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INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND'S APPROACH TO THE ENERGY SECTOR

Approach paper

July 2023

GREEN CLIMATE FUND
INDEPENDENT EVALUATION UNIT

Independent Evaluation of the Green Climate Fund's Approach to the Energy Sector

APPROACH PAPER

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACA	Academia/energy experts
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AE	Accredited entity
AF	Adaptation Fund
AFD	Agence française de développement
AfDB	African Development Bank
APR	Annual performance report
B.04	The fourth meeting of the Board
BM	Board member
CIF	Climate Investment Funds
CNs	Concept notes
COP	Conference of Parties
CP	Country programme
CSO	Civil society organization
DAE	Direct access entity
DCP	Division of Country Programming
DFI	Development finance institutions
DMA	Division of Mitigation and Adaptation
DPM	Division of Portfolio Management
EA	Energy access
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EG	Energy generation
EIB	European Investment Bank
ES2023	Independent evaluation of the Green Climate Fund's approach to the energy sector
ESS	Environmental and social safeguards
FAA	Funded activity agreement
FMO	Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank
FP	Funding proposal
GAP	Gender action plan
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gas
IAE	International accredited entity
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank

IEA	International Energy Agency
IEU	Independent Evaluation Unit
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
IRMF	Integrated results management framework
iTAP	independent Technical Advisory Panel
KII	Key informant interview
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LDC	Least developed country
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
MUFG	Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc.
NDA	National Designated Authority
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
PB	Project beneficiaries
PSF	Private Sector Facility
PSO	Private sector organization
RE	Renewable energy
RPSP	Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme
SAP	Simplified approval process
SE4All	Sustainable Energy for All
SIDS	Small island developing states
ToC	Theory of change
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United States dollar
WB	World Bank

A. INTRODUCTION

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was created in 2010 to support developing countries respond to the challenges of climate change. The GCF's Governing Instrument aims to contribute to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC, the GCF supports climate change mitigation and adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries. Moreover, the GCF works to advance and promote a paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways in developing countries.

This evaluation is part of a concerted effort by the GCF's Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) to serve a learning and accountability function and inform the decision-making of the Board. The evaluation focuses on the GCF's approach to the energy sector, as approved by the GCF Board in decision B.34/08.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), renewable energy must supply 70 to 85 per cent of all electricity by 2050 for the world to meet the Paris Agreement's goals and keep global temperatures well below 2°C. The Governing Instrument recognizes the urgent need for large-scale energy sector interventions that address not only CO₂ emissions but also increase the energy access of under-served people, create jobs and bolster economic growth (Green Climate Fund, 2021). In this regard, “energy access and generation” forms one of the GCF's eight main result areas under the overall mitigation theme.

The evaluation will assess the relevance and effectiveness of GCF's approach to the energy sector to inform future strategy, policy or guidance and to update the GCF sectoral guidance. The evaluation will extensively analyse the results achieved and the scenarios for future GCF strategies. Finally, the evaluation will contribute to accountability by reviewing evidence on the performance and likelihood of impact of GCF's energy sector approach. The overall aim is to examine what is working, how and for whom while identifying lessons learned to inform the GCF's overall performance.

2. KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE EVALUATION

The evaluation team will consist of IEU staff and Econoler, an energy consultancy firm selected through a competitive procurement process. The evaluation team was responsible for developing this approach paper, which draws on the evaluation matrix and the terms of reference developed by the IEU in 2022. The evaluation team will be responsible for data collection and analysis and preparing the final evaluation report, under the oversight of and in full collaboration with the IEU. The IEU will bear full responsibility for the evaluation.

A two-person advisory group has been established by the IEU to provide specific advice on this evaluation and ensure that it reflects the needs, rigour and high-quality of evaluations in this field. They will be consulted throughout the evaluation for their expert and independent advice.

3. ROAD MAP FOR THIS APPROACH PAPER

The report is organized as follows:

Section B provides background and context on the energy sector and related climate change challenges, as well as the GCF portfolio and mandate to scale up investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Section C summarizes existing relevant research and evidence on the energy sector. This chapter also synthesizes the evidence from previous IEU evaluations and country case studies and provides the results of a literature review on the energy sector within GCF's portfolio.

Section D presents the key evaluation questions and the detailed methods the team will use to answer them.

Section E presents the detailed workplan for the evaluation alongside the processes, deliverables and milestones.

A series of appendices offer additional detail:

Appendix 1 provides the full evaluation matrix.

Appendix 2 presents the drafted outline for the evaluation report.

Appendix 3 presents the country case study protocol.

Appendix 4 covers the qualitative data management guidelines, interview protocols and survey instrumentation, including the key informant interview protocols.

Appendix 5 presents the knowledge management and dissemination plan.

B. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1. ENERGY SECTOR AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C demands a dramatically different energy sector – one that helps reduce overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 7.6 per cent globally each year from 2020 to 2030 (United Nations Environment Programme, 2019). Large-scale interventions in the energy sector are especially important because the energy sector accounts for 35 per cent of total emissions (United Nations, n.d.) The share of renewables in electricity generation increased to almost 30 per cent in 2021, their highest share since the beginning of the industrial evolution and up from less than 27 per cent in 2019 (International Energy Agency, 2021). However, a strong rebound in emissions was noticed in 2021, reaching 36.6 gigatonnes of CO₂ per year. The growth in energy demand of almost 1 per cent per year through to 2030 is expected to be primarily met by renewables (International Energy Agency, 2022). According to the IPCC, this means renewable energy must supply 70 to 85 per cent of all electricity by 2050 for the world to meet the Paris Agreement's goals and limit warming to well below 2°C (Green Climate Fund, 2021).

To adapt to this situation, the energy sector must shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy. This is called energy transition. To move from the currently planned energy scenario to the 1.5°C scenario through energy transitions, total energy investment from 2023 to 2050 would need to increase from USD 103 trillion to USD 150 trillion, an increase of USD 1.7 trillion per year. The increases need to happen in three components: electrification with renewables, direct renewables in end uses and energy efficiency (International Renewable Energy Agency, 2023).

Total new investments in renewable energy have been increasing for the last four years, globally reaching up to USD 366 billion in 2022, with 56 per cent targeting solar energy and 40 per cent wind power. Similarly, 57 per cent of mitigation finance in 2019 and 2020 was used for renewables, particularly solar and onshore wind energy. This led to a new high of more than 10 per cent for electricity generated by solar and wind energy. Nonetheless, electricity accounts for only 17 per cent of the total worldwide energy consumption. Thirty-two per cent is used by the transport sector, while 51 per cent is used by other processes, such as heating and industrial processes, of which only 11.2 per cent is supplied by renewables (REN21, 2022). Conversion of heating and industrial processes to use forms of energy with low or zero GHG emissions is often cost-effective over the

lifecycle of assets. However, experience shows that without sources of funds to cover upfront capital costs, most of these conversions are not carried out.

At the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) 24, Heads of State recognized the importance of just transition principles in addressing climate change (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2018). Since then, just transition has been increasingly recognized amid the global effort to mitigate and adapt to climate change (Asian Development Bank, 2021).

2. GCF MANDATE AND THE ENERGY SECTOR

a. COP guidance

The GCF's Governing Instrument states that it will contribute to achieving UNFCCC objectives by promoting a paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways in developing countries. The energy sector is a key focus for the GCF, as it is one of the largest contributors to GHG emissions and a critical consideration in enhancing access to clean and affordable energy for millions of people.

The GCF takes guidance from the COP on its policies, programming priorities and eligibility criteria. The COP also reviews the GCF's reports and provides recommendations for its improvement. The GCF also participates in COP events and activities to share its progress, engage with partners, listen to the needs of developing nations, and build support for its replenishment.

COP26 endorsed the Glasgow Climate Pact, which includes guidance to the GCF on its policies, programming priorities and eligibility criteria for the second replenishment period from 2023 to 2026. Within the Glasgow Climate Pact, under paragraph IV mitigation article 36, parties are called upon to accelerate their transition to low-emission systems by scaling up renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency and phasing out the use of fossil fuels. Parties are urged to do this while supporting energy transition in the most vulnerable and poorest nations.¹ In this regard, the Glasgow Climate Pact focuses on developing renewable energy sources as part of its non-market approaches.²

This is reinforced through the COP27 Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2022b), which emphasizes enhancing the use of renewable energy within the energy mix across all sectors and transforming systems to increase stability, reliability and resilience. Decision 9/CP27 (ibid.) further highlights that an annual investment of USD 4 trillion is expected in the renewable energy sector until 2030, while a global transition to a low-carbon economy would require at least USD 4 to 6 trillion per year.

COP27 also emphasized the role of regional and national climate investment plans in aligning GCF's investments with country driven priorities and facilitating coordination among stakeholders.

b. GCF transition areas related to energy

The GCF invests across various transition areas: the built environment; energy and industry; human security, livelihoods and well-being; and land-use, forests and ecosystems. Under the energy transition, the GCF intends to scale up investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency. To promote renewable energy, the GCF focuses on three areas: (i) **energy generation from renewable sources** such as wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, and sustainable bioenergy; (ii) **efficient and reliable energy transmission, distribution, and storage**; and (iii) **promoting access to clean**

¹ See Glasgow Climate Pact, 1/CMA.3 (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2022a).

² See Work Programme Under the Framework for Non-Market Approaches Referred to in Article 6, Paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement, 4/CMA.3 (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2022a).

energy in a way that promotes sustainable development and climate resilience while reducing emissions.³⁴

In each of these areas, GCF intends to achieve results by:

- Supporting transformational planning and programming. This includes the development of long-term clean energy planning and budgeting that integrates climate externalities and socioeconomic co-benefits.
- Catalysing climate innovation through innovative business models and employing high-impact innovative technologies.
- Mobilizing funds at scale through de-risking investments and unlocking local capital.
- Sharing knowledge of successful innovations and funding mobilization efforts at scale and developing climate expertise of financial institutions to replicate them. This can include (i) enabling the adoption of best practices in grid capacity, storage and flexibility for higher penetration renewables, (ii) increasing the national and subnational energy service buyers' green procurement capacity, and (iii) strengthening the scientific verification of causality between access to electricity and increased climate resilience.

Renewable energy plays an important role in achieving GCF's goals. This importance is reflected in the "energy generation and access" result area being the most common and most significant result area under the mitigation theme.

c. Evolution of the GCF energy sector priorities

References to energy appeared in GCF's documents for the first time in the fourth **Board meeting (B.04) in June 2013**. The document GCF/B.04/03 titled "Business Model Framework: Objectives, Results and Performance Indicators" laid out potential priority result areas for the GCF. Under mitigation, the proposed result areas directly relevant to energy access and generation included "**providing households with access to low-carbon, modern energy**" and "**supporting the development, transfer and deployment at scale of low-carbon power generation**".

At B.07 in 2014, as a part of the initial management framework of the GCF, the Board^{5 6} expanded the 2012 scope of the energy access results area beyond households to "**increased low-emission energy access and power generation**". By calling for "**increased energy efficiency in buildings, cities and industries**", the Board also included energy efficiency as a priority result area for GCF for the first time.

In line with these priorities, GCF focused on supporting projects and programmes that:

- Promote renewable energy generation and distribution, especially off-grid and mini-grid solutions that can reach remote and rural areas.
- Enhance energy efficiency and conservation, especially in buildings, industry and transport sectors.
- Facilitate access to clean cooking fuels and technologies, such as biogas, ethanol, liquefied petroleum gas and improved cookstoves.
- Strengthen energy governance and policy frameworks, including regulatory reforms, incentives, standards and capacity-building in the energy sector.

³ See Energy generation and access (Green Climate Fund, n.d.).

⁴ See Green Climate Fund (2022).

⁵ It is reflected in document GCF/B.07/04.

⁶ These initial result areas are now operationalized as "Energy access and generation" and "Buildings, cities, industries, and appliances". See more details at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/theme/mitigation>.

- Foster innovation and knowledge-sharing on best practices and lessons learned in the energy sector.

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C demands a dramatically different energy sector – one that helps reduce overall GHG emissions by 7.6 per cent globally each year from 2020 to 2030 (United Nations Environment Programme, 2019). Countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) lack ambition, and many are unlikely to achieve them. “Policies currently in place with no additional action are projected to result in global warming of 2.8°C over the twenty-first century” (United Nations Environment Programme, 2022). These concerns regarding NDCs and the projected 2.8°C, along with the increased inflow of energy sector projects, require that GCF staff understand the intricacies of energy sector investments and can compare and prioritize projects competing for GCF funding.

As a result, the GCF developed several sectoral guides. Two focus exclusively on the energy sector: (i) energy access and power generation, and (ii) energy efficiency. Other sectoral guides developed by the GCF include energy as a cross-sector theme.

i. Sectoral guide: Energy access and power generation

In May 2022, the GCF (2022a) released a sectoral guide for energy access and power generation. The guide observes three distinct transformational pathways within the energy result area that can deliver significant and paradigm-shifting impact through one of the following pathways during the first replenishment period (2020-2023):

- **Low-emission power generation** focuses on sustainably generating electricity from renewable sources, including geothermal, solar, wind, hydropower, bioenergy, and ocean energy.
- **Efficient and reliable energy transmission, distribution and storage** focuses on investing in grid flexibility, digitalization, and storage to make power grids more capable of efficiently and reliably operating with higher shares of renewables.
- **Promoting access to modern renewable energy** focuses on modern renewable energy for cooking, grid connections and off-grid electricity, such as green mini-grids and solar home systems, enabling communities to access electricity in a way that promotes sustainable development, enhances climate resilience and reduces emissions.

The guide captures the supply side and some of the demand side of clean energy transformational pathways. It provides a background to energy access, renewable energy generation, transmission, distribution and storage. It also offers good guidance on paradigm-shifting pathways, criteria for impact and impact indicators. The guide's level of detail enables GCF staff to categorize and appraise project proposals in energy access and power generation.

During the inception analysis, mainly based on a desk review, we noted some limitations in the guide that require further study during the evaluation:

- The guide does not capture specific demand side applications of renewable energy, such as solar-powered irrigation to replace diesel power or industrial solar water pumping to replace grid electricity. As a result, such projects are not categorized under “energy sector” but are classified in a different sector, resulting in underreporting of the GCF's investments in energy.
- The guide does not provide GCF staff with the knowledge and tools to comprehensively compare and prioritize projects competing for funding.

ii. Sectoral guide: Energy efficiency

In September 2022, the GCF (2022b) published a sectoral guide for energy efficiency. The guide identified three energy efficiency paradigm-shifting pathways for advancing the highest climate impact projects and supporting country needs:

- **Scaling up industrial energy efficiency** by reducing the energy intensity of industrial processes and materials, catalysing innovations to reduce energy and carbon intensity, switching to low-emission fuel sources for process heat, or shifting to new processes using electricity.
- **Enhancing “space” energy efficiency** by reducing emissions from energy consumption in heating, cooling and lighting in residential, commercial, public, and industrial “spaces”.
- **Catalysing rapid market switches to highest efficiency appliances/equipment** by supporting the adoption of “critical super-efficient appliances/equipment supply chains”.

