



THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF THE GCF'S READINESS AND PREPARATORY SUPPORT PROGRAMME — A SUMMARY*

BACKGROUND

The Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme (RPSP) was launched in 2014 to enhance country ownership and access to the Green Climate Fund. The RPSP provides resources for strengthening the capacity of National Designated Authorities (NDAs) or focal points (FPs) and Direct Access Entities (DAEs) to efficiently engage with GCF. Resources are in the form of grants or technical assistance.

PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION

At its seventeenth meeting, the GCF Board requested the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) to undertake an independent evaluation of the RPSP that:

- Assesses the effectiveness and the extent to which RPSP processes fulfill their intended objectives, and the objectives of country ownership.
- Reviews approaches in the implementation of the RPSP, makes recommendations for improving alignment with the objectives of the

programme, and recommends gains in effectiveness, efficiency, country ownership and sustained impact.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The IEU's evaluation made the following key recommendations:

Capacity building and outreach

- Provide countries adequate funding and advice to meet their needs and priorities, including funding for long-term national consultants to provide support to weak NDA/FPs in LDCs, SIDS and Africa.
- Provide greater capacity-building support for gender and environmental social safe-guards.
- Provide post-accreditation support to DAEs.
- Encourage opportunities for peer-to-peer learning among countries and DAEs.
- Make greater use of French and Spanish in outreach activities, particularly in the Readiness Guidelines and associated templates.

*The IEU's RPSP evaluation was submitted to the GCF Board at its twenty-first meeting.



Country programmes

- Provide country programmes with clear guidelines, with a focus on developing clear priorities and concrete concept notes.
- Develop criteria for country ownership, including whether countries need more than one DAE.
- Ensure better coordination and stronger firewalls to prevent conflicts of interest within countries.
- Allow greater flexibility for project-level adjustments after approval.
- Articulate the roles of regional advisors, consultants, related staff and different Secretariat divisions and units to develop synergies and ensure best use of expanded regional resources.
- Set up the standard operating procedures for the RPSP.
- Produce and implement results-oriented planning and reporting for RPSP activities.
- Provide an open RPSP database so countries can monitor the status of applications and grants.

Vision, strategy, targets

- Define *when* a country is considered ready.
- Decide *how* to manage the RPSP for results, not just for activities and outputs.
- Define the comparative advantage of RPSP's design, delivery and results vis-à-vis other bilateral and multilateral climate institutions.
- Better articulate the contribution of the RPSP to 'Readiness' and communicate targets and overall achieved results (as distinct from activities and outputs).

BOX: METHODS

The evaluation team developed and used several methodological approaches and tools. The overall approach adopted was a theory-based evaluation that has included reconstructing the RPSP Theory of Change.

This evaluation employed mixed-method approaches using both qualitative and quantitative data types from primary and secondary sources.

The evaluation included a review of programme, policy and project documents, an IEU database that compiled data from various sources, a global on-line perception survey of NDAs/FPs, interviews with 362 informants, and focus group discussions.

A series of country case studies included evaluation missions to Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Haiti, Kenya, Mongolia, Namibia, Paraguay, Senegal, and Vanuatu. Data analyses included a time-lapse analysis, benchmarking and meta-analysis.

Future development

The Secretariat is advised to consider two scenarios for the future development of the RPSP:

- Making critical and significant short-term adjustments in the Programme where business as usual is not an option.
- Customizing the RPSP to ensure a strategic focus on national needs, contexts, results and works, and providing differentiated services based on country demands and types.

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