



Independent Assessment of the Green Climate Fund's Country Ownership Approach (COA)

1. Context

At its 21st meeting in October 2018, the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved the 2019 Work Plan of the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) of the GCF. A key element of this plan was to conduct an independent assessment of the GCF's country ownership approach (COA).

Country ownership is a core GCF principle, as reflected in its Governing Instrument. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the GCF Board have recognized the importance of enhancing country ownership and the role played by national designated authorities (NDAs) and focal points (FPs).

2. Purpose

The IEU's assessment of the GCF's country ownership approach will:

- Consider how well the GCF has conceptualized and operationalized country ownership;
- Review how well it incorporates country needs and ownership into the design and implementation of its policies and practices;
- Examine the key factors that enable and detract from country ownership; and
- Draw lessons from how country ownership is being interpreted and implemented in different contexts and make recommendations for improvement.

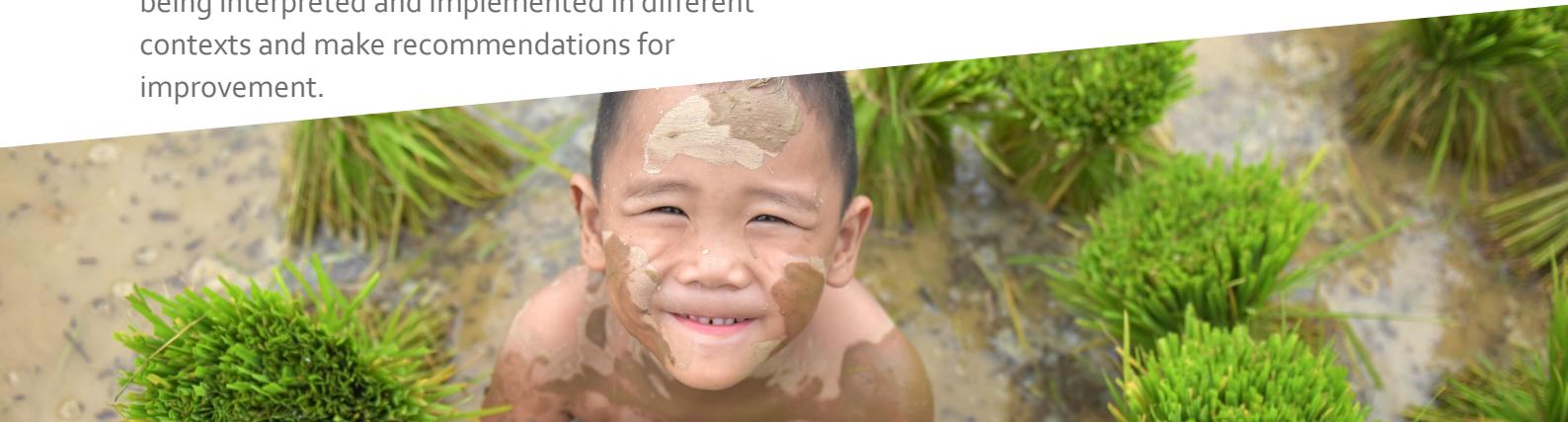
3. Scope

The assessment will consider the principle of country ownership in the context of all the GCF's operational modalities and relevant policies as well as, more broadly:

- The role of the NDAs/FPs;
- The Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme (RPSP);
- Access and accreditation, including the direct access modality;
- Funding proposals, including the Project Preparation Facility (PPF) and approval process;
- The project cycle, including monitoring and reporting;
- Stakeholder engagement and consultation;
- Country policies and strategies on climate change; and
- Country mechanisms for coordinating climate change policies, strategies and activities.

4. Output and timing

A draft report summarizing the assessment's key findings, lessons learned and conclusions will be released in early July 2019. The IEU will finalize the report in early September and submit it to the Board at its 24th meeting in October 2019.



5. Methods

The assessment's methods include:

- **A comprehensive document review** to inform the assessment team's understanding of the country ownership approach in the GCF;
- **Portfolio and other data analyses** to inform the key assessment questions, build the evidence base, and identify trends to be further explored through stakeholder interviews;
- **A meta-analysis and benchmarking exercise** to learn from the experience of other global climate finance organizations;
- **Stakeholder consultations** via key informant interviews and two surveys, including an online perceptions survey and an in-person survey administered during case study visits; and
- **Country case studies** that intensively examine the conceptualization and operationalization of country ownership in GCF recipient countries.

GCF criteria for the country ownership approach include:

Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, gender equity, paradigm shift, recipient needs, impact potential, and sustainable development.

in the RPSP; whether countries have a GCF country programme; and

- Countries with approved projects and diversity of project dimensions (public/private, national/multinational).

The IEU will conduct the missions during April, May and June 2019.

Country missions

All IEU country assessment mission teams include members from the IEU and the supporting consultancy firm. GCF country focal points, members of relevant accredited entities (international and direct), representatives from delivery partners, civil society organizations and the private sector will be asked to engage with the IEU assessment. Specifically, they will be requested to provide support by:

- Being available for meetings and helping to set up consultations;
- Supporting engagement with other relevant organizations, especially those involved in climate change or those that may be co-financing such initiatives; and
- Providing documentation and supporting unbiased and credible assessments of the country ownership approach of the GCF.

A debrief will be conducted at the end of week-long missions. Factual drafts of the country mission report will be shared with the relevant NDA for comment after the conclusion of the mission. The country reports will be annexed to the final assessment report. All responses will be treated confidentially and will be anonymously released (after consent is obtained) if they are reported.

It is important to note that country missions are neither assessments of country performance nor country programmes.

6. Country visits

The assessment team will conduct week-long missions to five countries (Colombia, Fiji, Indonesia, Morocco, and Uganda) to obtain an in-depth and grounded understanding of how recipient countries view country ownership. The criteria for selecting countries includes:

- Geographic regional coverage;
- GCF vulnerable countries (Africa, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States);
- Diversity across key criteria such as, *inter alia*, whether a Direct Access Entity (DAE) has been accredited; whether countries have participated

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