# LORTA
## Portfolio Brief

# LEARNING-ORIENTED REAL-TIME IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME: PORTFOLIO UPDATE

## BACKGROUND

In 2018, the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) started the multi-year Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment (LORTA) programme that aims to provide capacity building and advisory services for AEs, especially DAEs, in impact evaluation and real-time measurement of GCF-funded activities. Through rigorous empirical evidence on climate adaptation and mitigation activities, this programme enhances learning in the funded organizations and across stakeholders. LORTA is now in its 4th year, and the following six key lessons have emerged[1]:

1. The co-development of impact evaluation designs with project teams is essential to ensure country ownership.
2. Capacity-building enhances understanding of impact evaluations and supports the institutional memory of partner organizations.
3. Early clarity on the required budget for the impact evaluation is crucial to manage expectations and foresee possible implementation constraints.
4. Planning and communication can be enhanced through the early onboarding of monitoring and evaluation personnel to manage the impact evaluation through project implementation.
5. Adaptive management is increased via timely and close communication on project implementation progress to allow for real-time adjustment and flexibility.
6. The importance of creating equal partnerships and mutual trust with AEs and project teams is paramount.

To date, LORTA has produced five baseline reports that utilize household data from Rwanda, Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia and Guatemala. These data sets are a rich source of information for stakeholders and policymakers to learn about project beneficiaries and the accuracy of GCF targeting (as LORTA samples aim to be representative of all project beneficiaries).

For example, in Rwanda less than 2% of beneficiaries use an alternative source of energy other than biomass and less than 1% irrigate their

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1 *Independent Evaluation Unit, Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment Programme: Progress and achievements of 2020. GEVal Brief 03 (June) (Songdo, South Korea, Green Climate Fund, 2021)*
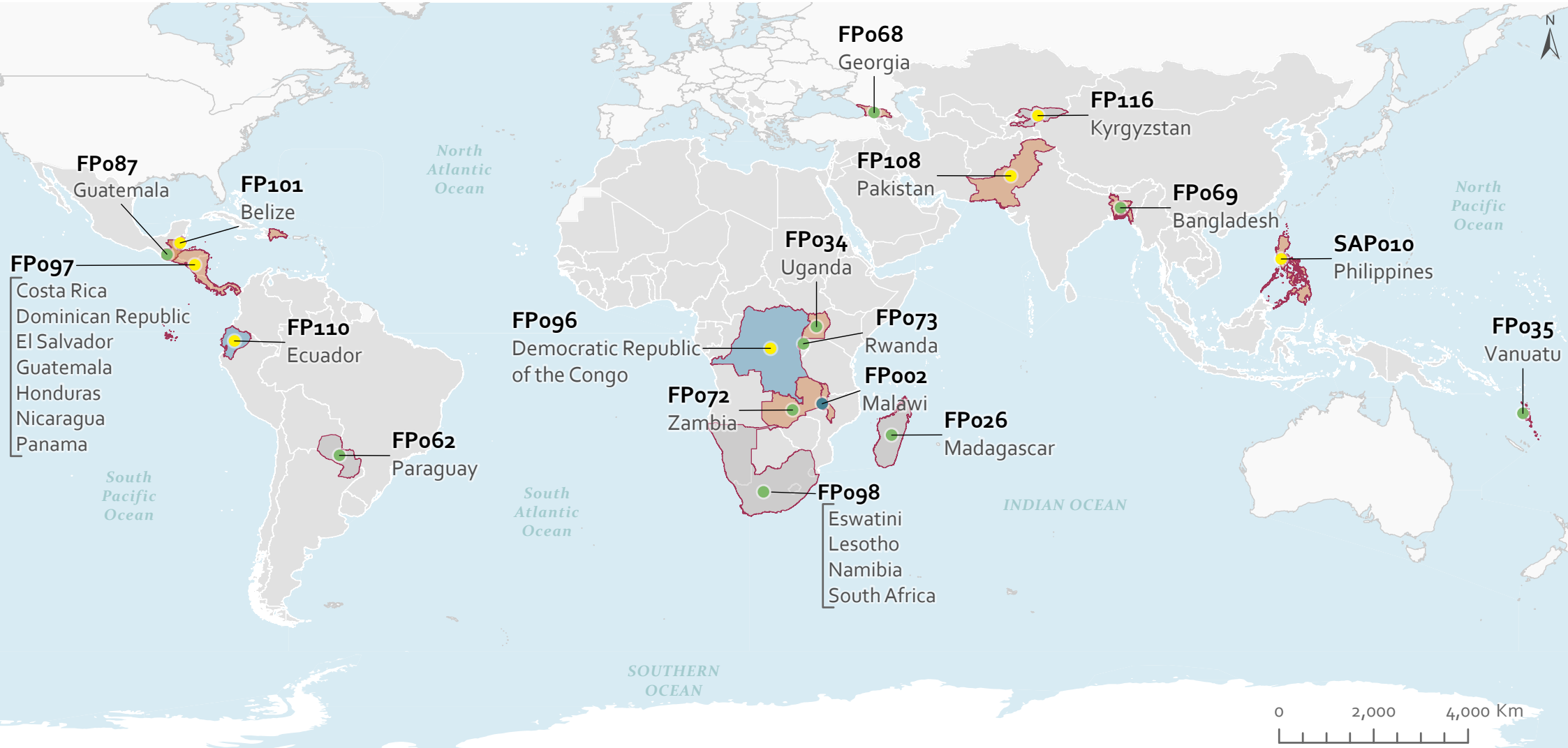
farmland. In Madagascar, one quarter of respondents were not aware of the impact of climate change nor of the positive contribution of nature in reducing people's climate-related vulnerability. In Malawi, we learned that farmers mainly receive climate information via the radio and are unlikely to rely on official short-term and seasonal weather forecasts to make their decisions. Instead, they mainly rely on local knowledge-sharing and "word of mouth". In Zambia, we learned that about 18% of the households reported income losses due to COVID-19. And in Guatemala we learned about the widespread experience of households with agroforestry and soil conservation measures but a lack of awareness of community early warning systems. Overall, the baseline data sets highlight how beneficiary households are, on average, poor and vulnerable and may benefit considerably from the GCF project.
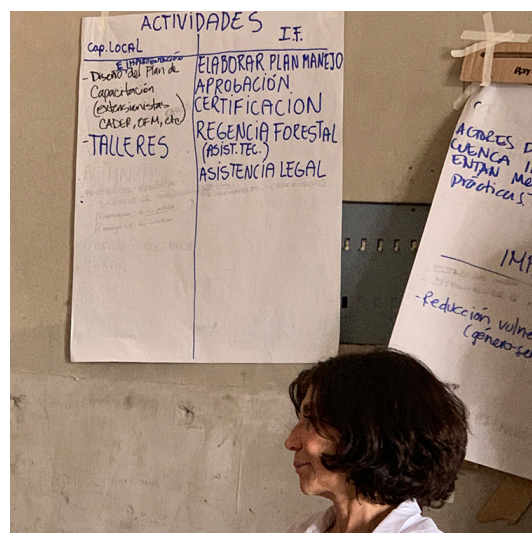
## LORTA phases

