

# Forward-looking Performance Review (FPR) of the Green Climate Fund - Initial approach

## 1. Context

At its 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) requested the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) to undertake the Performance Review of the Fund<sup>1</sup>. It requested that the Forward-looking Performance Review (FPR) be undertaken while considering the current stage of the Fund's operations and with a view to the GCF being a learning institution<sup>2</sup>.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of the FPR is primarily to assess:

- The progress made by the Fund so far in delivering its mandate set by the Governing Instrument, and the achievements of the GCF's initial Strategic Plan;
- The appropriateness of GCF's business model;
- The extent to which it has responded to the needs of developing countries and the level of country ownership; and
- Its contribution to a paradigm shift towards low-emissions, high-resilience development pathways.

The review will contribute to the Fund's accountability by providing evidence on the emerging performance and likelihood of impact from GCF investments. Through this, it will contribute to learning by indicating what the Fund can do to ensure it is faster, better and smarter in meeting its objectives.

## 3. Objectives

The review will assess:

- The extent to which the GCF has responded to the needs of developing countries;
- The level and implementation of the principle of country ownership;
- The performance of the GCF, its funded activities, and its likely effectiveness and efficiencies;
- The disbursement levels of funded activities, access, equity and transparency;
- The use of and challenges with financial instruments;
- The expected impacts of investments and other support activities, including in terms of mitigation and adaptation;
- The challenges and opportunities with the current business model of the GCF;
- The challenges and opportunities with the implementation of the initial strategic plan of the GCF; and
- The engagement and opportunity with the private sector and the complementarity with other climate institutions to leverage impact.

## 4. Output and timing

An initial report summarizing the key findings and emerging areas of recommendations is due by the end of March 2019. The final report will be completed by the end of June 2019 and used to inform the GCF's replenishment process.

1 GCF/B.21/27: "Performance review of the Green Climate Fund" and recalling paragraphs 59 to 62 of the Governing Instrument for the GCF

2 Decision B.21/17

## 5. Methods

The IEU is undertaking the FPR in three parallel tracks.

**Track One: Synthesizing** available documents and findings of previous IEU reviews, external documents and relevant Secretariat documents while critically appraising them. The synthesis review will draw lessons and highlight key emerging patterns.

**Track Two: Reviewing** processes, structure and strategy using various methods including an online survey, key informant interviews, a process review, country field work, time lag analyses and reviews of international practice. This track will review the GCF portfolio and processes both within the Secretariat and at the country level.

**Track Three: Data analyses** will supplement the first two tracks. Qualitative and quantitative data and spatially disaggregated data will assess the efficiency of targeting.

GCF criteria for the FPR include: Effectiveness and efficiency; paradigm shifting potential; country needs and ownership; coherence in climate change finance; gender equality; sustainability potential.

## 6. Country visits

The review will conduct week-long missions to 12 countries where GCF activities are being implemented. The missions will take place during March and April 2019. The criteria used in selecting countries include:

- Representativeness and geographical distribution of the current GCF portfolio;
- GCF country priorities (Africa, LDC, SIDS);
- GCF portfolio size in-country;
- Balance of adaptation, mitigation, or both (cross-cutting);
- Private and public and mixed sector investments;
- Funding modalities;

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- Diversity of accredited entities; and
- Diversity of GCF work and its partners' experiences.

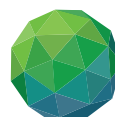
The purpose of the country visits is to get insights into the countries' experience with the GCF and to collect data and information by directly engaging with stakeholders and beneficiaries.

### Box: Country missions

IEU Country evaluation missions include members of the IEU staff and members of the supporting consultancy firm. GCF country focal points and members of relevant accredited entities (International and direct), as well as representatives from delivery partners, civil society organizations and the private sector, are requested to support the IEU evaluation team during these missions. Specifically, they are asked to provide support by:

- Being available for meetings and helping to set up consultations;
- Supporting engagement with other relevant organizations, especially those involved in climate change or those that may be co-financing such initiatives;
- Providing documentation and supporting unbiased and credible assessments of the business model, processes and engagement, including an understanding of perceptions associated with transparency, sustainability, equity, efficiency and effectiveness.

There will also be a debrief at the end of the missions. The team will also share short country reports with the applicable NDA for comment soon after the end of the mission. The country reports will be part of the annexes of the IEU's final report. All responses will be treated confidentially and will be anonymously released (after consent is obtained) if they are reported. Finally, it is important to note that country field missions are not evaluations of country performance nor of country programmes.



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