

# How is the Green Climate Fund contributing to a Paradigm Shift in Adaptation?

## - A brief on the IEU's approach -

### 1. Context

In November 2019, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board approved the 2020 work plan of the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU). A vital element of this is to conduct an independent evaluation of the GCF's adaptation approach and portfolio. The adaptation portfolio currently comprises 93 projects representing USD 2,228 million. Of these 93 projects, 59 are exclusively focused on adaptation (USD 1,468 million) and 34 comprise both adaptation and mitigation (USD 759 million). This evaluation is **strategically important** because the GCF has an adaptation related paradigm shift level indicator (number of beneficiaries). Internationally too there is a lot of discussion on how various actors may be leveraged to help developing countries adapt to climate change.

### 2. Purpose

The evaluation's **key aim** is to examine how **the GCF contributes to a paradigm shift in adaptation**. The objectives of the evaluation are to

- Explore how and in which topics and subtopics the GCF can add value to and/or play a leadership role in adaptation finance;
- Assess whether the GCF has been effective and

efficient in meeting its objectives regarding adaptation finance;

- Investigate whether the GCF's response to meeting global and national needs for adaptive capacity is sufficient;
- Investigate whether the GCF's response to global and national needs for adaptive capacity is sufficient; and
- Examine if and how the GCF is pursuing relevant and innovative strategies while helping countries adapt to climate change variability.

### 3. Scope

The assessment will specifically focus on the GCF's

- Role in the global adaptation space;
- Strategy for supporting adaptation;
- Performance of the adaptation portfolio;
- Business model to support adaptation;
- Active management for results and impact measurement; and
- Focus on innovation and approach to risk.

### 4. Methods

The evaluation methods include

- **An extensive document review** to inform the team's analysis of the GCF's approach to

adaptation financing;

- **Interviews and surveys** to collect perceptions, experiences and lessons on past, current and future performance of the GCF, with a focus on its support to adaptation and to validate findings;
- **Portfolio and other data analyses** to inform the key assessment questions, build the evidence base, and identify trends for further exploration through stakeholder interviews;
- **A benchmarking exercise** to learn from the experience of other global climate finance organizations;
- **Country case studies** that intensively examine the conceptualization and operationalization of adaptation projects in GCF recipient countries;
- **Deep-dive project case studies** on performance and (expected) impact of adaptation projects.

## 5. Country case studies

Between June and September 2020, the evaluation team will use online video conferencing tools to engage with eight countries and obtain an in-depth understanding of the adaptation priorities of recipient countries. These country case studies will also assess the GCF's current and potential future role in supporting climate change adaptation, its relevance, effectiveness and efficiency, and its complementarity and coherence with other actors in the country. The criteria for selecting countries include

- Geographic regional coverage;
- GCF vulnerable countries (Africa, least developed countries, small island developing states);
- Diversity across key criteria such as, *inter alia*, whether countries have adaptation projects, the funding modalities, types of accredited entities; and
- Countries with approved projects and the diversity of project characteristics (public/private, national/multinational).

## Country engagement

All video conferencing engagements with the eight countries teams will include members from the IEU and/or the supporting consultancy firm. The evaluation team will ask GCF country focal points, members of relevant accredited entities (international and direct), representatives from delivery partners, civil society and private sector organizations to engage with the IEU assessment. Specifically, the team will ask them 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 adaptation or those that may be co-financing such initiatives;
- Providing documentation and supporting unbiased and credible assessments of the GCF's climate change adaptation supporting activities (projects, readiness support etc);
- Providing details of other stakeholders including contact addresses and phone numbers so the IEU may safely connect with them.

The IEU will conduct a debrief at the end of the engagement with the eight countries. It will share factual drafts of the country reports with the relevant national designated authorities for comment following the engagement. The final assessment report will include the country reports as annexes. The IEU will treat all responses confidentially. If it decides to use responses in its report, it will first obtain permission. It is important to note that country case studies are neither assessments of country performance nor of country programmes.

## 6. Output and timing

The IEU will release a draft report summarizing the evaluation's key findings and conclusions in December 2020. The IEU will table its final report at the twenty-eighth meeting of the Board.

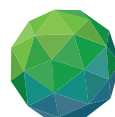
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