The guide outlines the three broad areas of energy efficiency – industry, buildings or “spaces” and appliances – and provides background and guidance on paradigm-shifting potential. During the inception analysis, mainly based on a desk review, we noted some suggested improvements that need further review during the evaluation:

- The guide undersells the transformational potential of energy efficiency, which according to the IPCC (2022), can account for 40 per cent of the cumulative CO₂ emissions reductions by 2050 in a 1.5°C pathway (according to the International Energy Agency (2019) by 2040).
- The pathway “scaling up efficiency in energy-intensive industries” limits the priority to energy-intensive industries. In these industries (e.g. chemicals, cement, pulp and paper, etc.), energy use is correlated with core processes. Substantial reductions in energy intensity can only be achieved with transformative innovation in underlying technologies and the recommissioning of ageing assets. Consequently, such approaches can only be implemented over a long period and depend on technological progress in these sectors.
- Several types of energy efficiency investments are not mentioned in this guide. Some energy efficiency technologies are mentioned in other guides. For example, clean cooking is categorized under health and well-being, and energy-efficient water supply is categorized under cities, buildings and urban systems. Moreover, energy efficiency in public sector services, such as public lighting or water treatment and distribution, is not mentioned in any GCF sectoral guide. The energy efficiency sectoral guide could be improved by including a more exhaustive description of energy-efficient technologies and applications to assist GCF staff in correctly categorizing projects, as energy efficiency projects are currently under-reported in the portfolio (see section 3).

The above two sectoral guides are considered the “GCF guide” in the energy sector and correspond to the **energy result area** and the **buildings, cities, industries and appliances result area**. The guides intersect with almost all other sectoral guides, as energy and energy efficiency constitute a cross-sectoral theme.

iii. Other limitations of the sectoral guides in the energy sector

Based on an initial desk review, the following potential limitations have been identified:

- **Energy projects as adaptation or mitigation:** Depending on the application, energy sector investments can be a climate change mitigation and/or adaptation and/or climate resilience investment. For example, an energy efficiency project in an industrial facility reducing energy consumption by installing a highly efficient heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system is a mitigation investment. An energy efficiency project in the same facility focusing on peak-demand management (e.g. pre-heating/pre-cooling in off-peak hours and using energy storage to heat or cool during peak hours) is a climate resilience investment, as it helps the electric grid better manage peak energy consumption. Peak energy supply is typically the most carbon intensive energy generation in the energy mix of countries. A future revision of the guides

should consider guidelines for GCF categorization of energy projects as adaptation or mitigation based on their application and expected project impacts.

- **Portfolio categorization:** As energy projects, particularly those concerning energy efficiency, are cross-cutting, a project such as a clean cooking programme can invest 100 per cent of funds in equipment like clean cooking stoves. The stoves are roughly 50 per cent more energy-efficient than conventional cooking stoves and reduce smoke, pollution and health hazards.
- **Taxonomy to properly categorize projects:** The GCF needs a specific taxonomy for categorizing climate investment projects to avoid double-counting projects with cross-sectoral impacts and benefits⁷. Currently, project categories are self-reported by accredited entities (AEs) based on their judgment.

Further analysis will be performed to validate this initial assessment.

The energy sector priorities, identified in B.04 and B.07 (2013/2014), addressed both the supply and the demand side of the energy sector and focused on the most pending market needs of developing countries – clean energy generation and improved energy efficiency in buildings, industries and cities. The sectoral guides did not expand the scope of priorities but provided the necessary level of detail to differentiate and prioritize energy sector investments where necessary. The sectoral guides are also a good foundation for developing an energy sector specific results framework and impact indicators tailored to the different types of projects.

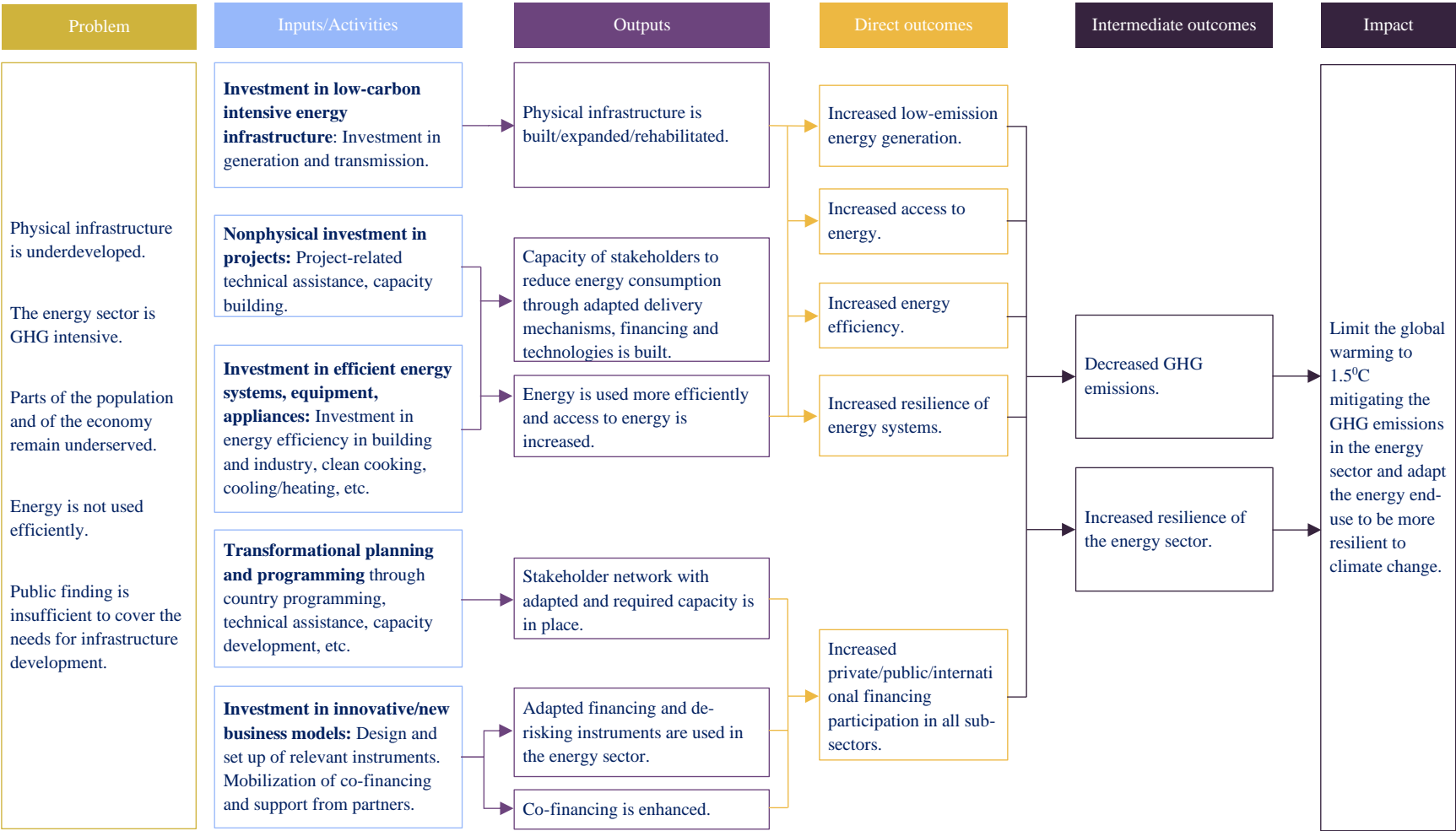
d. Theory of change of the GCF energy sector approach

The theory of change (ToC) of the GCF energy sector approach was reconstructed based on an initial desk review and interviews with GCF staff. The following figure attempts to capture the complexity of the GCF energy sector approach. This reconstructed ToC will be updated in the evaluation report to reflect the data gathered during the evaluation period.

One important element to test is the energy sector classification of projects under mitigation and adaptation. However, it should be noted that currently the GCF's energy projects are mainly classified under mitigation.

⁷ The GCF Secretariat has been working on the taxonomy of its funded activities. A significant amount of the internal effort has focused on developing the taxonomy list and classifying the funded activities according to it. However, no official document had been published regarding the GCF's taxonomy at the time of writing the approach paper.

Figure A - 1. Reconstructed theory of change of the GCF energy sector approach



Assumptions: Activities are completed on time. Internal and external coordination is ensured. Energy demand is increased. Stakeholders engage adequately at each stage. No major natural disasters, conflict or emergency aid related interventions are expected.

3. GCF ENERGY SECTOR PORTFOLIO

a. GCF energy sector projects' classification methodology

Classification of the energy sector projects in the GCF portfolio is defined based on the following criteria.

Results areas related to the energy sector:⁸ GCF seeks to have an impact within eight mitigation and adaptation result areas. The eight result areas cover mitigation and adaptation and provide the reference points that will guide GCF and its stakeholders to ensure a strategic approach when developing programmes and projects while respecting the needs and priorities of individual countries. The following result areas are relevant to the energy sector at GCF:

- Energy access and generation
- Buildings, cities, industries and appliances

Sectoral guides related to the energy sector: The GCF sectoral guides provide an overview and understanding of country needs and the potential to deliver maximum impact in support of country priorities. They also explain how targeted GCF investments aligned with country priorities could achieve maximum impact for each sector, driving paradigm-shifting pathways and demonstrating strong climate impact. The following sectoral guides are relevant to the energy sector at GCF:

- Energy access and generation
- Energy efficiency
- Cities, buildings and urban systems:
 - Decarbonization of urban energy systems
 - Energy efficiency in building stock

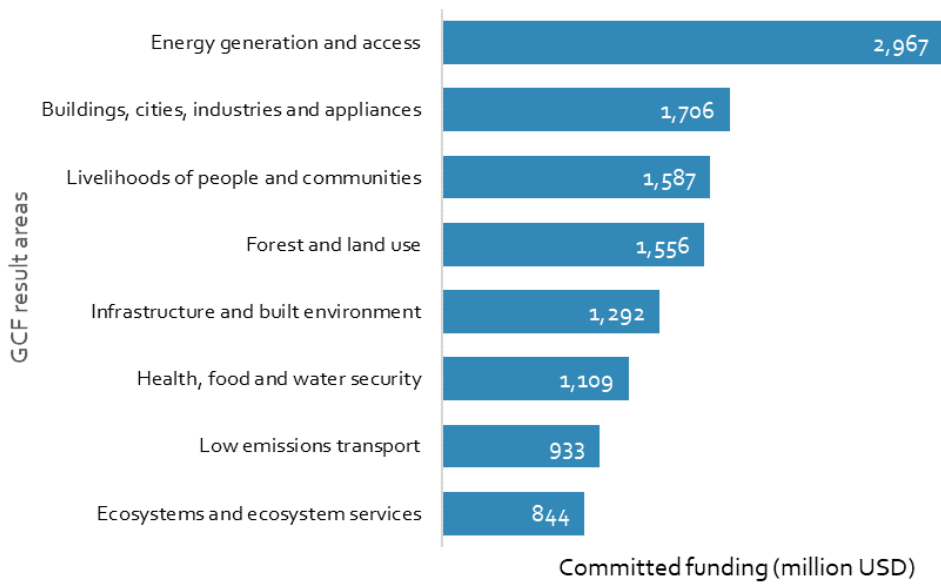
All projects that fall under any of the above criteria are considered “energy” projects. It should be noted that GCF does not have official classifications for different sectors. This classification exists to help GCF staff ensure projects with activities in the energy sector are captured under the portfolio. However, additional analysis and research will be developed under this evaluation to determine the GCF investment related to energy activities.

b. Preliminary energy sector portfolio analysis

The GCF has committed the largest share of finance to the energy access and generation result area in the nominal term (Figure A - 2). This is 43 per cent more than that committed for buildings, cities, industries and appliances – the result area with the second largest amount of committed finance. In addition, it is 72 per cent more than that allocated for ecosystems and ecosystem services – the result area with the least amount of committed finance.

⁸ Result areas are not mutually exclusive. One funded project could be mapped on multiple ‘result areas’.

Figure A - 2. Committed funding by GCF result area

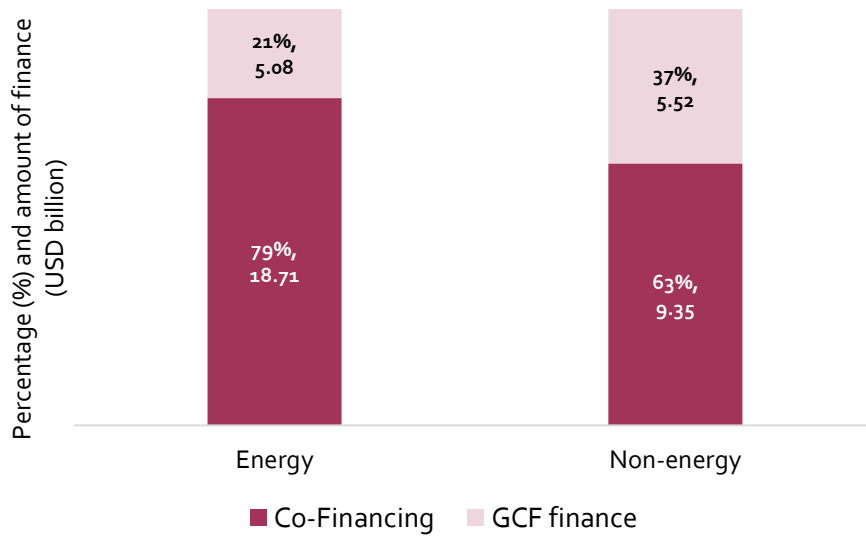


Source: IEU DataLab as of May 2023

The evaluation team will use a specific methodology to determine the contribution of GCF-funded activities to the energy sector. It reviews the 83 projects classified under the energy sector based on the results areas and sectoral guide. Funding proposals (FPs) and funded activity agreements (FAAs) of these projects were reviewed to identify energy activities and their respective budgets. The sum of the individual activity budgets for energy activities per project was used to determine the total GCF committed finance towards the energy sector.

These 83 projects represent 37 per cent of the GCF portfolio (Figure A - 3). GCF funding commitments towards projects with energy interventions was USD 5.1 billion, with USD 18.7 billion in co-financing with a leverage ratio of 1 to 2.00. The energy sector interventions have a larger GCF contribution than projects with no energy interventions, with a leverage ratio of 1 to 0.92. The total commitment of USD 5.1 billion by the GCF towards projects with energy interventions accounts for 21 per cent of the total GCF funding, including co-finance, committed for these projects.

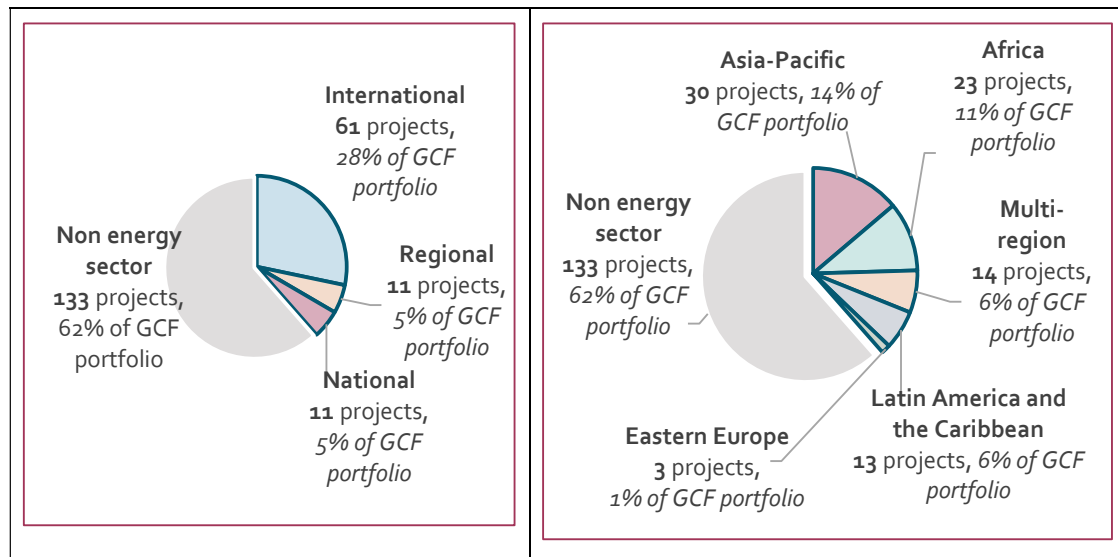
Figure A - 3. GCF contributions in energy and non-energy interventions



Source: IEU DataLab as of May 2023

International accredited entities (IAEs) implement sixty-one projects (28 per cent of the total GCF portfolio), comprising a larger portion of the projects with energy interventions. In contrast, regional and national direct access entities have the same share at 5 per cent each (Figure A - 4). Regarding the geographical distribution of the project portfolio, the following regions have the highest to lowest number of projects: Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and eastern Europe (Figure A - 4).

