



Independent Evaluation of the Relevance and Effectiveness of the Green Climate Fund's Investments in the Least Developed Countries

1. Context

As part of its Board-approved 2021 work plan, the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) will complete an evaluation focused on the least developed countries (LDCs).

Although the LDCs are responsible for a small fraction of global GHG stocks, they experience disproportionate climate change impacts. The LDCs frequently face extreme weather shocks and stresses which, along with harm to lives and livelihoods, damage economic growth.

The Governing Instrument of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) mandates that: "In allocating resources for adaptation, the Board will take into account the urgent and immediate needs of developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including LDCs, SIDS and African States."

2. Purpose and objectives

This evaluation is part of a concerted effort by the GCF's Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) to examine the relevance and effectiveness of GCF strategy and investments in the most vulnerable countries.

It will ask whether the GCF's approach and investments have been effective in reducing the vulnerability of local communities and their livelihoods to the effects of climate change, and whether these impacts are likely to be sustained.

It addresses five key questions:

1. Is the GCF relevant to the specific needs and urgency of climate action of the LDCs?
2. To what extent and how has the GCF ensured that countries own investments and are using country systems, including national budget, accounting or procurement systems?
3. To what extent does the GCF's business model and processes meet the specific needs and urgency of climate action in the LDCs?
4. Is GCF support effective in delivering results and impacts through the implementation of GCF-funded projects and programmes to reduce the (long-term) vulnerability of local communities and their livelihoods to the effects of climate change?
5. Is GCF climate finance complementary and coherent with other climate finance delivery channels, and how is this supporting replication and scale?



In particular, the evaluation will take into account the effectiveness and efficiency of the GCF's business model, processes, pipeline and portfolio in meeting the specific needs and urgency of climate action in the LDCs.

The IEU's LDCs evaluation team, consisting of IEU staff and external consultants, will answer these and other key questions in the evaluation's final report. The IEU will submit to the Board at the thirty-first meeting of the Board in 2022.

3. Scope

The evaluation will address its five key questions within the broader context of the LDCs and all GCF operational modalities, programmes and processes available, including:

- Portfolio of accredited entities, in particular Direct Access
- Funding proposals and the GCF's approval process
- Simplified approval process and Requests for proposals
- Country programmes and country ownership
- Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme and Project Preparation Facility
- Financial instruments
- Regional and programmatic approaches
- GCF engagement and partners
- Gender and Indigenous Peoples Policy

The evaluation will regard gender, traditional knowledge and innovation as cross-cutting themes. The questions are guided by the evaluation criteria for the IEU (GCF/B.06/09).

4. Methods

The evaluation will take a mixed methods approach, using both qualitative and quantitative data and methods to inform its evidence-based findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

The methods will include:

- a review of documentation
- quantitative and qualitative data analysis
- benchmarking

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- thematic analyses on gender as well as innovation and indigenous knowledge
- stakeholder consultation (key informant interviews and surveys)
- country case studies

Country visits

The evaluation will employ country case studies for a more in-depth look at the relevance, effectiveness, and coherence of GCF activities in the LDCs. The evaluation team will conduct these case studies virtually in Burundi, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Vanuatu, Haiti and Malawi.

The above countries have been selected based on a range of criteria including geographical distribution, approved GCF projects and/or readiness funding, diversity of financial instruments, AEs, mitigation vs. adaptation projects, and multi-country vs. single-country projects. NDAs/focal points will be actively involved in the conduct of all country case studies, to support ownership, learning, and validation.

The evaluation team will treat all comments received during country visits as confidential. The team will also release responses from country visits anonymously. After each country visit, the team will circulate a report on its findings among relevant stakeholders for review and fact checking. The team will also include an annex on country case studies in the final report. The IEU is requesting GCF country focal points, members of accredited entities, delivery partners, and civil society and private sector organizations to support the evaluation team in identifying suitable stakeholders for interviews.



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