



## The IEU's Independent Evaluation of the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme

### Summary of the Inception Report

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#### I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme (RPSP) was created in 2014 and is an important part of the GCF's funding and support modalities. The key objective of the RPSP is to assist countries to effectively engage with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) according to GCF procedures for country engagement. The objectives of the RPSP include:<sup>1</sup>

- Establishing and strengthening the capacity of the National Designated Authority (NDA) or focal point to engage with regional, national and sub-national government, civil society and private sector stakeholders;
- Developing strategic frameworks for national engagement with the GCF;
- Enabling regional, national and sub-national institutions to meet GCF's accreditation standards;
- Supporting the development of pipelines of programme and project proposals.

At its seventeenth meeting, the GCF Board requested the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) to independently evaluate the RPSP and approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the evaluation. The GCF Board requested this evaluation with the following objectives:

- Assess the effectiveness and the extent to which RPSP processes are fulfilling its intended objectives, and the objectives of country ownership.
- Review approaches in the implementation of the RPSP and make recommendations for improving alignment with the objectives of the programme; and recommend gains in effectiveness, efficiency, country ownership and sustained impact.

#### II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

This evaluation is underpinned by a series of principles. To fulfill the evaluation's learning orientation, the evaluation team has adopted a utilization-focused approach and framework that will assist intended users by providing learning, helping informed decision-making and improving overall performance. Accordingly, the evaluation team will work closely with relevant stakeholders to ensure the exercise is participatory and consultative.

A series of evaluation criteria have been included in questions for stakeholder consultations, including: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustained impact, coherence in climate finance delivery, gender equity and inclusiveness, innovation and potential for paradigm shift, country ownership, potential for scaling up, and unexpected results. As a learning-oriented assessment, this evaluation is expected to inform the forthcoming replenishment of the RPSP. To fulfill these

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1. Decisions of the Board – nineteenth meeting of the Board, 26 February – 1 March 2018, Annex XVII, p. 130.



objectives, the independent evaluation is considering all three dimensions of the RPSP: (i) design and planning; (ii) implementation; and (iii) expected RPSP results.

### III. METHODS

The approach adopted for this work is Theory-based Evaluation (TBE). TBE consists of reconstructing and testing the Theory of Change (ToC) of the RPSP. Within the ToC, some causal links will receive special attention, as they correspond to critical learning needs or represent potential bottlenecks. These causal links will be submitted to Process Tracing (PT) tests, a method that helps assess the strength of the causal link. Where relevant, PT tests will be complemented by focusing on causal mechanisms, a method that enables the learning of transferable lessons.

The evaluation consists of three main parts: inception and planning, information and data collection, and analyses and reporting. During the **inception period**, the evaluation team met with key stakeholders, reviewed documents, developed a theory of change and evaluation matrix, defined protocols for data collection and finalized the inception report.

The evaluation is now in the **second phase** of data collection and management. This includes preparation of data collection and data management tools, a document review, collecting secondary data from various sources, and consultations with key stakeholders in selected sample countries including Mongolia, Kenya, Haiti, Paraguay, Senegal, Namibia, Vanuatu, Bangladesh and Antigua and Barbuda. The approach used to collect primary and secondary data includes key informant interviews, focus group discussions, specific case studies, online surveys and webinars as well as benchmarking and meta-analysis.

The **third and final stage** of the evaluation comprises the analysis and synthesis of data, report writing and a final presentation.

### IV. TIMELINE

- Inception phase: End of April 2018
- Main data collection and management phase: May-August 2018.
- Draft review report available for stakeholder consultation: September 2018.
- The final report: Twenty first meeting of the GCF Board (October 2018).