Figure A - 4. Energy sector projects by (a) type of entity involved and (b) regional distribution

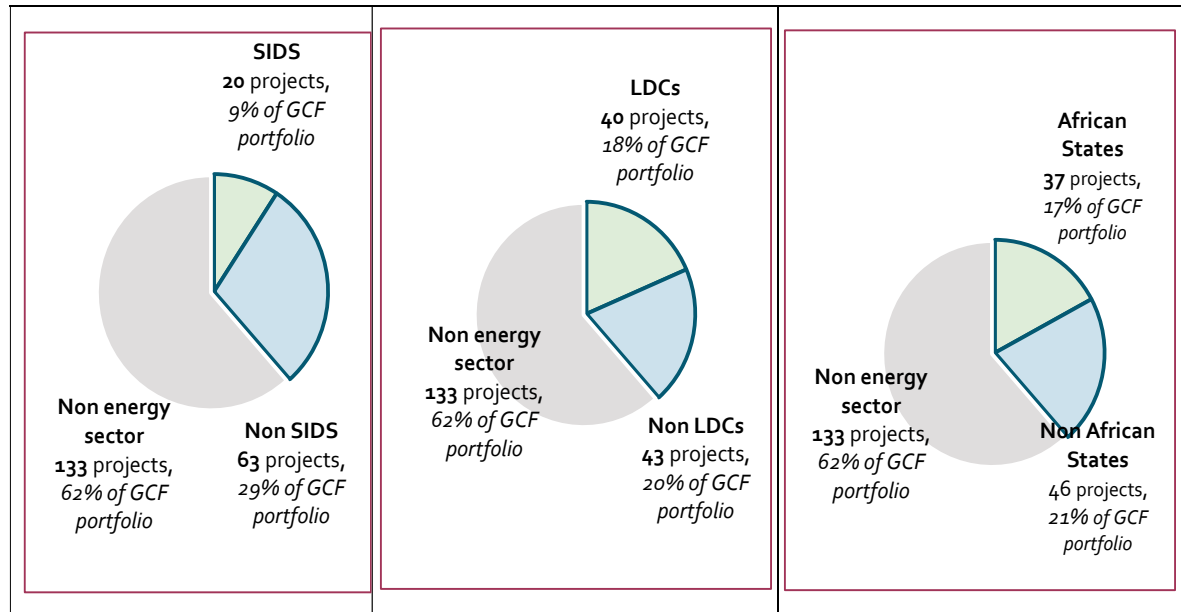


Source: IEU DataLab as of May 2023

The energy sector performed poorest in the small island developing states (SIDS), with only 20 energy projects, compared to 63 projects in the non-SIDS energy sector portfolio.

Almost half of the energy portfolio comprises projects in the least developed countries (LDCs), with 40 out of 83 projects. From a geographical perspective, most energy projects are in African States, with 37 out of 83 projects. (Figure A - 5).

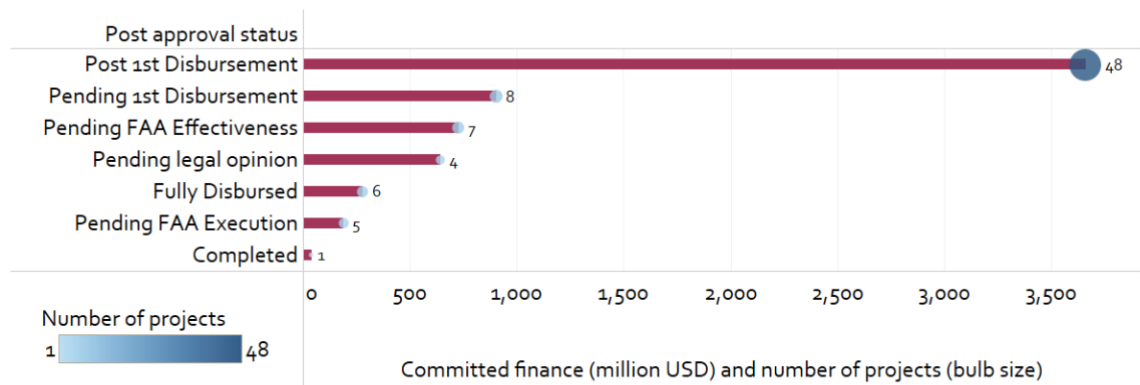
Figure A - 5. Distribution of energy sector projects by vulnerable group



Source: IEU DataLab as of May 2023

Figure A - 6 shows the implementation status of the GCF energy sector portfolio. The statuses are diverse. Notably, however, a large share of projects (70 per cent) has already received their first disbursement.

Figure A - 6. Implementation status of the energy sector projects



Source: IEU DataLab as of May 2023

C. EXISTING RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

1. EXISTING EVALUATIVE EVIDENCE FROM GCF IEU STUDIES

Previous IEU evaluations refer to the energy sector and explore relevant issues for this evaluation. The following nine evaluations conducted from 2019 to 2023 and one working paper were found relevant and reviewed for this synthesis:

- SPR2023: Second Performance Review of the Green Climate Fund.
- DA2022: Independent synthesis of direct access in the Green Climate Fund.
- AFR2022: Independent evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of the Green Climate Fund's investments in the African States.
- Priv2021: Independent evaluation of the Green Climate Fund's approach to the private sector.
- Adapt2021: Independent evaluation of the adaptation portfolio and approach of the Green Climate Fund.
- SIDS2020: Independent evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of the Green Climate Fund's investments in small island developing states.
- SAP2020: Independent assessment of the Green Climate Fund's Simplified Approval Process pilot scheme.
- COA2019: Independent evaluation of the Green Climate Fund's country ownership approach.
- FPR2019: Forward-looking Performance Review of the Green Climate Fund.
- 2021 GCF working paper No. 4: Accelerating and scaling up climate innovation: How the Green Climate Fund's approach can deliver new climate solutions for developing countries.

The following subsections report a mix of findings and conclusions for each evaluation criterion. These pertain to the GCF in general and can also apply to the energy sector, considering that it forms approximately 38 per cent of the GCF portfolio. Also, the evaluation team is confident in the rigour through which the findings and conclusions below were reached.

The purpose of highlighting evaluative evidence, especially from recent evaluations (2022 and 2023), is to avoid replicating searching for similar findings. It also helps validate how much such findings apply to the energy sector. It is important to highlight findings concerning SIDS and African States as they represent approximately 25 per cent and 45 per cent of energy sector projects, respectively. Besides, projects in LDCs and some African States may differ from other regions as they mainly focus on energy access and renewable energy and less on energy efficiency.

Furthermore, several of the above-mentioned evaluations reached similar findings and conclusions, especially on GCF processes and results to date.

a. Relevance

Relevance of modalities, programmes and processes

- There is no international or industry standard for fast-track/speedily processed projects/operations in general and in particular.
- The GCF has struggled to support paradigm shifts within countries and maximize its value in the wider climate finance landscape, partly due to shortcomings in clearly articulating its value proposition and areas of competitive advantage.
- Internal proposal review processes have improved significantly since the initial resource mobilization phase, yet there is more to do.

- Despite high volumes, process improvements and increasing quality, the project appraisal and approval cycle is widely perceived as bureaucratic, lengthy, inconsistent and non-transparent, with potential implications for the GCF's reputation.
- Project origination and approval processes are not tailored or flexible enough to meet private sector needs.
- FAA processes continue to be lengthy and have not meaningfully improved since the initial resource mobilization phase.

Small island developing states

- The lack of clear policy guidance on the programmatic approach holds AEs back from developing such programmes for SIDS.
- The GCF has responded to SIDS-specific COP guidance, particularly concerning private sector engagement, simplified and efficient access, readiness, and accreditation. But the outcomes of those actions have only been partially effective.

Simplified approval process

- The SAP modality, as implemented in 2020, has not translated into simplified requirements for project proponents nor resulted in accelerated approval processes.
- By 2020, the SAP had enabled enhanced access for African States, LDCs and direct access entities (DAEs) compared to the proposal approval process portfolio. However, usage of the SAP by SIDS countries remained low.

Private sector

- The GCF has a clear and unique mandate to promote the participation of private sector partners and catalyse private climate finance. While some progress has been made against this objective in GCF-1, long-term goals and systems are not yet fully aligned.

b. Effectiveness

- AEs apply inconsistent methodologies when reporting GCF results.
- The GCF has undeveloped results and risk management strategies, delegation of risk, reconciliation with scale and diversity and a limited risk culture.
- Stakeholders struggle with the lack of adaptative agility when changes are needed during project implementation.

Results management and reporting

- The GCF is unable to credibly measure and report the results of its private sector mandate due to two key challenges: (i) the integrated results management framework (IRMF) is insufficiently robust for measuring the success – or not – of the GCF's private sector approach, and (ii) the GCF's private sector approach does not include explicit logic models to assign appropriate indicators.
- Although the GCF has taken an important step towards results measurement and reporting by approving the IRMF, the quality of the results measurement, reporting and evaluation during implementation has been poor to date.

c. Efficiency

Alignment to the countries' needs

- Country programmes (CPs), entity work programmes, and Readiness and Preparatory Support Programmes (RPSP) are insufficiently focused to help achieve the full potential of country programming.

- A comprehensive country driven approach to meet country priorities through direct access is missing.
- GCF's business model lacks agility and adaptive management in implementation as the DAE portfolio matures and diversifies.

The following findings date from 2019 but are most likely still relevant:

- GCF has not met its responsibilities to countries. A lack of predictability, transparency and efficiency on the part of the GCF has hindered countries' abilities to make informed, country-led decisions about how to engage with the Fund.
- The GCF has largely relied upon existing national climate change coordination structures rather than creating parallel structures. This approach supports country ownership. Multi-stakeholder engagement has been insufficiently demonstrated during the GCF's investment cycle. IAEs commonly describe their approach to country ownership in the GCF as business-as-usual, highlighting ownership as a fundamental part of their business model.

Nonetheless, the evaluation team will validate those findings through the country case studies.

Approach to the private sector

- The GCF's approach to private sector project development is not effectively country driven and hence not in line with the priorities of the updated strategic plan. CPs are yet to be deployed to increase the country driven qualities of the project pipeline. Multi-country projects have limited effectiveness in country ownership.
- The catalytic effect of the Private Sector Facility (PSF), specifically, is likely limited due to its low-risk appetite and lack of funding for the enabling environment.
- Under the PSF, project origination is driven primarily by IAEs, with limited country ownership.
- GCF support for policy and regulatory reforms, technical capacity-building, readiness and the like is frequently delivered with limited targeting of or consultation with the private sector.
- While several private DAEs have been accredited, almost no funding flows through them. Consequently, the PSF has not delivered its mandate to promote the participation of local private sector actors and financial intermediaries.
- Overall, the GCF has had limited success with investing in an enabling environment for private sector adaptation, channelling sufficient finance via DAEs, or exhibiting sufficient risk appetite to achieve its mandate to enable private sector involvement in adaptation in LDCs and SIDS.
- The capacity of national designated authorities (NDAs) and/or focal points to effectively engage the private sector is much weaker, and their role in providing oversight during project implementation is insubstantial.

d. Coherence and complementarity in climate finance delivery

- Although the GCF has a privileged position in the climate finance landscape, it does not currently maximize the potential of its position. There is no clear evidence of whether the GCF has sufficiently articulated its value added advantage relative to the broader climate and development finance landscape. The GCF has made substantial efforts to align and integrate multilateral climate finance with like-minded funds.
- There is currently no assessment of how well the project portfolio aligns with the GCF's mandate and objectives.
- Individual projects and programmes demonstrate good complementarity with other climate initiatives and are generally coherent with national policies and objectives.

- Evidence from climate funds, international financial institutions and development banks underlines the critical need to focus on enabling environments if the aim is to “catalyse private finance”. The evidence indicates that the GCF private sector portfolio targets the same themes and regions, suggesting limited use of complementarity and coherence.
- Co-finance is inconsistent with expectations. The policy on co-financing clarifies definitions and principles, but the methodology to measure and report mobilized private finance is not yet finalized or operationalized.
- Stakeholders perceive the GCF as best positioned to upscale successful smaller climate action financed by other delivery channels. Opportunities have been identified for this in SIDS, but few have been developed and approved. The lack of “fast-track” processes to capitalize on such opportunities is seen as a constraint that SAP has not overcome.
- Unlike other climate funds, the GCF avoids defining adaptation, allowing flexibility for developing countries to define what adaptation means in their unique context.

Adaptation

- Adaptation project level interactions between GCF proposals and the projects of other climate funds, multilateral partners and the private sector are not yet systematically identified nor actively pursued.
- The GCF also has the opportunity to clarify its role beyond adaptation finance to ensure coherence and complementarity in adaptation planning and implementation.
- Compared to other climate funds, the GCF has the strongest private sector focus and the best ability to scale projects due to its large funding volume, risk appetite and flexible suite of financial instruments. Nevertheless, its portfolio suggests it has not fully utilized this opportunity. For adaptation projects, each USD 1 of GCF funds generates an estimated average of only 18 cents of private sector co-finance.

Innovation

- GCF has adopted a four-pronged approach to accelerate and scale up transformative climate innovation: (i) establish a conducive environment for climate action; (ii) facilitate the emergence of climate innovation; (iii) de-risk market-creating projects that will establish a commercial track record and crowd in private finance for new climate solutions; and (iv) align finance with sustainable development to accelerate the widespread adoption of new climate solutions.
- Recent Secretariat working papers also illustrate a growing articulation of the GCF’s approaches for transformative climate action, including papers in 2021 on the GCF’s climate finance strategy and approach for accelerating and scaling up transformative climate innovation.
- Given the immaturity of the GCF portfolio, the Secretariat’s reporting and the IEU’s evaluations have focused more on fostering a paradigm-shifting portfolio through programming, design and appraisal rather than assessing the extent to which projects and programmes have been transformational. The concept of paradigm shift remains ill-understood among stakeholders.

e. Gender

The GCF has been steadily and systematically positioning itself throughout GCF-1 to better address gender equality and social inclusion, including of Indigenous Peoples. Gaps still exist in the quality of gender action plans (GAPs) and implementation, limiting meaningful action on the ground.

2. RESULTS OF THE LITERATURE REVIEW

During the inception period, the evaluation team identified and assessed key peer-reviewed and grey literature on climate change interventions in the energy transition sector. This literature review provided a grounding of research to the overall evaluation and contributed to a normative standard for the evaluation.