The LORTA portfolio currently contains 18 projects. All these projects have participated in a LORTA (virtual) design workshop. Of these projects, seven are in Phase I, which consists of early formative work with project teams and stakeholders to develop the optimal impact evaluation design for a project or a component. Evaluation designs evolve as projects progress. A further 10 countries are in Phase II, where LORTA supports project teams to integrate the design into project implementation, create data systems, generate data, and ensure real-time measurement for the impact evaluation. Phase III of LORTA is data analysis and impact evaluation estimates. One project, FP002, the Malawi M-Climes PICSA project, has completed this phase and the impact evaluation report has been finalized.

## Conclusion

The technical assistance and capacity building efforts through LORTA are demand-driven and are oriented to accommodate the needs and learning interests of project teams. Co-development, country ownership and capacity building are key to a successful impact evaluation. Early clarity on budget expectations for the impact evaluation helps to forestall possible constraints. As a result of LORTA's capacity-building activities and support, project teams will be able to develop and tailor their project theory of change for GCF-approved projects and go about assessing the causality of impacts in a credible way. Finally, flexibility through adaptive management and real-time adjustments based on robust evidence make it possible to bring benefits to GCF project beneficiaries, stakeholders and the broader climate change field.

**LORTA Phase**
- 🟡 Phase I
- 🟢 Phase II
- 🔵 Phase III

**Project Theme**
- Adaptation
- Cross-cutting
- Mitigation

**Countries**
- GCF eligible
- GCF ineligible
- LORTA portfolio

| Public Sector | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FP002** Malawi UNDP | **FP034** Uganda UNDP | **FP035** Vanuatu SPREP | **FP062** Paraguay FAO | **FP068** Georgia UNDP | **FP069** Bangladesh UNDP |
| **FP072** Zambia UNDP | **FP073** Rwanda Ministry of Environment | **FP087** Guatemala IUCN | **FP101** Belize IFAD | **FP026** Madagascar Conservation International | **FP096** Democratic Republic of Congo AFD |
| **FP108** Pakistan FAO | **FP110** Ecuador UNDP | **FP116** Kyrgyzstan FAO | **SAP010** The Philippines Land Bank of the Philippines | **FP097** Central America CABEI | **FP098** Southern Africa DBSA |

Private Sector (FP026, FP096, FP097, FP098)

*From previous LORTA field visits, aimed at helping the project teams design impact evaluations looking at (from left to right): (1) how GCF-funded green biogas stoves impact beneficiaries' lives in Gicumbi, Rwanda; (2) how coastal communities, especially women, in Bangladesh can enhance their adaptive capacities against induced salinity; (3) how a partner organisation in Guatemala could measure impacts of a GCF-funded climate change project. ©LORTA teams*