



GREEN
CLIMATE
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Independent
Evaluation
Unit



APPROACH BRIEF

Independent Evaluation of the GCF's Country Ownership Approach (COA2025)

CONTEXT

As part of its Board-approved 2025 workplan, the Independent Evaluation Unit is undertaking an Independent Evaluation of the GCF's Country Ownership Approach. This evaluation serves the functions of accountability, learning and dialogue, and is expected to inform the revision of the Guidelines for Enhanced Country Ownership and Country Drivenness, first approved by the GCF Board in 2017. The final evaluation report will be delivered in September 2025, and ahead of the 43rd meeting of the GCF Board in October 2025.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The evaluation aims to provide credible evidence on the performance of the GCF's approach to country ownership. It will provide the evidence to inform the drafting of updated GCF guidelines for country ownership in a timely manner. The evaluation will seek to answer the following key questions.

KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Q1

How does GCF define and operationalize country ownership, and how is this approach aligned with the international narrative, UNFCCC COP guidance and GCF's strategic objectives, and international good practices?

Q2

How effectively do GCF's funding modalities, processes, and institutional mechanisms enable meaningful country ownership and address the needs and priorities of recipient countries?

Q3

What are the key factors that influence country ownership, including those within GCF operations, and those outside such as institutional capacity?

Q4

In a rapidly evolving institution, what emerging lessons and ongoing/recent developments should inform the operationalization of country ownership moving forward?

METHODS

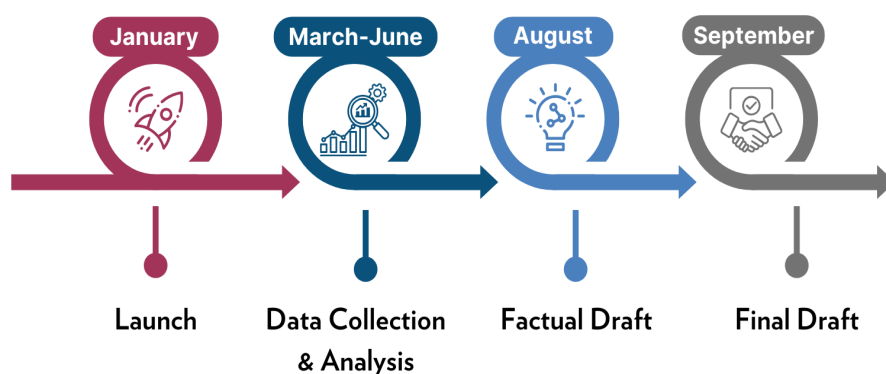
The evaluation will use a mixed-methods approach, incorporating qualitative and quantitative methods and data to inform evidence-based findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The key methods for the evaluation include:

- Theory of Change (ToC) analysis
- Review of the literature
- Review of key GCF documents
- Analysis of quantitative and qualitative data
- Benchmarking with other organizations
- Key informant interviews/focus groups
- Synthesis of existing evidence
- Deep dive studies/case studies



OUTPUT AND TIMELINE

The evaluation was launched in February 2025. The IEU is undertaking data collection and analysis in the period of March – June 2025. The factual draft will be ready and shared with the Secretariat by August 2025. The evaluation report will be finalized by September 2025, and in time for B.43.



DEEP DIVE STUDIES

For this evaluation, country-level evidence will be collected through online interviews and focus group discussions. Additionally, the IEU plans to undertake two deep dives in selected countries/group of countries to understand specific country contexts, which may provide interesting examples of country ownership. These deep dives are likely to be more opportunistic in nature, with visits planned based on emerging potential for interesting insights from specific contexts.

These deep dives may involve country visits, followed by brief, analytical deep dive reports that outline analysis and findings.

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