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Independent Office of Evaluation

**4th International
Conference on
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Environment and
Development**



Mainstreaming Environmental Sustainability in all IFAD Evaluations

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The sustainability conversation needs a rethink around *how development is defined*, reviewing its definitions, biases and assumptions, and *raising evaluation* to become a conversation about The System. This means *thinking big about connections and - un-learning.*

Environmental and social impacts should be integrated into evaluations in a systemic way.

Instead:

The standard practice can be *ad hoc*, project based, after the fact, even arbitrary

It is characterized by assessment generally not looped into, or reflecting on the SO
WHAT?
Need to see its link to development

Means going beyond thinking about individual evaluations.

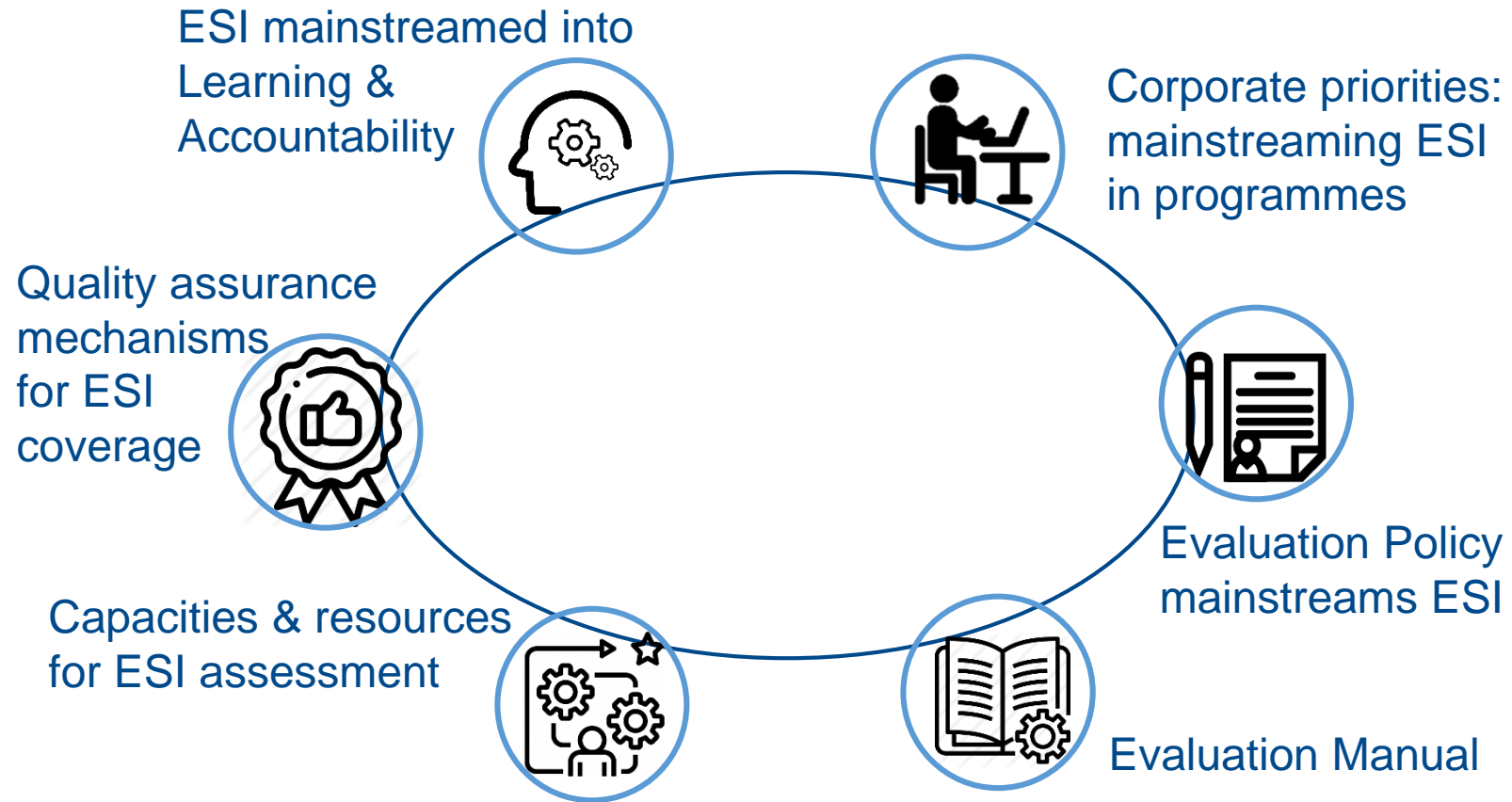
Vinod Thomas has illustrated to us that, when we plug environment into gross domestic product (GDP), the rating of countries changes. This points to where the weaknesses are. It's a better way to bring attention to issues and can change the narratives



Michael Quinn Patton had spoken about interconnectivity and the big picture a decade ago. It was not taken up enough. Now the reality of COVID-19 and climate crisis means we have been forced to wake up and take note, but the horses have bolted in many cases.

A framework for mainstreaming ESI

In IFAD, **all** evaluations assess environmental and social impact (ESI)



Evaluation and independence

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Cross-cutting

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- Ofir, Z. (2018). *Made in Africa Evaluation, Part 2: 'Africa-rooted' evaluation*. Evaluation for Transformation [[here](#)]
- Ofir, Z. (2020). *Transforming evaluations and COVID-19. Evaluation for Development*. Evaluation for Transformation [[here](#)]