



# IKI Brown Bag Lunch:

## Evaluation of the IKI Medium Grants

Key findings, voices from stakeholders and discussions of lessons learnt



# Welcome | Agenda



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**1. IMG in a nutshell**

Roland Hackenberg

**2. IMG Evaluation 2024**

Jens Deutsch

**3. Voices from IMG projects**

María Rosa Muñoz B.  
Johannes Burmeister/  
Puspa Lal Ghimire

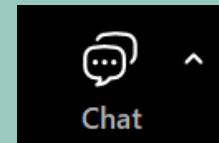
**4. Discussion**

Lydia Kossahl

# Nettiquette

IKI Brown Bag Lunch

- Please log in with your full name and organisation
- Please switch off all microphones
- Chat icon for content-related questions and technical questions





# 1. IMG in a Nutshell

# IKI Medium Grants in a Nutshell I

To promote climate and biodiversity projects in developing and emerging countries



## Joint projects

- Large funding volume
- Long project term
- Implementation by **consortia**

### IKI Large Grants



## Small-scale project funds

- Small funding volume
- Short project term
- Implementation by individual implementing organisations

### IKI Small Grants

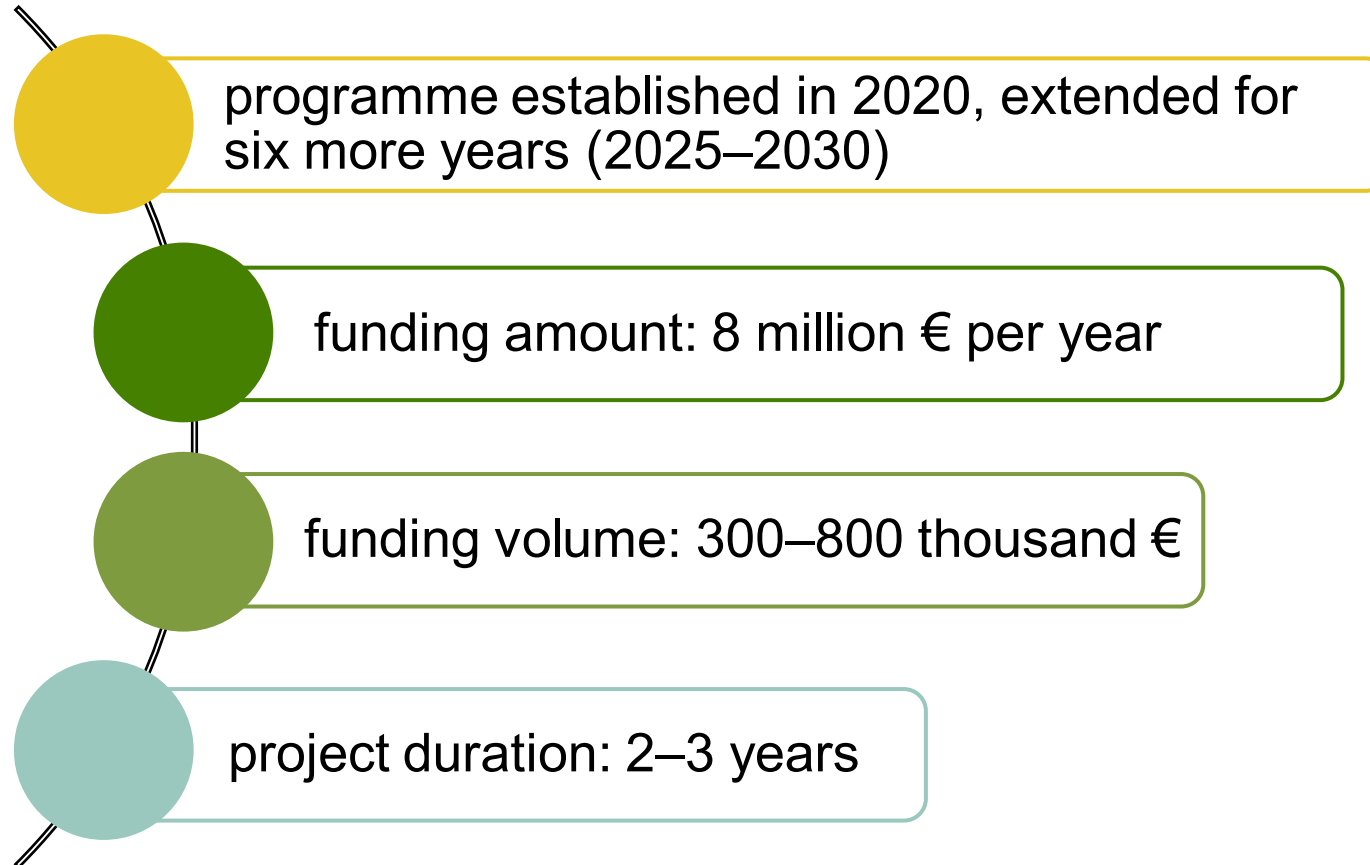


### IKI Medium Grants



**IKI Compete**

# IKI Medium Grants in a Nutshell II



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# IKI Medium Grants in a Nutshell III

- **Innovatively** streamlined projects with smaller budgets and shorter durations than large scaled IKI projects
- **Collaboration** with Non-Profit Organisations
- Piloting of innovative **bottom-up approaches**: Paris Agreement and Convention on Biological Diversity support through **civil society-led** project development
- Strengthening the expertise and position of civil society – **Enhancing networking** between the **North and South**