To identify peer-reviewed literature, we conducted an internet search for literature on energy sector transitions to low-emission systems using relevant energy-related keywords.⁹ The titles of these studies were reviewed to determine their relevance. Among those deemed relevant, a priority selection was made of 20 to 30 studies based on these criteria:

- Focus on energy transition globally rather than being country or region specific
- Focus on systemic and financing approaches rather than being technology specific
- Ensure coverage of the energy sector perspective, including indigenous approaches and gender equity

Moreover, we identified grey literature relevant to this evaluation. This grey literature was mainly sourced from the following organizations: International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), International Energy Agency (IEA), Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Clean Energy Network, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, Energy Sector Management Assistance Program, Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All), Alliance to Save Energy, Climate Technology Centre and Network, Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program, and Climate Works Foundation.

Also, we identified several energy sector approaches and project evaluations to use primarily for the benchmarking analysis and country case studies. The following institutions developed the identified evaluations: Climate Investment Funds (CIF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AfDB), Agence française de développement (AFD), World Bank (WB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Investment Bank (EIB) and Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank (FMO).

As a result of the initial literature review, the main constraints, barriers and opportunities for effective energy transition activities were identified. We will continue identifying and reviewing literature throughout the evaluation to refine and build on the framework below.

D. METHODS

1. KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS AND MATRIX

The evaluation questions (Table A - 1) are structured using the GCF-established evaluation criteria to assess the effectiveness and relevance of the GCF's approach to the energy sector, its policy framework and its comparative advantage. The evaluation will also investigate the impacts and results of GCF-funded projects in the energy sector and the extent to which these have fostered a paradigm shift. In addition, the evaluation will consider the cost-effectiveness of project implementation and if unintended results were identified.

For a detailed evaluation matrix with key methods and source/type of data, see Appendix 1.

⁹ The key words used were energy transition, sustainable energy, energy efficiency financing, renewable energy financing, and climate finance in energy.

Table A - 1. Evaluation questions

CRITERIA	KEY QUESTIONS	SUBQUESTIONS
Relevance/ responsiveness	1. Has the GCF's approach and investment in the energy sector been responsive to its mandate, energy sector approach under the UNFCCC, countries' energy sector needs and the energy sector as a key industry/market?	<p>1.1. How relevant and aligned is the GCF energy sector approach to its mandates under the UNFCCC?</p> <p>1.2. To what extent do the GCF's approach and investment in the energy sector consider Just Transition principles?</p> <p>1.3. Do the result areas and GCF support correspond with countries' needs and international commitments to build and develop their energy sector in energy efficiency/access/renewable energy use)?</p> <p>1.4. Does the GCF portfolio reflect the needs of the energy market and industry sectors, including policies/strategies for their transformation (paradigm shift) in the supported countries?</p> <p>1.5. How well is the GCF energy portfolio aligned with the mitigation and adaptation mandate of the GCF?</p> <p>1.6. Does the GCF architecture (processes and governance) allow for delivering its mandate in the energy sector?</p>
Effectiveness	2. Have energy sector projects effectively contributed to achieving countries' climate goals, such as reduction in emissions, co-benefits, linkages to adaptation and paradigm shifts?	<p>2.1. What is the likelihood of achieving the expected outcomes of the GCF energy sector projects?</p> <p>2.2. Have GCF projects in the energy sector changed the practices and priorities of the country's AE and other stakeholders?</p> <p>2.3. Has the GCF's investment in energy created co-benefits in the countries? If so, how and what type of co-benefits are created?</p> <p>2.4. How well has the GCF optimized adaptation in and through its energy interventions and investments?</p> <p>2.5. What major elements significantly contributed to or undermined the (i) achievement and (ii) efficiency of outcomes at the project and programme level?</p> <p>2.6. How has the GCF's investment in energy created unintended positive or negative results?</p>
Efficiency	3. To what extent has the GCF Secretariat's support been suitable and effective in the approval and implementation process of energy projects, including readiness support, the project preparation facility, portfolio management support, sector guidance notes,	<p>3.1. What is the GCF's approach to project origination, and is this efficient and aligned with the needs of the energy sector in countries?</p> <p>3.2. Is the GCF working with appropriate energy stakeholders,¹⁰ including the network of AEs and executing entities?</p>

¹⁰ Here we are considering AEs with sufficient capacity and knowledge in the energy sector, as well as private stakeholders and civil society working with energy related issues.

CRITERIA	KEY QUESTIONS	SUBQUESTIONS
	and thematic briefs?	<p>3.3. To what extent did GCF energy sector related projects comply with GCF environmental and social safeguards?</p> <p>3.4. Does the GCF Secretariat have the human capacity to support energy sector projects throughout their life cycle?</p> <p>3.5. Does the GCF's policy and governance framework provide sufficient guidance to catalyse a paradigm shift in the energy sector?</p> <p>3.6. Is the GCF's investment in energy cost-effective compared to those of the private sector and/or other public finance institutions/development agencies?</p>
Sustainability/ Replication and scalability	4. To what extent do GCF's investments in the energy sector spur further replication and/or scaling up and pursue long-term sustainability of the results and approaches with an objective to transform the energy market, globally or nationally?	<p>4.1. To what extent do the GCF's energy sector investments spur replication, scaling up and long-term sustainability in results and approaches while aiming to transform the national and global energy markets?</p> <p>4.2. What has been the GCF approach to the innovation, replication and scaling up of its interventions to support transformation and paradigm shift at the country level?</p> <p>4.3. What enabling conditions influence the scalability/replication of GCF interventions in the energy sector?</p> <p>4.4. Has GCF funding led to any uptake, second phases or policy change?</p>
Coherence	5. How coherent has climate finance delivery been between the GCF and other multilateral entities?	<p>5.1. What is the GCF's comparative advantage compared to other multilateral funds operating in the energy sector? Has the GCF leveraged funds from multilateral/bilateral banks?</p> <p>5.2. How effectively does the GCF apply its additionality to energy sector projects, particularly across different regions and vulnerabilities?</p> <p>5.3. How sufficient and effective are the GCF's result areas and sectoral guidance compared with the sector approaches or classifications at other climate funds and multilateral banks?</p>
Gender equity	6. To what extent did GCF energy sector related projects respond to issues regarding gender and Indigenous Peoples?	<p>6.1. To what extent were gender equality and Indigenous Peoples considered in energy sector related projects and with what results?</p> <p>6.2. Are GAPs being implemented and monitored, and are results being reported?</p> <p>6.3. Are gender/indigenous co-benefits tracked and reported?</p> <p>6.4. Has gender equality been mainstreamed in GCF energy projects?</p> <p>6.5. Are actions and interventions supporting Indigenous Peoples?</p>
Country ownership	7. How and to what extent has the GCF addressed country needs and systems to ensure countries take ownership of GCF investments in the energy sector?	<p>7.1. Are GCF investments included in NDC implementation plans?</p> <p>7.2. Do stakeholders take sufficient ownership of the implementation and sustainability of results in energy sector result areas?</p>

CRITERIA	KEY QUESTIONS	SUBQUESTIONS
Innovativeness in result areas	8. To what extent has the GCF fostered technical innovation and deployed diverse financial instruments for the energy sector?	<p>7.3. How has the GCF included subnational stakeholders in activities?</p> <hr/> <p>8.1. To what extent has the GCF promoted innovative energy investment approaches to achieve climate goals?</p> <p>8.2. To what extent has the GCF promoted innovative products, technologies, business models, approaches and delivery mechanisms in the energy sector and/or other public finance institutions/development agencies, according to the country context?</p>

2. DETAILED METHODS

This section describes the evaluation's methods. The evaluation will adopt a utilization-focused approach to help ensure it benefits its intended users by providing learning, informing decision-making and improving performance overall. The IEU, the GCF Board, the Secretariat, other independent units, NDAs/focal points, civil society organizations (CSOs)/private sector organizations (PSOs), AEs, DAEs and other delivery partners are identified as this evaluation's key actual and potential users. In line with the overall utilization-focused framework, we will work closely with relevant stakeholders to ensure the evaluation is participatory, consultative and engaging. Ensuring key stakeholder representatives participate in diverse ways throughout this evaluation will ensure the insights and recommendations generated are useful to all and foster appropriation, ownership and buy-in.

This strategic evaluation will draw upon standard evaluation methods. The evaluation team will deploy approaches, methods and tools to focus the review on utilization and learning, to ensure participation at key steps in the process, and to deliver rigorous and credible findings. Overall, this evaluation will use a theory-based and realist mixed-methods approach and include qualitative and quantitative methods for data collection, data set building and analysis.

Key methods for data gathering include:

- Programme and project theory analyses
- Policy and project document analyses
- Review of the literature, including from comparator organizations and peer-reviewed literature
- Synthesis of past evaluation reports and past case studies
- Portfolio and sub-portfolio analyses using detailed and comprehensive data collected on projects by the IEU
- Online survey
- Semi-structured interviews
- Focus group discussions
- Country case studies through virtual or in-person field visits

Each evaluation question will be answered systematically and traceably using all relevant information sources. This will be done in a way that (i) maximizes the triangulation of evidence and, consequently, the representativeness and credibility of the evidence and recommendations and (ii) provides an indication of where the evaluation did not have sufficient evidence or where the evaluation is not as confident about the evidence.

The approach of the evaluation is subject to change as the evaluation progresses.

a. Document review

General document review

The evaluation team will conduct a document review to better grasp the different programmes within the GCF in general and key energy sector issues in particular. This will give the team the insights necessary to answer the evaluative questions by drawing on the following documents:

- GCF policies, Board decisions, Board meeting reports and discussions
- GCF sectoral guides on the energy sector and other sectors
- GCF operation manual
- GCF updated strategic plan

- Relevant audits and evaluations
- Project cycle documents, including concept notes (CNs) and FPs
- Readiness proposals
- CP documents
- National adaptation plans
- Project preparation facility documents
- Portfolio reports and templates

The review will extend to literature from other academic and non-academic papers that showcase the energy sector's challenges, solutions and innovations. Additionally, the evaluation will review evaluations of the energy sector portfolio and approach conducted by the evaluation offices of other climate funds and multilateral organizations.

Literature review

As noted in section C.2 above, the evaluation team has conducted a preliminary review of the relevant peer-reviewed and grey literature on the energy sector and climate change. The methods are described earlier in the report. The literature review will continue to be refined and expanded throughout the evaluation.

b. DataLab analysis

Portfolio-wide and external data analysis will be critical for this evaluation. The evaluation team will work closely with the IEU DataLab team to identify what data analyses could inform the key evaluation questions, what data would be needed for those analyses, and what roles and responsibilities the evaluation team and the IEU DataLab will fulfil. Data analysis will also be an important input in the interview process (see the subsection e below), where data can identify trends and potential bottlenecks, and interviews can help to understand and explain these findings.

An initial list of data analyses organized by evaluation question is in the evaluation matrix provided in Appendix 1.

The evaluation team will also develop a typology of energy projects for qualitative and quantitative analyses. This typology recognizes the diversity of the energy projects' physical, institutional, financial and economic characteristics.

The evaluation team will determine the share of investment in GCF energy projects. The current portfolio includes 83 projects related to the energy sector. However, most projects are not classified as energy-related in the results area. The distribution of projects according to percentage contributions to the combined energy-related results areas is presented in Table A - 2 below.

Table A - 2. Distribution of projects by percentage contributions to the energy sector

NO. OF PROJECTS	COMBINED PER CENT OF FINANCE FOR BOTH ENERGY ACCESS AND GENERATION AND BUILDINGS, CITIES, INDUSTRIES AND APPLIANCES RESULTS AREAS FOR PROJECT	TOTAL GCF FINANCE (USD BILLION)
12	Under 11% of budget	0.92
17	11–50% of budget	1.25
14	51–98% of budget	1.73
40	99% and above of budget	2.91

Note: Only includes projects identified as energy-related according to GCF result areas.

The following methodology will be applied to calculate the GCF's investment in the energy sector. The assessment will include reviewing the budget information within the FP and the budget in the FAA to extract the investment dedicated to energy-related activities in the project. The budget from the FAA provides information about each activity for the GCF investment.

Furthermore, the impact related to energy-related activities in the energy portfolio will be determined using information included in the FP, annual performance report (APR) and other GCF documents. This analysis will be done for each project. Further analysis may include the cost-effectiveness of GCF energy sector projects. The percentage of financial contributions to the energy sector by projects (Table A - 2) will be used to better capture energy investment distribution.

c. Benchmarking

The focus will be on identifying lessons learned and successful strategies other agencies have employed in their energy sector business models and their approaches to engaging with the sector. The evaluation questions to be addressed through benchmarking analysis are listed below:

- **Relevance**
 - 1.4. Does the GCF portfolio reflect the needs of the energy market and industry sectors, including policies/strategies, for their transformation (paradigm shift) in the supported countries?
- **Efficiency**
 - 3.1. What is the GCF's approach to project origination, and is this efficient and aligned with the needs of the energy sector in countries?
 - 3.2. Is the GCF working with appropriate energy stakeholders, including the network of AEs and executing entities?
 - 3.6. Is the GCF's investment in energy cost-effective¹¹ compared to those of the private sector and/or other public finance institutions or development agencies?
- **Coherence**
 - 5.1. What is the GCF's comparative advantage compared to other multilateral funds in the energy sector?
 - 5.2. How effectively does the GCF apply its additionality to energy sector projects (particularly across different regions and vulnerabilities)?
 - 5.3. Are the GCF's result areas and sectoral guidance sufficient and effective compared with sector approaches or classifications at other climate funds and multilateral banks?
- **Innovation**
 - 8.1. To what extent has the GCF played a catalytic role in promoting innovative approaches to crowd in climate finance in energy investment to achieve climate goals?
 - 8.2. To what extent has the GCF promoted innovative products, technologies, business models, approaches, and delivery mechanisms in the energy sector and/or other public finance institutions or development agencies, according to country context?

Agencies for benchmarking

Relevant agencies for potential benchmarking were identified, including (i) global climate finance organizations, (ii) multilateral, bilateral and regional development banks, and (iii) agencies that have

¹¹ In avoided tCO₂eq/USD invested

a strong focus on the energy sector in developing countries and LDCs. The objective of the benchmarking is to answer the defined evaluation questions above.

It should be noted that some agencies might have a narrower focus than the GCF. For example, they might only target the public or private sector, one region, or one subsector (access, renewable energy or energy efficiency).

For each of the selected agencies, the main reasons for their selection are presented in Table A - 3.

Table A - 3. Selection of agencies for benchmarking

TYPE OF AGENCY	AGENCIES TO BE BENCHMARKED	REASON FOR SELECTION
Multi-donor trust funds	Global Environment Facility (GEF) CIF Adaptation Fund (AF)	Innovative programme modalities, technology and approach to the energy sector Emphasis on additionality Country driven Cost efficiency of investment considerations Paradigm shift potential Second level due diligence
Regional agencies	AfDB IDB ADB EBRD EIB	Innovative programme modalities, technology and approach to the energy sector AfDB – focus on LDCs Leverage of private sector finance Leverage GCF funds Paradigm shift potential by supporting mainstreaming of climate finance
Multilateral agencies	WB International Finance Corporation (IFC)	ESMAP has similarities with the readiness programme Act only in the public sector (WB) Act only in the private sector (IFC) Leverage GCF funds
Bilateral agencies	Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Agence française de développement (AFD) / Proparco KfW FMO	Readiness support provided Blending private sector capital Leverage GCF funds Paradigm shift potential by supporting mainstreaming of climate finance
Commercial banks	Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. (MUFG)	Collaboration with the GCF Important commercial bank

Approach

Table A - 4 summarizes the approach to the benchmarking. The following sources of information for the benchmarking analysis will be:

- Documentation review:

- Strategies and policies: It should be noted that most institutions and agencies listed above have either an energy strategy, energy lending policy, energy framework or energy sector related policy
- Annual reports
- Public evaluations: Several agencies have recent sectoral or thematic evaluations, which will be used as main sources of information.
- Interviews: Because most of the agencies included in the benchmark are AEs of the projects that will be analysed in the case studies, we will use the opportunity of country missions to gather information related to the benchmarking analysis. Moreover, we will contact the head of energy sector division/department(s) specifically for the benchmarking analysis.

