

Evaluation of the RPSP¹ of the Green Climate Fund Dr. Ansgar Eussner

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For the evaluation, the five commonly used **OECD/DAC evaluation criteria** (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability) **were enlarged by:**

1. country ownership,
2. alignment and relevance
3. coherence/complementarity
4. potential for replication, scalability and paradigm change,
5. gender policy,
6. environmental and social safeguards, and
7. the role of civil society.

¹ Readiness Preparation Support Programme; the evaluation was prepared in 2018 by a consultant team of UNIVERSALIA/Montreal and the Independent Evaluation Unit of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The full report is available at: https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/1270184/GCF_B.21_28_-_Report_of_the_independent_evaluation_of_the_Readiness_and_Preparatory_Support_Programme.pdf/9178b95a-332c-06ba-326f-8064182f2e32

Programme Overview

The Readiness Preparation Support Programme (RPSP) has increasing but still limited disbursements so far:

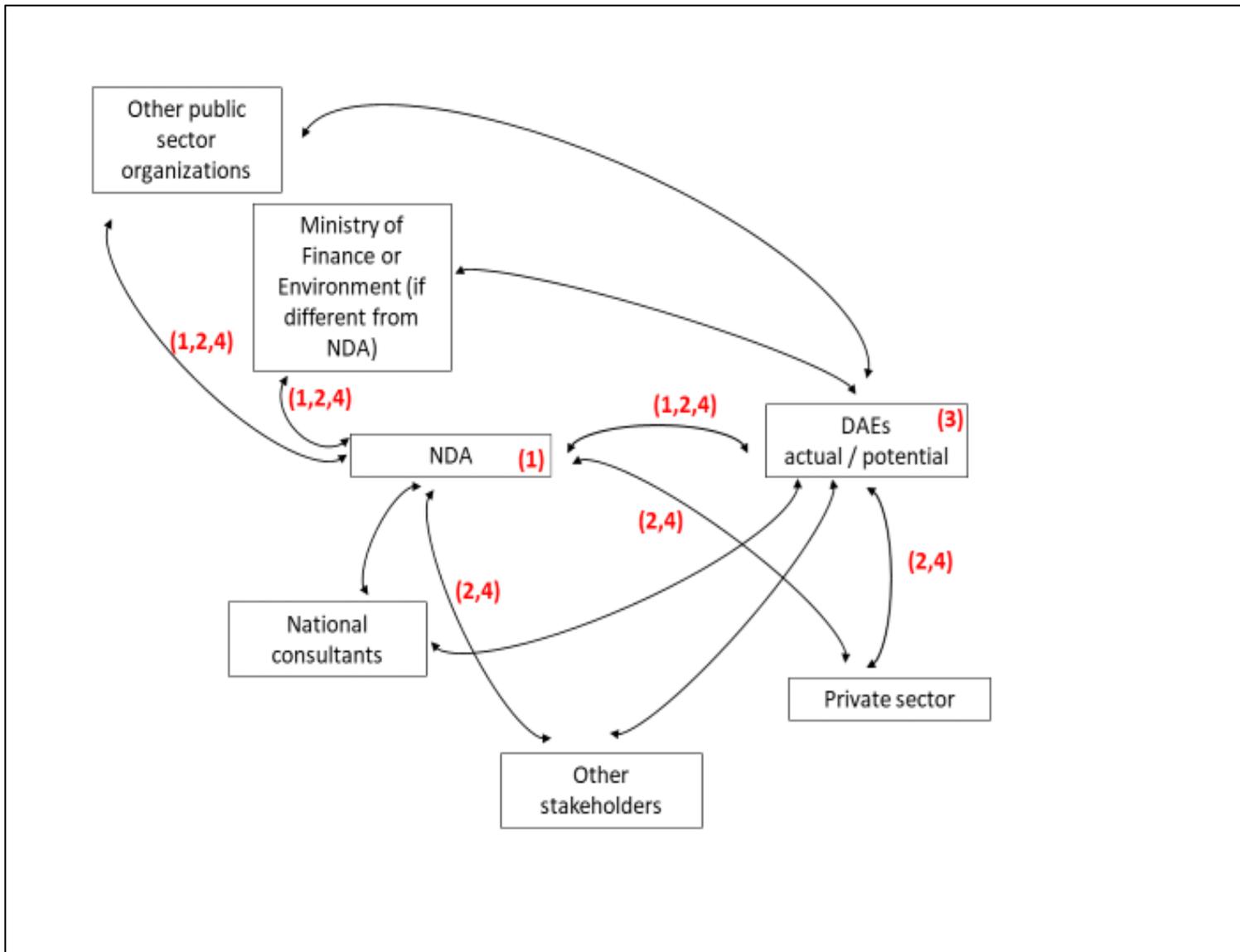
Number and Value of Approved RPSP Grants to Countries (US\$ millions)

