



LEARNING-ORIENTED REAL-TIME IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME: PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2019

BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) started the multi-year Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment (LORTA) programme to keep track of the impact of GCF investments. The goal is to measure if GCF projects lead to lower greenhouse gas emissions and enhanced resilience to climate change and, if so, by how much. This can be measured with the help of rigorous impact assessments. Empirical evidence on the impacts of climate-related projects is scarce, which adds to the importance of this programme.

The LORTA programme has two main aims:

- To build capacity within project teams to design high-quality data sets, which aid the measurement of causal change and impact
- To embed real-time impact evaluations into approved projects so that GCF project managers can quickly access accurate data on the quality of implementation and likelihood of impact

This brief provides a summary of the LORTA programme's engagement with GCF projects in 2019.

LORTA DESIGN WORKSHOP 2019

A key LORTA activity during 2019 was the second LORTA Design Workshop, held from 15 to 17 April 2019, in Mannheim, Germany, organized by the IEU and its implementing partner, the Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED). The workshop was attended by 97 participants, including representatives of 21 GCF-funded projects (from accredited entities, implementing partners and project staff). Further workshop participants included staff from different divisions within the GCF as well as impact evaluation specialists from C4ED and other international organizations. Public and private sector projects were both represented. The workshop provided participants engaged in project design and implementation with several opportunities, including:

- To discuss case studies and learn from the experiences of impact evaluation in similar work areas
- To reflect on the importance of rigorous evidence in the project design process
- To learn about impact evaluation methods, including experimental and quasi-experimental designs using mixed methods



1. Buy-in of the project implementers	The accredited entities and project teams are committed to conducting a theory-based, rigorous impact evaluation.
2. Budget	The budget implications of embedding an impact evaluation in the project are acceptable, and the project team is willing to make sufficient resources available.
3. Focus on the private sector	Private sector projects are included.
4. Regional representation	Projects are regionally representative of the GCF portfolio.

- To develop potential impact evaluation designs by working in groups with evaluators and project implementers
- To build partnerships in project teams and, through this, mutual trust

The workshop increased the potential for collaboration between all the actors involved in each project, as project representatives benefited from the opportunity to critically discuss viable designs for their respective projects and gain immediate feedback from experienced and qualified impact evaluation specialists.

PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

The above strategic criteria and guiding principles were used to identify the projects that would be offered the opportunity to participate in this technical assistance programme:

Directly after the LORTA Design Workshop, staff members of the IEU and C4ED, and other impact evaluation experts, held a meeting to discuss the evaluability and emerging impact evaluation designs of the 21 projects. Discussions from these consultations were synthesized to create a shortlist of projects for inclusion into the LORTA programme.

NEW PROJECTS IN THE LORTA PORTFOLIO

After extensive discussions with respective project managers and GCF Secretariat colleagues, a final shortlist of six projects was determined:

1. FPo69 – Bangladesh: Enhancing adaptive capacities of coastal communities, especially women, to cope with climate change induced salinity
2. FPo73 – Rwanda: Strengthening climate resilience of rural communities in northern Rwanda
3. FPo87 – Guatemala: Building livelihood resilience to climate change in the upper basins of Guatemala’s highlands
4. FPo96 – Democratic Republic of the Congo: Green mini-grid programme
5. FPo97 – Central America: Productive investment initiative for adaptation to climate change (CAMBio II)
6. FPo98 – Southern Africa: DBSA climate finance facility

Table 1 identifies the main evaluation questions and impact evaluation designs for each of the projects onboarded in 2019.

Impact evaluation design reports were completed for the projects in Bangladesh, Guatemala, Rwanda and Southern Africa. The impact evaluation design reports are still pending for the African Development Bank project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the project in Central America managed by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.

Table 1. *Projects that joined the LORTA programme in 2019*

COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	ACCREDITED ENTITY	THEME / SECTOR	EVALUATION QUESTIONS	EVALUATION DESIGN
Bangladesh	Enhancing adaptive capacities of coastal communities, especially women, to cope with climate change induced salinity	International accredited entity – United Nations Development Programme	Adaptation / public	Do the adaptive livelihoods promoted by the programme provide a sustainable means of making a living?	Clustered phase-in experimental design
Rwanda	Strengthening climate resilience of rural communities in northern Rwanda	National direct access entity – Ministry of Environment	Cross cutting / public	Does the project contribute to incremental and transformational climate change adaptation and to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions?	Difference-in-differences with matching
Guatemala	Building livelihood resilience to climate change in the upper basins of Guatemala's highlands	International accredited entity – International Union for Conservation of Nature	Adaptation / public	Does the project increase the water security of farmers? Do farmers become more resilient and/or less vulnerable to extreme weather events?	Difference-in-differences with matching
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Green mini-grid programme	International accredited entity – African Development Bank	Mitigation / private	<i>Pending funded activity agreement</i>	<i>Pending funded activity agreement</i>
Central America (seven countries)	Productive investment initiative for adaptation to climate change	Regional direct access entity – Central American Bank for Economic Integration	Adaptation / private	Are micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises less vulnerable or better adapted to climate change owing to the adoption of climate-smart agriculture?	Difference-in-differences with matching

COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	ACCREDITED ENTITY	THEME / SECTOR	EVALUATION QUESTIONS	EVALUATION DESIGN
Southern Africa (four countries)	DBSA Climate Finance Facility	Regional direct access entity – Development Bank of Southern Africa	Cross cutting / private	<p>Is the climate-friendly technology for which climate finance facility funding is provided installed and operational?</p> <p>Do the end beneficiaries use the technology?</p> <p>Do investments by the private sector, which are funded by the Climate Finance Facility, lead to reduced usage of on-grid electricity?</p>	Event study

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