Table A - 4. Meta-analysis and benchmarking approach

CRITERIA/ ISSUES TO BE BENCHMARKED/ AGENCY/FUND/BANK	GEF, CIF, AF	MULTILATERAL AGENCIES: WB, IFC	REGIONAL AGENCIES: EBRD, ADB, AfDB, EIB, IDB	BILATERAL AGENCIES: MCC, AFD, KfW, FMO	COMMERCIAL BANKS: MUFG
Efficiency: appraisal process related with the needs of the energy sector in countries, appropriate stakeholders and cost-effectiveness	x	x	x	x	x
Coherence: comparative advantage, sector approach and classification	x	x			
Innovation according to the country context	x	x	x	x	

d. Gender and Indigenous Peoples analysis

The team will conduct an in-depth analysis of gender and Indigenous Peoples. This approach paper uses the term gender and Indigenous Peoples to encompass the GCF’s institutional commitments to these two groups and to disadvantaged populations who may be the focus of energy projects.* The paper also commits to the broader GCF principles of inclusivity, participation and climate justice. The GCF’s updated gender policy of 2019 calls for an institution-wide commitment to promoting gender equality across its investment criteria and as “an integrated measure of the social dividends of the overall portfolio.” The evaluation analysis will assess how extensively gender is considered at the project or programme level and how effectively the investment lessens the gender gap. We will also consider the extent to which the GCF’s commitment to gender equality is appropriately resourced and monitored.

The evaluation will utilize a mixed-methods approach to analysing the GCF’s performance on gender and Indigenous Peoples. The team plans to focus on interpretive analysis driven by qualitative methods but powerfully informed by quantitative data, where feasible.

Gender considerations will be mainstreamed throughout the evaluation to the extent possible, in addition to conducting gender analysis of particular tools and products. The evaluation team’s

gender specialist will evaluate each tool or framework developed for each method and each data collection to ensure they respond appropriately to relevant elements. For example, gender will be explored in each country case study, and the reports will have a section on gender. Interview guides and protocols will include questions regarding gender. The IEU DataLab analysis is also expected to provide a disaggregated analysis by gender of the GCF's energy portfolio.

In summary, the evaluation team proposes to carry out a gender-responsive evaluation with the aim of (i) measuring progress made towards achieving intended gender-related objectives and goals set in the gender policy 2019 as well as in GCF energy projects, and (ii) assessing the relevant processes, activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts of an intervention from a gender perspective, including the financial resources allocated.

e. Stakeholders' consultation

The team will consult with a wide range of stakeholders via key informant interviews (KIIs) and a perception survey. Interview responses will be compared with survey data to identify commonalities and divergences and to help explain survey trends.

Key informant interviews

To guide the interviews, semi-structured interview protocols will be developed, tailored by stakeholder type and iteratively tested and improved. KIIs will be held in person where feasible or via telephone or videoconference where not feasible. Interviewers will take detailed, typed interview notes, held confidentially and coded in a user-friendly software platform to facilitate qualitative analysis. Table A - 5 shows the types of stakeholders that will be consulted and the sampling approach of the overall evaluation.

Table A - 5. Stakeholders to be interviewed

TYPE OF STAKEHOLDER	PURPOSIVE SAMPLING
GCF Secretariat, independent units and panels/committees	Selective interviews: All relevant divisions and units at the GCF Secretariat/independent units, independent Technical Advisory Panel (iTAP) and accreditation panel
GCF Board member	Board members via participation in webinars ¹² Specific bilateral interviews
GCF active CSO/PSO observers	Selective interviews with CSO/PSO observers at the GCF Board Selective interviews: The Carbon Trust, Navigant Europe, GreenMax Capital Advisers, GHD Centre, Eco Ltd., COWI A/S ¹³ Case studies Webinars
NDA/focal points	Case studies
DAEs	Webinars
IAEs	Specific bilateral interviews Survey
Additional international actors	UNFCCC Secretariat, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, IEA, IRENA, United for Efficiency, SE4All, U.S. Agency for International Development
Additional regional actors in the Asia-Pacific	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency – covering the

¹² Usually around 10 Board Members participate in the webinars.

¹³ From Community of Practices

TYPE OF STAKEHOLDER	PURPOSIVE SAMPLING
	Asia-Pacific region
Additional regional actors in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)	Organización Latinoamericana de Energía, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Caribbean Development Bank
Additional regional actors in Africa	Economic Commissions for Africa, southern African Power Pool, Regional Energy Regulators Association of southern Africa, Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency – covering the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENA) region, ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Southern Africa Development Community, Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Additional country level stakeholders	Project beneficiaries (case studies) Energy-related agencies/organizations (case studies)
Additional external actors for benchmarking	Actors mentioned in the benchmarking section (Interviews)
Energy experts from academia and non-governmental organizations	Bilateral specific interviews with external experts

Perceptions survey

The evaluation team will administer an electronic survey for this evaluation. The survey will answer several evaluation questions and collect quantitative data for triangulation with the qualitative information found through the other data-collection tools and methods. The survey questionnaire will have differentiated questions for different types of stakeholders. The questions will align with the role played by each actor targeted for the survey.

The survey will be administered electronically. It will be designed so that participants can complete the survey within 10-15 minutes. It will comprise various question types: yes/no, multiple-choice with several choices, scales from 1 to 5, scales from “totally agree” to “totally disagree”, and semi-open questions. Matrices will be used to ask a range of similar questions. Choices such as “Do not know/Not applicable” will be systematically offered.

The target groups of the survey are shown in the table below. The draft survey questionnaire is presented in Appendix 4.

Table A - 6. Survey approach

GROUP	SURVEY ADMIN. METHOD	RESPONDENT SAMPLING
All other GCF energy sector projects	Online	All NDAs with energy projects
	Online	AEs with submitted FPs or CNs on energy
Key informants	Online	If some key informant groups are difficult to reach through interviews, the evaluation team may prepare a survey for specific groups

f. Country case studies

Country case studies will be used to take a more in-depth look at the relevance, effectiveness and coherence of GCF investments in recipient country energy sectors. Given the diversity, these case

studies are not intended to be representative of the overall GCF portfolio in energy. Instead, they will be important in ensuring a more in-depth and grounded understanding of the relevance of GCF investments in the energy sector as determined by the GCF sectoral guide and the effectiveness of GCF-funded energy sector activities in delivering on-ground results.

Country case study selection

According to the criteria and considerations described below, five countries were identified for case studies: Indonesia, Mongolia, Tonga, Chile and Zambia. In addition, we will conduct deep dive missions in Serbia, Bosnia Hercegovina, and north Macedonia, mostly through desk study.

From the total number of GCF-eligible countries, a shortlist of 15 with the highest energy investments was first identified. This excluded countries already visited or currently being contacted or covered by the IEU's completed or ongoing evaluations and countries where travel is highly restricted. These country case studies constitute an important source of information and experience that will be incorporated into the evaluation.

For the shortlisting of countries, a series of GCF-oriented selection criteria were applied to ensure a diversity of experiences. The following criteria were applied:

- Ensure a balanced geographical coverage.
- Ensure diversity of energy, energy access and generation.
- Ensure at least one country in each global region has GCF readiness funding approved for either mitigation or adaptation.
- Ensure diversity of project focus across mitigation, adaptation and cross-cutting.
- Ensure diversity of multi-country and single-country projects.
- Ensure diversity of financial instruments and public and private sector projects.
- Ensure countries have costed mitigation and/or adaptation in their NDCs.¹⁴
- Ensure diversity of AEs with approved projects in the selected countries.
- Ensure inclusion of at least one country with a national DAE.

Further, diversity was considered across each country's geographical, linguistic and legal characteristics. IEU and Econoler evaluation team members will conduct country missions in Indonesia, Mongolia, Tonga, Chile and Zambia. Regional Econoler regional consultants will conduct missions in regional Econoler. Table A - 7 below shows the attributes of the countries selected against these key criteria.

¹⁴ However, a few countries that have not submitted an NDC or have not provided cost projections for their mitigation and/or adaptation priorities, will be included in the countries selected for a deeper look at capacity constraints.

Table A - 7. Selected country cases, energy portfolio and key attributes

COUNTRY	REGION	NUMBER OF ENERGY PROJECTS AND FINANCE (USD MILLION)										POLICIES AND FRAMEWORKS			
		# Approved (energy generation, access and efficiency)	Finance (energy generation, access and efficiency)	# Energy access and generation	Finance (energy access and generation)	# Energy efficiency	Finance (energy efficiency)	# DAE implemented	# IAE implemented energy	# Single-country	# PSF	# Pipeline	Latest NDC	GCF CP	National energy road map/ strategy (latest year)
Chile	LAC	5	25	3	3	5	22	2	5	3	5	2	2020	No	Yes (2021)
Indonesia	AP	8	169	6	32	8	136	1	11	3	7	24	2022	Yes	Yes (2017)
Mongolia	AP	7	83	7	51	7	32	4	7	7	6	6	2020	Yes	Yes (2017)
Tonga	AP	2	32	0	0	2	32	0	2	1	0	9	2020	Yes	Yes (2020)
Zambia	Africa	3	59	3	59	1	0.6	0	5	2	4	19	2021	Yes	Yes (2008)
North Macedonia*	Eastern Europe	5	12	2	0.4	5	11	0	5	0	2	1	2021	No	Yes (2019)

Source: IEU DataLab as of May 2023; GCF iPMS approved projects and pipeline data (B.34), [Grantham Research Institute for Climate Change](#) and [the Environment and United Nations Climate Technology Centre and Network](#) (accessed on 29 March 2023)

Note: *Studies in these countries will be via a focused Econoler study, not an IEU country mission.
Year indicated comes from when the latest or last updated strategy was published.

Country protocol for planning, implementing, reporting and validating country visits

A protocol for the country case studies has been prepared to ensure that evaluators plan, implement, report and validate country visits in a consistent manner. The protocol will be piloted in one country, reviewed, refined and then applied to the remaining countries. This protocol is provided in Appendix 3.

The NDAs/focal points will be actively involved in the conduct of the country case studies to support ownership, learning and validation. NDAs/focal points will be engaged in the planning process and have the opportunity to review case study reports, ensure factual accuracy and suggest improvements.

Evaluation ethics

The evaluation will comply with the core principles of evaluation ethics, including integrity, accountability, respect and beneficence. The evaluation team will conduct itself with integrity per professional and ethical guidelines and codes of conduct for individual evaluators. The team will communicate truthfully and openly with relevant stakeholders concerning aspects of the evaluation, such as findings, procedures, limitations or changes.

Consistent with the principle of inclusion and to support learning and accountability, the team will share all country case study reports with interviewees for review and correction. The evaluations will be carried out in a participatory manner. The evaluation report will include an account of how evaluation team members engaged with stakeholders during the evaluation process and appropriately reflected the perspectives and voices of multiple stakeholders involved, including the most vulnerable.

The evaluation will also respect participants' autonomy and obtain prior voluntary and informed participant consent to use confidential information in line with the principles of respect and "do no harm." Evaluators will respect the participants' right to provide information in confidence and ensure participants fully understand the scope and limits of confidentiality.

We will explicitly seek stakeholders' voluntary, informed consent for participating in all data collection, including interviews, with an opportunity to refuse or opt out at any point of the process. The anonymity of participants will be ensured for all relevant data collection methods. Interview notes will be anonymized for analysis and not shared outside the evaluation team. If a participant asks for confidentiality, we will ensure their protection when publishing evaluation documents, including omitting their name in the annexes relating to interviews. The evaluation team will ensure that any sensitive data cannot be traced to their source through triangulation, so that findings are not based on a single source of evidence.

E. WORKPLAN

1. PROCESS FOLLOWED TO DATE

A series of initial meetings¹⁵ were held during an inception mission from 12 to 21 April 2023. These meetings enabled the evaluation team to identify clear priorities and finalize key elements of the approach and methods.

The evaluation team immediately began the initial data analysis and document review, including relevant GCF documents and other similar fund reviews and assessments in the energy sector.

¹⁵A 7-day inception mission at the GCF headquarters in Songdo, South Korea was held between the IEU and the Econoler team leader, deputy team leader and senior evaluator (Amandine Gal, Stéphanie Nour and Ivan Gerginov). A series of inception interviews were conducted with key GCF staff working in energy.

A series of scoping conversations were also held with different GCF Secretariat units, including the Division of Mitigation and Adaptation (DMA), Division of Portfolio Management (DPM), and the Division of Country Programming (DCP) to inform the design of the evaluation matrix and identification of key issues and tensions.

2. GENERAL WORKPLAN

The evaluation process has been divided into four general stages:

- **Inception, planning, approach paper and evaluability assessment stage** (December 2022 – May 2023): This stage involves the inception mission and preparation of data collection and management tools. It ensures sufficient preparations were made for the evaluation.
- **Data collection, data management and initial analysis stage** (May – September 2023): This stage involves the planning and implementation of the data collection and analysis methods described above.
- **Analyses, evidence tree and factual draft stage** (August – October 2023): This stage involves synthesizing data analysis, report writing and delivering a presentation. During this stage, findings and recommendations will be drafted.
- **Reporting stage** (November 2023 – March 2024): This stage involves finalizing and widely disseminating the evaluation report and associated products.

The key deliverables for the evaluation are described below, followed by a detailed workplan.

3. KEY DELIVERABLES

The evaluation team will produce four key deliverables, as shown in Table A - 8 below. In addition to these key deliverables, other work products will be produced for communication purposes, such as evaluation briefs and other learning products, by 31 March 2024. All outputs produced by the evaluation team will go through a thorough quality assurance process prior to dissemination.

Table A - 8. Key deliverables and deadlines

KEY DELIVERABLE	DESCRIPTION	DATE
Approach paper	Final approach paper - Describes the approach, methods, workplan, and plan for country visits and includes a refined evaluation matrix that will be used to develop data collection tools.	By May - June 2023
Collected data and analysis	Data collection and analysis – Includes collected data, landscape analysis, benchmarking assessment, synthesis of IEU’s past evaluations, data analysis results, finalized country mission reports and initial evidence tree	By 30 August 2023
Factual report	Factual report to be circulated to relevant stakeholders –Includes data analysis and synthesis processes, identified trends and outliers and preliminary findings and recommendations.	By 15 October 2023
Final evaluation report	Final evaluation report, an executive summary and the country mission reports. The final report provides the evaluation’s data and analysis, key findings, conclusions and recommendations. Includes annexes that ensure the transparency of the evidence base, such as the list of stakeholders consulted, structured bibliography, country case study reports, benchmarking results and survey results.	By 15 December 2023

4. DETAILED WORKPLAN

Below is the detailed workplan for the evaluation. The Econoler team leader will hold weekly calls with the IEU, while the Econoler key experts will hold biweekly calls.