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# IKI Medium Grants in a Nutshell IV

IKI Medium Grants - Cooperation between North and South

I1: Partner governments take up civil society voices

Civil society in N and S

I2: Contribution to internationally networked civil society cooperation

OC1: Innovative bottom-up approaches to fulfil the Paris Agreement and CBD are being adopted by non-governmental actors.

OC2: civil society actors are strengthened and recognized as knowledge carriers and implementation partner

OC3: civil society actors from north and south are better connected



## 2. IKI Medium Grants Evaluation 2024

# Learning is key

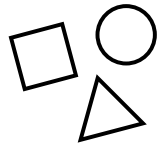
Focus of the Evaluation



- Insights on strengths and weaknesses of IKI Medium Grants
- Opportunities for further development of the IKI Medium Grants
- **First** assessment of achieved results

# Evaluation of IMG in 2024 for a first assessment of **relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability**

Conducted by ZUG Monitoring & Evaluation unit with support of two consultants



Based on:

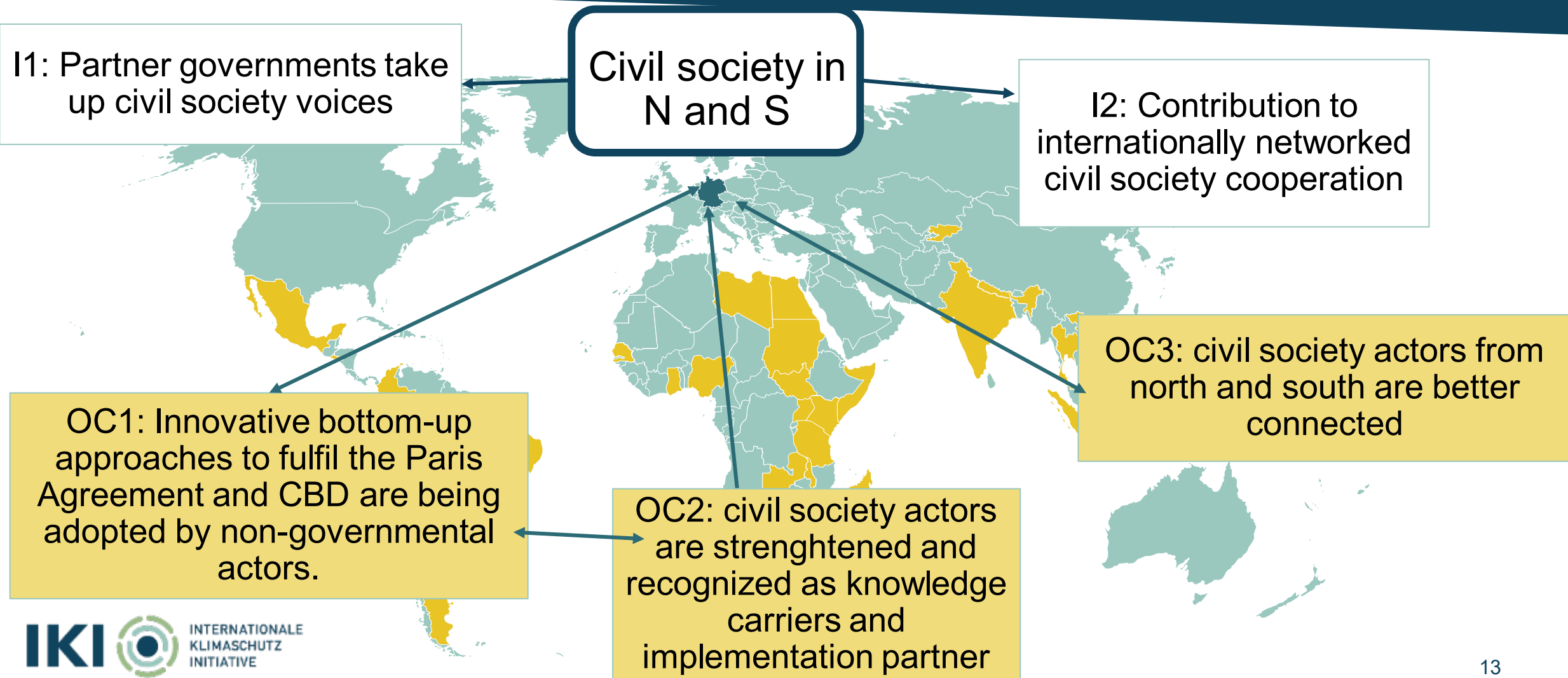
- **Desk Study** based on IKI strategy, project reports,...
- **Interviews** with IKI stakeholders
- **Focus group** discussions with implementing organisations and implementing partners
- **Online survey** with IMG implementing organisations and implementing partners
- **3 Case studies** on three IMG projects
  - **Mexico:** EcoZones - Piloting an approach for co-designing, scaling and replicating inclusive climate action at the neighbourhood level
  - **Nepal:** Nature Conservation and Agroforestry Production in Rural Communities
  - **Vietnam:** Green Youth labs: Training programme for innovation and a socially equitable energy transition (GreenYOU)