COUNTRIES	GRANT NUMBERS	APPROVED AMOUNTS	DISBURSED AMOUNTS	PERCENT DISBURSED
142	165	93.42	25.71	28 (%)

Note: The number and amount of approved grants are current up to 15 May 2018. Disbursement amounts are current up to 13 July 2018.

Therefore, the analysis of the sustainability was an **assessment of its likelihood rather than an ex-post analysis.**

Theory of Change (ToC) for a GCF related country system



This system is made of components (boxes), showing key stakeholders and the connections between them, including feedback loops; when working they improve the prospects for sustainability.

Key concept of Country Ownership

Various Decisions and Guidelines indicate that **country ownership is composed** of the following **seven attributes**.

1. A National Designated Authority (NDA) is established and functional;
2. Stakeholder consultations are organized;
3. A No Objection Procedure (NOP) is established and operational;
4. A country programme has been developed;
5. One (or more) Domestic Accredited Entities (DAE) has/have been accredited by the GCF;
6. One (or more) DAE has/have submitted project proposals and got them approved; and
7. Progress on a National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

When these elements are in place, or well underway, it is **assumed that a country is empowered** to address successfully the challenges of climate change and to own the process.

Alignment and Relevance

The objectives, design and activities of the RPSP have been well **aligned with** the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**), the Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**), and the **Paris Agreement** on Climate Change.

The **continuous demand from many countries** shows **significant evidence of the relevance** of the RPSP. Three quarters of eligible countries have so far received RPSP grant approvals, and distribution has been across different groups of countries. However, thirty-five out of 148 eligible countries do not yet have an approved RPSP grant. Another 19 countries have an approved grant, but have not yet received any grant disbursements.

Coherence/Complementarity

The comparison with readiness activities of **six climate-related global funds** shows that the RPSP has been supporting a **broader and more ambitious** range of readiness activities **compared to other funds**, consistent with the overall ambition of the GCF as a whole.

The evaluation found also that RPSP activities are not yet contributing much to putting in place **domestic policies and institutional frameworks** that improve the incentive environment for the **private sector (including households)** to invest in environmentally friendly projects consistent with low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways.

Potential for Replication, Scalability and Paradigm Change

The RPSP aims to support a **country-driven pipeline of transformational projects** through increasing emphasis on diagnostic work and comprehensive strategies, learning, targeted capacity building and more engagement with the private sector.

Diagnostic work needs to be targeted to identify gaps, barriers and opportunities; capacity building needs to be customized; learning and planning needs to be supported with suitable tools; and the **needs of the private sector must be recognized** explicitly including in mitigating potential obstacles related to policy.

Gender policy, Environmental and Social Standards (ESS), and the civil society

The **integration of gender sensitive considerations has varied** considerably among RPSP projects across case-study countries. The **RPSP is lagging behind** in terms of integrating gender considerations in its portfolio, **in particular in Africa**, when compared to other regions.

The approach and capacity of the GCF to incorporate Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) with particular **attention to vulnerable, marginalized and indigenous peoples and local communities is improving.**

The **cooperation with civil society organisations, the media, parliaments and political parties is evolving slowly.**

Conclusions

- a) The progress and sustainability perspectives **vary a lot among countries.**
- b) **Sustainability could only tentatively be assessed** by analysing the different components related to it.
- c) The GCF needs to **galvanize all countries** to participate in the RPSP.
- d) There is a need for **clarifying what 'readiness' really means for the GCF** and how it is **complementary** to other international and national efforts.
- e) In **future evaluations**, the additional evaluation criteria should explicitly be analysed regarding their contribution to **assuring impact and sustainability.**