ACTIVITIES	2023												2024		
	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	
Phase 1: Inception															
1	Inception (+ consultations)														
2	Approach paper *														
Phase 2: Data collection															
3		Data collection *													
4						Survey									
5		Interview/doc review													
6			Case study missions												
Phase 3: Analysis															
7							Analysis *								
8								Drafting							
9										Factual report *					
Phase 4: Reporting															
10										Draft report					
11											Final report *				
12											Communications and socialization (products and briefs) *				

Note: Dark grey denotes review time. Asterisks indicate deliverables.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. EVALUATION MATRIX

CRITERIA	KEY QUESTIONS	SUBQUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION OF ANALYSIS
Relevance/ responsiveness	1. Has the GCF's approach and investment in the energy sector been responsive to its mandate, energy sector approach under the UNFCCC, countries' energy sector needs and the energy sector as a key industry/market?	1.1. How relevant and aligned is the GCF energy sector approach to its mandates under the UNFCCC?	Synthesis of IEU evaluations KII/Focus groups with UNFCCC and former energy experts Document review	Literature Quantitative data (DataLab, survey) Qualitative data	Analysis of GCF energy policy suites to verify the linkages with the GCF's energy sector mandate and UNFCCC Landscape assessment ToC
		1.2. To what extent does the GCF's approach and investment in the energy sector consider Just Transition principles?	KII/Focus groups Document review Country case studies	Literature Quantitative data (DataLab, survey) Qualitative data	Evidence that GCF interventions promote (or not) just transition Portfolio indicators progress
		1.3. Do the result areas and support of the GCF correspond with the needs and international commitments of the countries to build and develop their energy sector in energy efficiency/access/RE?	Synthesis of IEU past case studies Market analysis KII/Focus groups Document review Country case studies Online survey	Literature Quantitative data (DataLab, survey) Qualitative data	NDCs review Access/demand to clean energy by country Funding needed annually to achieve universal energy access over energy funding received in high-impact energy countries
		1.4. Does the GCF portfolio reflect the needs of the energy market and industry sectors, including policies/strategies, for their transformation (paradigm shift) in the supported countries? <i>1.4.1. To what extent have different partners and stakeholders (NDA, AEs, beneficiaries) been involved in GCF-funded energy sector projects</i>	Synthesis of IEU past case studies KII/Focus groups Document review Online survey Country case studies	Qualitative data Literature Quantitative data (survey)	GCF energy sector portfolio analysis versus the global trends Distribution of FPs in the energy sector (by energy efficiency, EA, EG) Share of electricity generation by fuel by regions Investment in RE/energy efficiency (by technology, region, year) Policy analysis - Does the framework

CRITERIA	KEY QUESTIONS	SUBQUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION OF ANALYSIS
		development and implementation? 1.4.2. How do the partners and stakeholders (NDA, AEs, beneficiaries) perceive the GCF energy sector approach? 1.4.3. Does the GCF portfolio reflect the required ambition to fulfil its mandate regarding meeting country needs?			provide sufficient and effective guidance for operational decision-making objectives aligned with key opportunities for shifting an energy paradigm? Portfolio analysis – Does the profile of projects funded match objectives? Comparison of the policy and governance framework with comparator funds/banks Assessment of partner and stakeholder perceptions and opinions
		1.5. How is the GCF energy portfolio used to respond to the mitigation and adaptation mandates of the GCF?	Market analysis KII/focus groups Document review Portfolio analysis Country case studies	Qualitative data Literature Quantitative data (DataLab)	Energy sector projects in mitigation versus adaptation Progress of mitigation and adaptation energy indicators (IRMF)
		1.6. Does the GCF architecture (processes and governance) allow it to deliver its energy sector mandate?	Literature review KII/Focus groups Portfolio analysis Country case studies	Qualitative data Literature Quantitative data (DataLab)	Assessment of operations – project initiation process, appraisal and approval, implementation SWOT analysis on how organizational architecture contributes to mandate delivery
		1.7. To what extent is the GCF results management framework appropriate for monitoring and evaluating the results? Does the GCF result management framework contain specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bounded outcomes, impact results and indicators?	Literature review KII/Focus groups	Qualitative data Literature	Assessment of the GCF's results management framework for the energy sector

CRITERIA	KEY QUESTIONS	SUBQUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION OF ANALYSIS
Effectiveness	2. Have energy sector projects effectively contributed to achieving countries' climate goals regarding reductions in emissions, co-benefits, linkages to adaptation and paradigm shifts?	2.1. What is the likelihood of achieving the expected outcomes of the GCF energy sector projects?	Synthesis of IEU evaluations KII/Focus groups Document review Portfolio analysis Online survey Country case studies	Literature (APRs, interim evaluations) Quantitative data (DataLab, survey) Qualitative data ToC system approach (to test if enabling conditions are in place to achieve the set objectives)	Progress on indicators (IRMF) Implementation progress (disbursement rate, financing, impact potential) Energy interventions by regional distribution and by vulnerabilities LDCs, SIDS
		2.2. Have GCF projects in the energy sector changed the practices and priorities of the country's accredited entities and other stakeholders?	KII/Focus groups Country case studies Online survey	Literature Qualitative data Quantitative data (survey)	Analysis of AE analysis size, coverage, type of projects, and support received
		2.3. How has GCF's investment in energy created co-benefits in the countries? 2.3.1. Are co-benefits being monitored and reported?	Synthesis of IEU evaluation KII/Focus groups Online survey Country case studies	Literature Qualitative data Quantitative data (DataLab/survey)	Co-benefits identification and assessment
		2.4. How well has the GCF optimized adjustments in and through its energy interventions and investments?	Synthesis of IEU evaluation KII/Focus groups Country case studies	Literature Qualitative data Quantitative data (DataLab)	Analysis of the GCF's progress regarding adaptation in the energy sector and the effectiveness of its energy sector projects in improving adaptive capacity in societies
		2.5. What major positive or negative elements contributed to or undermined the (i) achievement and (ii) efficiency at the project and programme level?	Synthesis of IEU evaluation Case studies KII/Focus groups Online survey Country case studies	Literature Qualitative data Quantitative data (survey)	Analysis of the level of positive and negative impact of these elements on achievement and efficiency

CRITERIA	KEY QUESTIONS	SUBQUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION OF ANALYSIS
		2.6. How has the GCF's investment in energy created unintended positive or negative environmental effects?	Synthesis of IEU evaluation KII/Focus groups Online survey Country case studies	Literature Qualitative data	Analysis of the effect of the GCF project's direct outputs List of unintended results and assessment of their importance
Efficiency	3. Has the GCF Secretariat's support in the approval and implementation process of energy sector projects been suitable and effective, including readiness support, project preparation facility, portfolio management support, sector guidance notes, thematic briefs, and Secretariat support?	3.1. To what extent is the GCF's approach to energy project origination efficient and aligned with the needs of the energy sector in countries?	Synthesis of IEU evaluations KII/Focus groups Portfolio analysis Benchmarking Country case studies	Literature Qualitative data Quantitative data (DataLab)	Portfolio analysis - FPs versus results Portfolio analysis - concept note approved/rejected. FP implemented/abandoned Share of ES projects managed by international, regional, and national entities and by size Qualitative analysis of stakeholders participating in the energy approach of GCF compared to other donors and the international energy market
		3.2. Is the GCF working with the appropriate energy stakeholders, including the network of AEs and executing entities?			
		3.3. To what extent did GCF energy sector related projects comply with GCF environmental and social safeguards?	KII/Focus groups Document review Country case studies	Literature Qualitative data	Environmental and social safeguards (ESS) mainstreaming in energy FPs Analysis of APRs
		3.4. Is the GCF Secretariat well trained/oriented, and does it have the human capacity to support energy sector projects throughout its life cycle?	KII/Focus groups Country case studies Online survey or interviews	Qualitative data Quantitative data (survey)	Staff capacities and skills versus needs Analysis of the GCF survey
		3.5. Does the policy and governance framework of the GCF provide sufficient guidance to bring about a paradigm shift in the energy sector?	KII/Focus groups Country case studies Policy analysis	Qualitative data Literature Quantitative data	Policy analysis to provide sufficient/effective guidance for operational decision-making. Policy review to provide evidence that objectives aligned with key opportunities for shifting energy paradigm

CRITERIA	KEY QUESTIONS	SUBQUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION OF ANALYSIS
		3.6. Is GCF's investment in energy cost-effective compared to that of private sector and/or other public finance institutions or development agencies?	Market analysis Benchmarking Cost-benefit KII/Focus groups Document review Country case studies	Qualitative data Literature Quantitative data (survey)	Cost-benefit analysis Benchmarking by other similar funds and the private sector
Sustainability/ Replication and scalability	4. To what extent do the GCF's energy sector investments spur replication, scaling up and long-term sustainability in results and approaches while also aiming to transform national and global energy markets?	4.1. How has the GCF's approach and investment in the energy sector considered the sustainability of investments, and what are the economic and social co-benefits? How sustainable are the outcomes of GCF interventions in the energy sector?	Synthesis of IEU evaluations KII/Focus groups Country case studies Market analysis	Qualitative data Literature Quantitative data (Survey)	Assessment of sustainability related to institutional capacity, pipeline of projects Evidence that the countries have adopted political, financial and organizational measures to ensure sustainability of results
		4.2. What has been the GCF approach to innovation, replication and scaling up of its interventions to support transformation and paradigm shift at global and country levels?	Document review Online survey Country case studies	Literature Quantitative data (survey) Qualitative data	Comparative analysis regarding internal and external stakeholder satisfaction
		4.3. What enabling conditions influence the scalability/replication of GCF interventions in the energy sector?	Synthesis of IEU evaluations KII/Focus group Country case studies	Literature Qualitative data Quantitative data (survey)	Analysis of the survey and interviews, case studies, quantitative data
		4.4. Has GCF funding led to any uptake, second phases or policy change?			

CRITERIA	KEY QUESTIONS	SUBQUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION OF ANALYSIS
Coherence	5. How coherent is the GCF's climate finance delivery compared to other multilateral entities?	5.1. What is the GCF's comparative advantage compared to other multilateral funds in the energy sector? Has the GCF been able to leverage funds from multilateral/bilateral banks?	Benchmarking KII/Focus groups Document review Country case studies	Qualitative and quantitative data from literature and DataLab	Analysis of GCF optimization of resources versus the complete landscape of climate finance for energy sector development
		5.2. How effectively does the GCF apply its additionality to energy sector projects, particularly across different regions and vulnerabilities?	Market analysis Benchmarking KII/Focus groups Document review Online survey Country case studies	Qualitative data Literature Quantitative data (survey)	Market analysis to explore the needs of the energy sector regarding financing and if they match with GCF investments in energy
		5.3. Are the GCF's result areas and sectoral guidance sufficient and effective compared with the energy sector approaches or classifications at other climate funds and multilateral banks?	KII/Focus groups Benchmarking Document review Country case studies Market analysis Online survey Policy analysis (energy sector, updated strategic plan, etc.)	Qualitative data Literature Quantitative data (survey)	Comparison of policy and approaches of the energy sector with comparator funds/banks Analysis of the survey responses and synthesis of the case studies

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CRITERIA	KEY QUESTIONS	SUBQUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION OF ANALYSIS
Gender and social equity	6. To what extent did GCF energy sector- related projects respond to gender-sensitivity issues and Indigenous Peoples?	<p>6.1. To what extent were gender equality and Indigenous Peoples considered in the energy sector related projects and with what results?</p> <p>6.2. Are GAFs implemented, monitored, and results reported?</p> <p>6.3. Are gender/indigenous co-benefits tracked and reported?</p> <p>6.4. Has gender equality been mainstreamed in GCF energy projects?</p> <p>6.5. Are actions and interventions supporting Indigenous Peoples?</p>	<p>Synthesis of IEU evaluations</p> <p>Market analysis</p> <p>KII/Focus groups</p> <p>Document review</p> <p>Online survey</p> <p>Country case studies</p> <p>Gender policy and Indigenous Peoples policy</p>	<p>Literature</p> <p>Quantitative data (DataLab, survey)</p> <p>Qualitative data</p>	GAFs, analysis, ratings of FPs, RPSPs and APRs
Country ownership	7. To what extent and how has the GCF ensured that countries own GCF investments in the energy sector through addressing stated country needs and using country context?	7.1 Are the GCF investments included in the NDC implementation plans?	<p>NDC</p> <p>Synthesis of IEU evaluations</p> <p>KII/Focus group</p> <p>Country case studies</p> <p>Online survey</p>	<p>Literature</p> <p>Qualitative data</p> <p>Quantitative data</p>	Analysis of NDCs compared to country programming and implemented projects
		7.2. Do stakeholders take sufficient ownership of implementation and the sustainability of results in the energy sector results area?	<p>Market analysis</p> <p>Synthesis of IEU evaluations</p> <p>KII/Focus group</p> <p>Country case studies</p>	<p>Literature</p> <p>Qualitative data</p> <p>Quantitative data</p>	Examining how FPs integrate subnational governments and local communities in decision-making, planning and implementation
		7.3. How have subnational stakeholders been included in activities?	<p>Market analysis</p> <p>Synthesis of IEU evaluations</p> <p>KII/Focus group</p> <p>Country case studies</p>	<p>Literature</p> <p>Qualitative data</p> <p>Quantitative data</p>	Analysis of stakeholder involvement in projects

CRITERIA	KEY QUESTIONS	SUBQUESTIONS	METHODS	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION OF ANALYSIS
Innovativeness in result areas	8. To what extent has the GCF fostered technical innovation and deployed diverse financial instruments for the energy sector?	8.1. To what extent has the GCF promoted innovative approaches to climate finance in energy investment to achieve climate goals?	Market analysis Benchmarking Synthesis of IEU evaluations KII/Focus group Country case studies	Literature Qualitative data Quantitative data (survey)	Distribution by the type of instrument, such as grants, equity, and loans, and analysis of the type of instrument versus the potential for impact
		8.2. To what extent has the GCF promoted innovative products, technologies, business models, approaches and delivery mechanisms in the energy sector or other public finance institutions or development agencies, according to the country context?	Market analysis Synthesis of IEU evaluations KII/Focus group Country case studies Benchmarking	Literature Qualitative data Quantitative data (survey)	Comparative analysis with other donors regarding innovation

Appendix 2. DRAFTED OUTLINE FOR THE EVALUATION REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MAIN REPORT

Chapter 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Background of the Green Climate Fund
- 1.2. Background, purpose and scope of the evaluation
- 1.3. Methodology
- 1.4. Limitations and challenges

Chapter 2. Background context and lessons

- 2.1. Global energy sector landscape
- 2.2. International climate finance landscape
- 2.3. Previous evaluations and lessons learned

Chapter 3. Evaluation areas

- 3.1. Relevance of the GCF business model and portfolio
 - 3.1.1. Alignment with GCF's approach to the energy sector under the UNFCCC mandate
 - 3.1.2. Consideration of just transition principles
 - 3.1.3 Correspondence with countries' energy sector needs and commitments
 - 3.1.4. Stakeholder engagement and perception
 - 3.1.5. Relevance to mitigation and adaptation mandates
 - 3.1.6. Evaluation of results management framework
- 3.2. Effectiveness of GCF Interventions
 - 3.2.1. Achievement of expected results and outcomes
 - 3.2.2. Changes in stakeholders' practices and priorities
 - 3.2.3. Creation of co-benefits and linkages to adaptation
 - 3.2.4. Optimization and adjustments in energy interventions
 - 3.2.5. Positive and negative project/programme elements
- 3.3. Efficiency
 - 3.3.1. Suitability and effectiveness of GCF Secretariat support
 - 3.3.2. Efficiency in energy project origination, development and management
 - 3.3.3. Compliance with environmental and social safeguards
 - 3.3.4. Capacity and training of GCF Secretariat
 - 3.3.5. Value of sectoral guidance in the energy sector
 - 3.3.6. Cost-effectiveness of GCF's energy investments
- 3.4. Sustainability and scalability
 - 3.4.1. Consideration of long-term sustainability
 - 3.4.2. Economic and social co-benefits and outcomes
 - 3.4.3. Innovation, replication and scaling up

- 3.4.4. Market transformation and paradigm shift
- 3.5. Coherence and comparative advantage
 - 3.5.1. Coherence with other multilateral entities and climate finance delivery
 - 3.5.2. Comparative advantage of GCF in the energy sector
 - 3.5.3. Effectiveness of result areas and sectoral guidance
- 3.6. Gender and social equity
 - 3.6.1. Consideration of gender equality and Indigenous Peoples
 - 3.6.2. Implementation of GAPs and mainstreaming
 - 3.6.3. Tracking and reporting of gender/indigenous co-benefits
- 3.7. Country ownership and stakeholder inclusion
 - 3.7.1. Inclusion of GCF investments in NDC implementation plans
 - 3.7.2. Stakeholder ownership, engagement and sustainability
- 3.8. Innovativeness in result areas
 - 3.8.1. Fostering technical innovation and diverse financial instruments
 - 3.8.2. Catalytic role in promoting innovative approaches
 - 3.8.3. Promoting innovative products, technologies and delivery mechanisms
- 3.9. Replication and scalability
 - 3.9.1. Enabling conditions for replication and scalability
 - 3.9.2. Uptake, policy changes and replication of GCF-funded projects

Chapter 4. Conclusion and recommendations

- 4.1. Summary of findings
- 4.2. Conclusions
- 4.3. Recommendations for programme improvement

ANNEXES

- Annex 1. Glossary of terms
- Annex 2. Evaluation methodology details
- Annex 3. Supporting data and analysis

Appendix 3. COUNTRY CASE STUDY PROTOCOL

The country case study protocol summarizes the technical and operational aspects of the evaluation's six country/region case studies. The technical elements include evaluation questions and methods. The operational elements include processes and deliverables. The protocol is in three parts:

- Part 1: Purpose, questions and approach
- Part 2: Preparing and conducting the country study
- Part 3: Interview guides

A. PURPOSE, QUESTIONS AND APPROACH

1. PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the country case studies is to inform the broader evaluation of the GCF's energy approach. They should not be considered as assessments of a country's performance or individual projects.