# Implementing organisations and partners confirm and appreciate IMG approach, but see uncertainties concerning scaling

Key findings on relevance and opportunities for programme development

STRENGTHS (+)	WEAKNESSES (–)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flexibility of IKI projects</li><li>• <b>Focus on „hands on“ projects and innovative approaches</b></li><li>• <b>Visible impact for local communities</b></li><li>• Close cooperation with local communities and civil society in the partner countries</li><li>• <b>Strengthened self-confidence of civil society</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relatively short project duration</li><li>• <b>Administrative burden in case of required project adaptations</b></li><li>• Insufficient budget to implement expected activities such as gender / class / inclusivity studies</li></ul>
OPPORTUNITIES (+)	THREATS (–)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Stronger focus on local partners with specialised knowledge and network</b></li><li>• Support in engagement with political decision makers</li><li>• Networking of projects for mutual learning</li><li>• <b>Upscaling of pilots (what next?)</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Changes in the political context</li><li>• <b>Challenges in securing sustainability of projects</b></li></ul>

# once more: the IKI Medium Grants Result Logic



# Case studies indicate that civil society target groups take up innovative project approaches

Key findings on the effectiveness of IMG (outcome dimension 1)

- In Nepal, **community forest user groups have updated forest management plans** in line with the National Forest Stewardship Standards in order to continuously apply more sustainable forest management practices (e.g. collection of herbs, fire prevention measures)
- In Mexico, an **app-based community mapping tool allowed grassroots civil society actors in urban communities** to establish networks with private and public sector actors, which resulted in joint actions (e.g. removal of illegal waste, local tree planting) and sparked interest for follow-up activities by private foundation
- In Vietnam, a **training programme for young people** has sparked climate friendly career pathways and inspired a student groups to establish an independent network of climate clubs

In each case, local target groups were **motivated to continue applying project approaches**

# IMG projects tend to have limited connection to national policy level, but receive appreciation and new opportunities on local level

Key findings on the effectiveness of IMG (outcome dimension 2)

- Local government partners in all case study projects reported **appreciation of project activities**
- While survey revealed little changes in perception of civil society, two out of three local implementation partners in case study projects reported a **broadening of portfolio through the IMG projects, which resulted in new project opportunities**
- Case study in Vietnam revealed **dilemma: a country with ambitious climate goals that sees the state in the driving seat**. This provided opportunities for alternative pathways (supporting youth to become climate ambassadors) but space was limited



