improved M&E and procurement
- ▶ Strengthening existing structures
- ▶ Sustainable financing for post-project period
- ▶ Replication and scaling-up based on lessons learned



# Emerging findings

- ▶ The projects reviewed have variable expectations of sustainability, mostly positive, and some have improved sustainability rating after closing
- ▶ The projects are relevant for Government priorities, but not always involving local stakeholders from the design phase
- ▶ Older projects were often “gender blind” while new projects have better gender rating, but still a long way to go
- ▶ Resilience is often understood as climate- and disaster-related
- ▶ Little private sector engagement, except when it is the main project topic
- ▶ Often replicated and scaled-up by larger projects, while NGOs replicate local components
- ▶ Strong interest for financing targeting SIDS

# Thank you!