Country case studies will contribute to the nine main evaluation questions of the evaluation. In particular, the case studies will provide important evidence of the:

- GCF-funded activities' results, including unintended results
- GCF's competitive advantage within country contexts
- Coherence at the country level, including the role of CP support
- Country level perspective on GCF support related to innovation

The country case studies must also capture the evolution of the energy sector in relation to GCF-funded activities.

2. EVALUATION QUESTIONS FOR THE COUNTRY CASE STUDIES

EQ1. **[Relevance/responsiveness]** Has the GCF's approach and investment in the energy sector been responsive to its mandate, the energy sector approach under the UNFCCC, countries' energy sector needs and the energy sector as a key industry/market?

- 1.1. To what extent do the GCF's approach and investment in the energy sector consider Just Transition principles?
- 1.2. Do the result areas and support of the GCF correspond with the needs and international commitments of the countries to build and develop their energy sector in energy efficiency/access/renewable energies?
- 1.3. Do the GCF portfolio and GCF policies and strategies reflect the needs of the energy market and industry sectors in supported countries?
 - 1.3.1. To what extent have different partners and stakeholders, specifically NDA, AEs and beneficiaries, been involved in developing and implementing GCF-funded energy sector projects?
 - 1.3.2. How do the partners and stakeholders, specifically NDA, AEs and beneficiaries, perceive the GCF's energy sector approach?
 - 1.3.3. Does the GCF portfolio reflect the required level of ambition necessary for the GCF to fulfil its mandate regarding country needs?

1.4. How is the GCF energy portfolio used to respond to the GCF's mitigation and adaptation mandates?

1.5. Does the GCF architecture, including processes and governance, enable the Fund to deliver its mandate in the energy sector?

EQ2. **[Effectiveness]** Have energy sector projects effectively contributed to achieving countries' climate goals through reductions in emissions, co-benefits, linkages to adaptation and paradigm shifts?

2.1. What is the likelihood of the GCF energy sector projects achieving their expected outcomes?

- Evidence of outcomes include:
 - Reduced GHG emissions
 - Increased resilience, such as the number of beneficiaries, the value of physical assets and the hectares of natural resource areas
 - Enhanced enabling environment¹⁶ such as strengthened institutional and regulatory frameworks, technology deployment/dissemination/development/transfer/innovation, and market development/transformation at sectoral, local or national level
 - Other project-specific outputs

2.2. Have GCF projects in the energy sector led to changes in the practices and priorities of the country's accredited entities and other stakeholders?

2.3. How has the GCF's investment in energy been creating co-benefits in the countries or not?

2.3.1. Are co-benefits monitored and reported?

Evidence of co-benefits: (i) social – health, welfare, education, (ii) economic – poverty, jobs, green growth, (iii) environment – air, water quality, resource sustainability, and (iv) overall distribution of the GCF's investment impact

2.4. How well has the GCF optimized adaptation in and through its energy interventions and investments?

2.5. What are the major positive or negative elements that have contributed to or undermined (i) achievement and (ii) efficiency at the project level?

2.6. How has the GCF's investment in energy created unintended positive or negative results including, but not limited to, any complaints submitted through grievance/redress mechanisms.

EQ3. **[Efficiency]** Has the GCF Secretariat's support in the approval and implementation process of energy sector projects been suitable and effective, including readiness support, project preparation facility, portfolio management support, sector guidance notes, thematic briefs, and Secretariat support?

3.1. Does the GCF's project origination approach align with the needs of the countries' energy sectors?

3.2. Is the GCF working with the appropriate energy stakeholders, including the network of AEs and executing entities?

3.3. To what extent did GCF energy sector related projects comply with the GCF's ESS?

3.4. Does the GCF Secretariat have the capacity to support energy sector investments throughout their project life cycle? How valuable is the GCF's sectoral guidance in the energy sector?

¹⁶ This refers to how GCF projects/programmes contribute to creating enabling conditions and environments for paradigm shifts in a country-driven manner.

3.5. Does the GCF's policy and governance framework provide sufficient guidance on the nature of the operations undertaken in the energy sector?

3.6. Does the policy framework provide the means for catalysing a paradigm shift in the energy sector?

3.7. Is GCF's investment in cost-effective energy comparable to those of the private sector and/or other public finance institutions/development agencies?

EQ4. **[Sustainability]** What is the likely long-term sustainability of the results and approaches (e.g. innovations) of the GCF's interventions in the context of global and national energy sectors and markets?

4.1. How has the GCF's approach and investment in the energy sector considered the sustainability of investments, and what are their economic/social co-benefits?

How sustainable are the outcomes of GCF interventions in the energy sector?

4.2. What has been the GCF approach to innovation, replication and scaling up of its interventions to support transformation and paradigm shift at the country level?

- Paradigm shift/impact evidence of:
 - Scale: the degree to which there has been a significant increase in quantifiable results within and beyond the scope of the intervention¹⁷
 - Replicability: the degree to which the GCF investments exported key structural elements of the proposed programme or project elsewhere within the same sector and to other sectors, regions or countries
 - Sustainability: the degree to which GCF outcomes and results are sustained beyond completion by creating a structural and financial base and climate-resilient practices

EQ5. **[Coherence]** How coherent is the GCF's climate finance delivery compared to other multilateral entities?

5.1. What is the GCF's comparative advantage compared to other multilateral funds in the context of the energy sector?

5.2. How effectively does the GCF apply its additionality to energy sector projects (particularly across different regions and vulnerabilities)?

5.3. Are GCF's result area(s) and sectoral guidance sufficient and effective compared with the sector approaches or classifications at other climate funds and multilateral banks?

EQ6. **[Gender equity]** To what extent did GCF energy-sector-related projects respond to the requirements regarding gender and Indigenous Peoples?

6.1. To what extent were gender equality and Indigenous Peoples considered in the energy-sector-related projects and with what results?

6.2. Are GAPs being implemented, monitored, and results reported?

6.3. Are gender/indigenous co-benefits tracked and reported?

6.4. Has gender equality been mainstreamed in GCF energy projects?

6.5. Are actions and interventions supporting Indigenous Peoples?

EQ7. **[Country ownership]** To what extent and how has the GCF ensured that countries own GCF investments in the energy sector through addressing stated country needs and using country systems?

¹⁷ This could include a situation where GCF is scaling up earlier demonstrations or where a GCF project will be scaled up outside project bounds.

- 7.1. Are the GCF investments included in the NDC implementation plans?
 - 7.2. Do stakeholders take sufficient ownership of the implementation and sustainability of results in the energy sector results area?
 - 7.3. How have subnational stakeholders been included in activities?
- EQ8. **[Innovativeness in result areas]** To what extent has the GCF fostered technical innovation and deployed diverse financial instruments for the energy sector?
- 8.1. To what extent has the GCF played a catalytic role in promoting innovative approaches to crowd in climate finance in energy investment to achieve climate goals?
 - 8.2. To what extent has the GCF been promoting innovative products, technologies, business models, approaches and delivery mechanisms in the energy sector and/or other public finance institutions/development agencies, according to the country context?
- EQ9. **[Replication and scalability]** To what extent do the GCF's energy sector investments spur replication, scaling up and long-term sustainability in results and approaches while aiming to transform the national and global energy markets?
- 9.1. What enabling conditions influence the scalability/replication of GCF interventions in the energy sector?
 - 9.2. Have there been any uptake or second phases, policy changes, etc., due to GCF-funded projects in the beneficiary or other country?

3. DATA AND METHODS

Three data collection approaches will be used for the country case studies:

- Document review (see the list of documents in workplan below)
- Semi-structured interviews (see the list of types of interviewees in workplan below)
- Direct observation (see the instructions for project site visits in workplan below)

All findings reported in the country case studies must be triangulated (i.e. based on multiple sources). The country case study reports must include not just the “what” but also the “how” and “why” and the results of GCF engagement (e.g. “GCF support has resulted in or contributed to...”).

Evaluation ethics

The evaluation team will act with integrity on mission, per professional and ethical guidelines and codes of conduct for individual evaluators. Team members will be sensitive to differences in culture, customs, gender roles, ethnicity, ability, age, sexual orientation, language, religious beliefs and practices of stakeholders.

The evaluation team will respect participants' autonomy and right to provide information in confidence, aligned with the principles of respect and “doing no harm.” Evaluators will explicitly seek stakeholders' voluntary, informed consent for participation in interviews and allow them to refuse or opt out at any point in the process. Interviewers will assure interviewees that all responses will be held confidentially and obtain verbal consent that the information shared during the interview can be used in the overall analysis and reporting for the evaluation and that the interviewee's name can be included in a list of stakeholders consulted.

Interviewers will not name other respondents during interviews, even if they may appear to mutually agree.

Interview notes will not be shared outside the IEU-Econoler evaluation team.

B. PREPARING AND CONDUCTING COUNTRY CASE STUDIES

1. TEAM COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In general, the country case studies will be conducted by a team of one Econoler consultant and one IEU staff, potentially joined by a national consultant when possible and relevant. It is noted that the Econoler consultant represents the IEU at this point, and the country mission team is a consolidated “evaluation team”.

The key roles and responsibilities of each team member are summarized below:

The Econoler consultant will take primary responsibility for organizing, leading and reporting on the country case studies. This includes developing the initial list of stakeholders to be interviewed and liaising with the national consultant to schedule interviews in coordination with the NDA, leading the interviews and writing the country case study. See also the tasks listed in the workplan below.

IEU staff are full members of the evaluation team. They will engage as such during the preparation and conduct of the country case study, including suggesting stakeholders to interview, posing questions during interviews and participating in team discussions to verify what was heard and to prepare initial observations. The role of the IEU member is generally to support the Econoler lead in communication, scheduling and note-taking.¹⁸

The national consultant is responsible for preparing the mission operationally, including liaising with the NDA to identify stakeholders for interviews, scheduling interviews and working with GCF project teams to arrange field or site visits. If a national consultant is not hired for a certain country, this role becomes the Econoler evaluator’s responsibility.

The more specific roles should be determined within the three-person or two-person country mission team. The IEU member and Econoler member should consult before launching a country mission to develop a common understanding and choreography of interviews.

Mission preparation and organization will require full support from the IEU, NDAs and relevant AEs regarding the timely sharing of documentation, suggesting key stakeholders for interviews and recording contact details.

2. TIMING AND DURATION

The country missions are expected to take place between May and August 2023. Country missions will be conducted in person. Decisions regarding who will travel on mission will be made jointly by Econoler and the IEU in consultation with the Econoler consultant.

Each visit will last up to five working days, depending upon the complexity of the country’s portfolio and other constraints, such as requirements for local travel to project sites.

3. WORKPLAN

a. Pre-visit

We aim to begin mission planning at least three weeks prior to the planned dates to allow for sufficient time in preparation and organization on all sides. The IEU will make the initial communication of the mission purpose, team introduction and timeline to the NDA, which will confirm acceptance and availability for the proposed mission and dates. After receipt of formal

¹⁸ The IEU member is present primarily to learn and reflect on some of the lessons. Leadership will rest with the Econoler lead evaluator. In case of intellectual disagreement the Econoler lead prevails. The IEU member’s contributions will not be regarded as the final IEU word nor as mandatory for the report.

confirmation, the Econoler team will take over planning and organization. Preparation will consist of at least the following:

- **Initial team call** with the Econoler consultant, IEU team member and national consultant to discuss the process and responsibilities for the country mission. The team should present a coordinated, one-team approach to the NDA and others.
- **Initial call** with the NDA to agree on the purpose of the visit and to request relevant information, including an initial list of relevant stakeholders and contact details. Initial communication from the NDA to these stakeholders may facilitate the subsequent scheduling of meetings by the evaluation team.
- **Portfolio and document review.** It is critical to prepare for the country study with a comprehensive understanding of the country's GCF portfolio and the purpose and context of the overall Second Performance Review (Independent Evaluation Unit, 2022a; 2022b). Documents to review are presented in Table A - 9.

Table A - 9. Documents to be reviewed

DOCUMENT CATEGORY	DOCUMENTS	HOW TO ACCESS
GCF-funded activities	FPs Secretariat, iTAP, and CSO/PSO comments on FPs GAPs APRs Interim evaluations	IEU DataLab will create a folder with all documents and share it with the Econoler country lead
	Additional documentation could include the AE's implementation monitoring reports, any supervision reports/ aide-mémoires, or midterm reviews (if not yet available from GCF)	Request directly from the AE during the mission (if they are willing to share)
GCF readiness and preparatory support	RPSP proposals RPSP completion reports GCF CPs Project preparation facility proposals	IEU DataLab will create a folder with all documents and share it with the Econoler country lead
GCF AE documents	Entity work programmes	IEU DataLab will create a folder with all documents and share it with the Econoler country lead
GCF pipeline documents	FPs and CNs that have been submitted but not approved	IEU DataLab will create a folder with all documents and share it with the Econoler country lead
Previous GCF IEU country case studies	Country case studies for those that have been the subject of previous IEU evaluations (Bangladesh, Grenada, Georgia, Peru, Mauritius, Morocco, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Vietnam)	IEU DataLab will create a folder with all documents and share it with the Econoler country lead
External policy and climate finance context	NDC, national adaptation plan, nationally appropriate mitigation action, Paris Agreement long-term strategy, other national climate change strategies especially for climate finance/investment, documentary evidence of support from other readiness partners such as NDC Partnership	Econoler country lead is responsible for identifying. Econoler support staff is responsible for assisting with the climate finance landscape (USD by development finance institutions (DFI))

- **Stakeholder identification.** The Econoler evaluator will develop an initial priority list of key informants based on the document review (see Table A - 10). The list should include those engaged in GCF processes and informed “outsiders.” The Econoler evaluator will share the initial list with the NDA for input while maintaining independence in selecting the stakeholders to interview. Approximately 15 – 25 individuals will be consulted per country.