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# Civil society networking works on the level of implementing organisations

Key findings on the effectiveness of IMG (outcome dimension 3)

- Survey reveals **trustful and effective international cooperation of civil society organisations** within the implementation teams
- However, an **expansion of civil society networks among target groups takes place only to a limited extent** (e.g. Green Youth Lab Vietnam: study tour and international conference participation of youth activists)



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# Selection of recommendations for action

## **To the IKI-Office at ZUG**

- Explore further streamlining of reporting and review requirements in line with the Federal Budget Code
- Assist in access to government representatives for implementing organisations
- Develop formats to enable systematic learning from IMG projects

## **To the IMG's implementing organisations and implementing partners**

- Ensure appropriate incentives towards target groups e.g. via disaggregated target group analysis and continuous follow up
- Ensure the taking-into-account of political and socio-economic risks



### 3. Voices from IMG Projects

# ...and the IMG Projects themselves?

Inputs from two of the field study projects

*Q1: What remains of the project results around 1 year after project end and evaluation?*

*Q2: To what extent did the evaluation process initiate any learnings for you?*

# Mexico Case study: EcoZones - An approach to pilot, co-design, scale up and replicate inclusive climate action at the neighbourhood level

María Rosa Muñoz B. – Senior Researcher at Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy

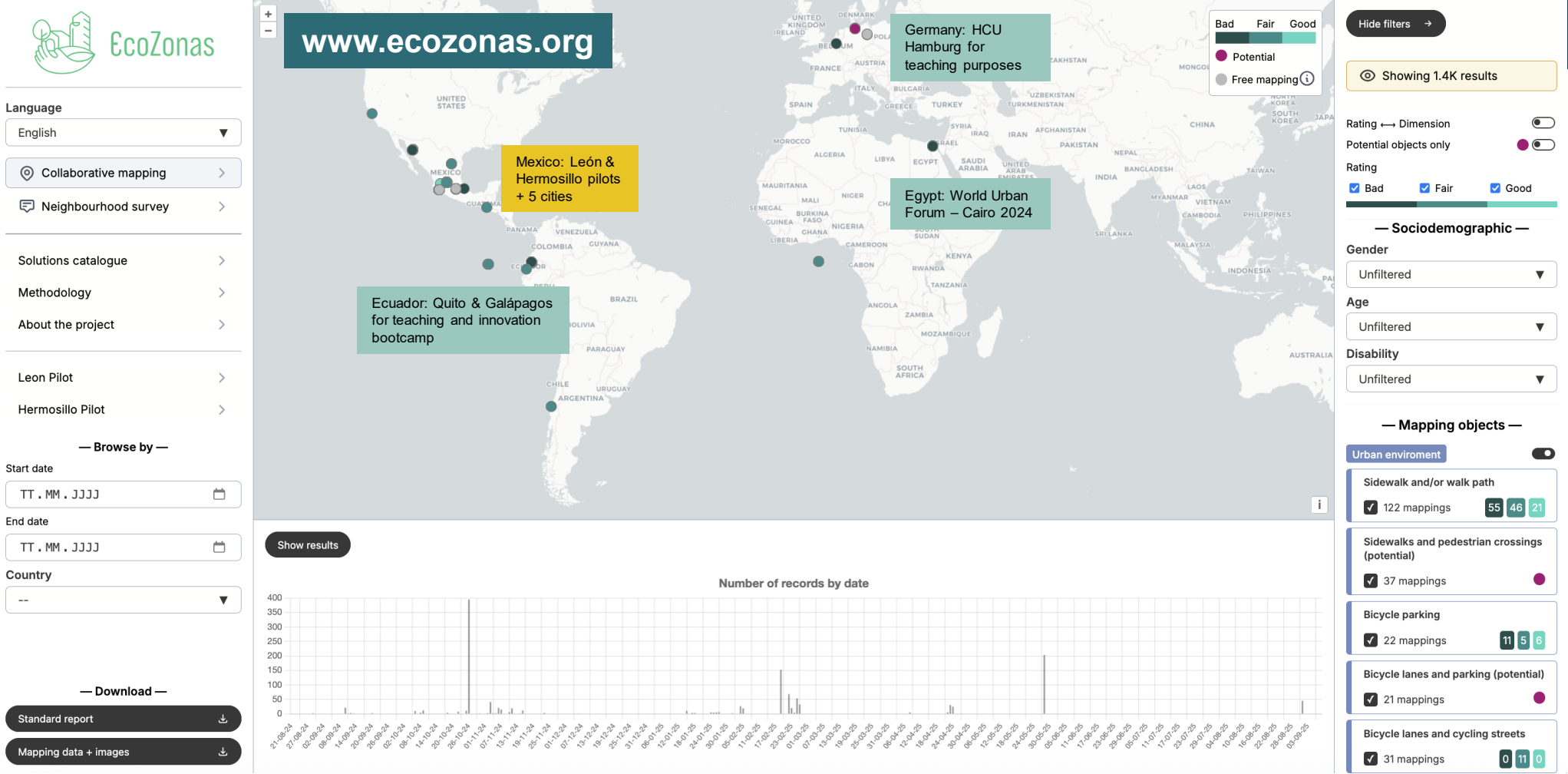


## *Q1: What remains of the project results around 1 year after project end and evaluation?*

- Developing a replicable digital tool was part of the project goals. So, during the project we made sure that:
  - Tools are available in both Spanish and English
  - Dissemination of the tools in the region and beyond (Urban October 2024 & WUF Cairo)
  - Maintenance of the tools is covered until 2026

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## *Q1: What remains of the project results around 1 year after project end and evaluation?*

- After the project end we have continued to disseminate the tools and project results in different forms:
  - E-course on digital tools for participatory urban and mobility planning in the context of the IKI ACCESS and the EU TRANS-SAFE projects
  - Presentation and collaborative mapping exercise on / with the EcoZones toolbox in the 10<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Urban Interventions (FIU) in Cuzco, Perú in October
  - Exploring the possibility of submitting a paper to an academic journal in collaboration with the local NGOs (BEK and HCV) to showcase the pilots implemented.
  - Proposals for additional funding to use the tools and enhance the adaptation component have been / will be submitted (IKI MG 2024, Botnar Foundation Call, Adaptation fund)

# Mexico Case study: EcoZones - An approach to pilot, co-design, scale up and replicate inclusive climate action at the neighbourhood level

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## *Q2: To what extent did the evaluation process initiate any learnings for you?*

- Need to improve communication with the local communities and manage their expectations and different interests
- Timeframe for pilot implementation was too short and led to impatience by community members
- The current administrative burden of IKI MG projects hinders the direct collaboration with small local organisations. We've received guest researchers from both organisations.

# **Sustainability:**

## **Project results around 1 year after project end and evaluation**

- **Community adoption of improved farm and forest management practices**
  - Sustainable forest management with globally recognized standard – incl. sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products, fire prevention & control, forest protection
  - Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) implementation along with preparation & application of organic inputs, embedded in municipality planning process
  - Forest management based on standard has been replicated in other districts
- **Public private community alliance (PPCA) is functional and instrumental in promotion of tourism activities in Nawalpur**
- **Enterprises incl. herbs processing facility are functional with linkage to raw materials suppliers (farmers and forest users) and buyers.**
- **School eco-clubs are active in environmental activities in schools and community**

# Learnings from the evaluation process

- **Evaluation further clarified requirements of IKI/IMG and improved knowledge of impact logic and sustainability criteria;**
  - Insights will also inform future project design and the development of relevant indicators
- **Evaluation confirmed that**
  - Context-specific and adaptive approaches in the implementation were effective. e.g. PGS
  - Sustainability of the initiatives – ownership at local level (municipality and community forest user groups Networks)
- **Follow up backstopping support program is being implemented till December 2026**



## 4. Discussion

# Discussion

1. Which lessons have you learned in project implementation that you would like to share with the IKI community?
2. What can projects do to increase sustainability of results?
3. What can the IKI do to increase sustainability of results?
4. What role does civil society play in climate action and biodiversity protection in your country?

# The 2025 IKI photo contest

Public Voting

**Public voting is now open**  
Cast your vote before October 2<sup>nd</sup>!



Deadline: October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Vote on shortlist of 32 best photos  
(out of 170)



<https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/PAGE738-1>

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