Table A - 10. Stakeholders identification

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	EXAMPLES	HOW TO IDENTIFY
NDA	The NDA or if more appropriate associated technical staff (since the NDA is sometimes a political position)	GCF website
Ministry of Finance (if the NDA is in a line ministry)	Climate finance or international finance division or equivalent with responsibility for development aid	Request from NDA
NDC government lead	The government agency responsible for NDC / NDC update (if not NDA or ministry of finance)	Identify through NDA
AEs	International and direct access AEs with GCF-funded activities and pipeline FPs and CNs Entities nominated for accreditation	Identified in the IEU DataLab’s country brief
Executing entities for approved projects	Government ministries/agencies and CSOs/PSOs responsible for executing FPs, typically project management unit staff	Identified in the IEU DataLab’s country brief. NDA or AE may also need to make introductions
Readiness delivery partners	NDA or approved delivery partners (e.g. Global Green Growth Institute, United Nations Office for Project Services, etc.)	Identified in readiness proposals
Technical persons	Key consultants preparing the GCF CP or delivering readiness activities, or supporting the implementation of the FPs	Identify through executing entities or readiness partners
Project beneficiaries	People targeted by project activities, including marginalized groups, such as women, youth and Indigenous Peoples	Identify through executing entities
CSOs, PSOs, academia	Civil or private sector national observers to the GCF Other particularly active international non-governmental organizations or local CSOs, especially those representing such marginalized groups as women, youth and Indigenous Peoples Chambers of commerce and industry associations Utility companies, private sector companies, energy investors	As relevant; with support from national consultant List of GCF observers (search by country)
UNFCCC national focal point	Government ministry/agency staff designated as UNFCCC focal point	Registry of focal points
Other development partners providing climate finance or related support	Bilateral and multilateral development finance institutions providing substantive climate finance or technical assistance in-country	Based on the climate finance landscape assessment

- **Agenda preparation.** Based on the information received, a draft agenda will be prepared. A second teleconference may be scheduled to agree on the agenda, including any practical details. The agenda should begin with an in-brief and longer interview with the NDA to reconfirm the

purpose and mission agenda. Interviews with relevant AEs should also be scheduled for earlier in the week. Site visits should ideally be scheduled for later in the week (e.g. Thursday). The agenda should conclude with a debriefing with the NDA.

- **Make sure to convey to the AEs that they do not participate in the site visits.**
- **Status of the projects.** Prior to the mission, the Econoler and IEU team will double-check with the NDA on the status of projects to gain more clarity regarding the projects' proceedings. Ideally, this information will be in written form.

b. Visit

The country visit will consist primarily of interviews, an in-person survey, and focus group discussions (used principally for site visits to local communities).

The team should plan for a wrap-up meeting with the NDA to offer thanks and discuss mission experience, remaining data gaps, preliminary observations, ways forward for the rest of the evaluation and the process and timetable for sharing the draft country case study report.

- **Interviews** will follow standard semi-structured guides (see section c) tailored for key stakeholder groups. Interviewers will receive the following instructions:
 - Assure interviewees that all responses will be held confidentially and obtain verbal consent that the information shared during the interview can be used in the overall analysis and reporting for the evaluation and that the interviewee's name can be included in a list of stakeholders consulted.
 - Do not name other respondents during interviews, even if they appear to mutually agree.
 - Ask questions in plain language.
 - Take and type up detailed notes, ideally immediately following the interview and prior to leaving the country.
 - Complete the interview tracking sheet immediately and clearly, indicating all interviewees' names, positions, organizational affiliations and email addresses. Send the list to each representative of IEU assigned to the mission. This will allow us to (i) reach out in case of any clarifications and (ii) share the evaluation report when it comes out.
 - **Please double-check prior to each meeting about the need for a translator, as interviewees may be replaced at the last minute and require translation assistance.**
- **Project site visits** will be conducted when (i) relevant (e.g. there is sufficient implementation and final beneficiaries are available) and (ii) logistically feasible within the time frame (e.g. if a project site can be visited within one day). Site visits will be coordinated with the NDA and the AE, and standard local protocols will be observed in terms of informing local government representatives. Interviews with relevant local government, private sector, and civil society representatives may be conducted. If feasible, focus group discussions can be organized with beneficiary populations, with appropriate measures also taken to reach more vulnerable groups, including women and Indigenous Peoples. Measures will be taken to ensure beneficiary groups can speak freely and confidentially, such as meeting without the NDA, AE or executing entity present. Interviewers will receive these instructions:
 - Take photos at project sites after receiving permission. These photos will most likely be used in IEU presentations or as a report cover.
 - Do not take photos of children or others who cannot give consent. If photographs include human subjects, please have them provide verbal consent or complete the written consent forms, provided under separate copy (print copies for site visits).

c. Post visit

The main deliverable of the country case study is the country case study report with standard annexes, including a list of references and stakeholders consulted. The country case study's report structure mirrors the evaluation matrix and key questions and feeds into the structure of the overall evaluation report. Draft case reports will be prepared within two weeks of the mission's conclusion. The pilot report will be shared and set the team's reporting standard.

After the draft country case study has been reviewed and approved by the Econoler team leader and the IEU, the draft will be shared with the NDA to correct factual errors, ideally with a 1-2-week turnaround.

The agenda for regular Econoler-IEU team calls will include learnings relating to findings, methods or logistics from the mission.

The final country case study reports will be publicly available as a separate volume of the final report of this evaluation.

C. INTERVIEW GUIDE

Evaluation team members conducting interviews will receive the following guidelines for:

- NDAs
- Other country government ministries, agencies and departments
- AEs
- Beneficiaries
- External actors (e.g. other development partners)
- CSOs, private sector organizations and Academia

Overall tips for interviews:

- The interview format is semi-structured. This means that the interview guides are just that – guides. Please feel free to ask the questions in your own words, in the order that works for the flow of the interview, while making sure to touch on each major topic.
- Interviewers need to tailor questions to the projects and context prior to the mission.
- Prompts are provided for many of the questions. These are clues for things you are looking for in responses and ideas for follow-up questions you can use to dig deeper.
- For some key interviewees, you may need more than an hour for one interview session.
- Always ask for examples and supporting documentation where relevant.
- Always ask for a quick presentation from the stakeholder at the start of the interview.

Interview guidelines for NDAs

PRIOR TO ASKING QUESTIONS

Give a brief introduction.

For example: “First, let me give you a little background on why we requested this interview. The GCF Board has requested the Independent Evaluation Unit to conduct an independent evaluation of the GCF's approach to the energy sector. Country case studies are one method feeding into the evaluation. Our goal with the country case studies is not to evaluate the performance of individual countries or projects but rather to learn how the GCF's activities in the energy sector are perceived

in the country and to gather lessons that could help improve the GCF's energy sector approach in the future.”

Assure confidentiality and ask for consent.

For example: “Before we start, I want to assure you that any comments you make will be held confidentially by the IEU evaluation team, and nothing you say will be attributed to you in the evaluation report. In the final evaluation report, though, we will include a list of people we spoke to for this evaluation. Would it be okay to include your name in the report's list of interviewees?”

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

The evaluation focuses on the GCF's energy approach. We would like to capture your understanding of the interviewee regarding the energy sector and the GCF activities related to energy in his country.

- 1) Based on your experience with the GCF, what constitutes an energy project for the GCF?
 - a) Does it include energy generation, distribution, and consumption?
 - b) Does it consider only mitigation, or is adaptation also considered in the GCF “energy project”?

COUNTRY NEEDS, OWNERSHIP AND STRATEGY

- 1) In your view, what **role does the GCF play in supporting your country in implementing its NDC activities** related to the energy sector?
 - a) Are the GCF investments included in the NDC implementation plans?
- 2) Is the GCF CP relevant and aligned with the country's needs in the energy sector?
Prompts: How relevant is the GCF CP regarding renewable energy/energy efficiency or energy access?
- 3) What do you see as the **comparative advantage of GCF** in the country relative to other climate finance channels in the **energy sector**? In other words, what are the unique benefits of working with the GCF?
- 4) How are the readiness grants filling the gaps and supporting the work in the energy sector?
 - a) What are the main benefits/results of the readiness grants in the energy sector?
Prompts: Add tailored questions related to the readiness grants in the energy sector.

THE GCF'S APPROACH TO ENERGY

- 5) Do you know the GCF's approach to energy?
Prompts:
 - a) Are you aware of the GCF's sectoral guides? If yes, how valuable are they?
 - b) Energy efficiency
 - c) Energy access and power generation
 - d) Cities, buildings and urban systems
 - e) Other: health, agriculture and food
- 6) Is the GCF working with the appropriate energy stakeholders in the country?
Prompts:

- a) Which highly relevant stakeholders in the energy sector in your country are not involved with the GCF-funded energy sector projects?
- b) How have subnational stakeholders been included in activities?
- c) How are civil society representatives selected for consultations?

GCF GOVERNANCE

- 7) Does the GCF's policy and governance framework provide sufficient guidance on the nature of the operations undertaken in the energy sector?
- 8) Do the GCF's processes and governance allow it to fulfil its mandate in the energy sector?
- 9) Does the GCF Secretariat sufficiently support energy sector projects throughout their life cycle?

RESULTS/OUTCOMES AND SCALABILITY/REPLICATION/SUSTAINABILITY

- 10) What **key results** have been achieved so far through GCF investments in the energy sector?
 - a) Do you see any emerging evidence of a paradigm shift (e.g. scale, replicability, sustainability)?
 - b) Do you see any emerging evidence of an enabling environment? Of co-benefits? Of unintended consequences?
- 11) How sustainable are the outcomes of GCF interventions in the energy sector?
- 12) What are the enabling conditions that influence the scalability/replication of GCF interventions in the energy sector?
- 13) Has there been any uptake, second phases or policy changes, etc., due to GCF-funded projects in the country?

INNOVATIVENESS IN RESULT AREAS

- 14) To what extent has the GCF played a catalytic role in promoting innovative approaches to crowd in climate finance in energy investment in your country?
Prompts: Which innovation was supported by the GCF: innovative product, technology, business model, approach and delivery mechanisms?

Interview guidelines for other country government ministries, agencies and departments

PRIOR TO ASKING QUESTIONS

Give a brief introduction.

For example: "First, let me give you a little background on why we requested this interview. The GCF Board has requested the Independent Evaluation Unit to conduct an independent evaluation of the GCF's approach to the energy sector. Country case studies are one method feeding into the evaluation. Our goal with the country case studies is not to evaluate the performance of individual countries or projects but rather to learn about how the GCF's activities in the energy sector are perceived in the country and to gather lessons that could help improve the GCF's energy sector approach in the future."

Assure confidentiality and ask for consent.

For example: "Before we start, I want to assure you that any comments you make will be held confidentially by the IEU evaluation team, and nothing you say will be attributed to you in the

evaluation report. In the final evaluation report, though, we will include a list of people we spoke to for this evaluation. Would it be okay to include your name in the report's list of interviewees?"

TIP: Questions will need to be tailored to the ministry, agency or department being interviewed. For example, if the government actor is an executing entity involved primarily in project implementation, questioning would focus more on results. If the government actor is the Ministry of Finance (or equivalent), UNFCCC focal point or another agency responsible for climate finance strategy and planning, questioning will focus more on country needs, ownership and strategy.

COUNTRY NEEDS, OWNERSHIP AND STRATEGY

1) In your view, what **role does the GCF play in supporting your country in implementing its NDC activities** related to the energy sector?

a) Are GCF investments included in the NDC implementation plans?

2) Were you involved in the **GCF CP**? If so, what has been the value added of the GCF CP in your country to date? Is the GCF CP relevant and aligned with the country's needs in the energy sector?

Prompts: How relevant is the GCF CP regarding RE/energy efficiency or energy access?

3) What **efforts have been made to align GCF programming with other climate finance channels** (such as the CIF, GEF, AF, and other multilateral and bilateral donors) or other donors for **energy projects**? What role are the GCF Secretariat and AEs playing in this? Is this role relevant and effective?

Please provide examples of where GCF funding fits well or duplicates other climate finance for energy projects. How were those successes achieved? For example:

a) Scaling up successes of/with other climate funds or DFIs?

b) Using opportunities for blending, parallel or sequenced finance to improve predictability and impact?

4) What do you see as the GCF's **comparative advantage** in the country relative to other climate finance channels in the **energy sector**? In other words, what are the unique benefits of working with the GCF?

THE GCF'S ENERGY APPROACH (RELEVANCE)

5) Do you know the GCF's energy approach?

Prompts: Do you know the GCF's sectoral guides (energy efficiency, renewable energy and others)? If yes, how valuable are they?

6) Is the GCF working with the appropriate energy stakeholders in the country?

Prompts:

a) Which highly relevant stakeholders in the energy sector in your country are not involved with the GCF-funded energy sector projects?

b) How have subnational stakeholders been included in activities?

7) Do the GCF supported energy projects in your country reflect the needs of the energy market and industry sectors, including policies/strategies?

Prompts: Are the GCF-funded energy sector projects relevant for the country?

GCF GOVERNANCE

- 8) Does the policy and governance framework of the GCF provide sufficient guidance on the nature of the operations undertaken in the energy sector?
- 9) Does the GCF architecture (processes and governance) allow for delivery of its mandate in the energy sector?
- 10) Do you receive sufficient support from the GCF Secretariat to support energy sector projects throughout their life cycle?
 - a) Does GCF have appropriate modalities for submitting project concepts and proposals? Why or why not?

RESULTS/OUTCOMES AND SCALABILITY/REPLICATION/SUSTAINABILITY

- 11) What **key results** have been achieved so far through GCF investments in the energy sector?
 - a) Do you see any emerging evidence of paradigm shift (e.g. scale, replicability, sustainability)?
 - b) Do you see any emerging evidence of an enabling environment? Of co-benefits? Of unintended consequences?
- 12) How sustainable are the outcomes of GCF interventions in the energy sector?
- 13) In what ways are GCF-funded activities in the energy sector making a difference for marginalized populations, including **women and Indigenous Peoples**? How, to what extent and which populations?

Prompts:

 - a) Are gender/indigenous co-benefits tracked and reported?
 - b) Has gender equality been mainstreamed in GCF energy projects?
 - c) Are actions and interventions supporting Indigenous Peoples?
- 14) What are the enabling conditions that influence the scalability/replication of GCF interventions in the energy sector?
- 15) Has there been any uptake, second phases or policy changes, etc., due to GCF-funded projects in the country?

INNOVATIVENESS IN RESULT AREAS

- 16) From your point of view, to what extent has the GCF been playing a catalytic role in promoting innovative approaches to crowd in the climate finance in energy investment in your country?

Prompts: Which innovation was supported by the GCF: innovative product, technology, business model, approach and delivery mechanisms?

Interview guidelines for accredited entities

PRIOR TO ASKING QUESTIONS

Give a brief introduction.

For example: “First, let me give you a little background on why we requested this interview. The GCF Board has requested the Independent Evaluation Unit to conduct an independent evaluation of the GCF's approach to the energy sector. Country case studies are one method feeding into the evaluation. Our goal with the country case studies is not to evaluate the performance of individual countries or projects but rather to learn about how the GCF's activities in the energy sector are

perceived in the country and to gather lessons that could help improve the GCF's energy sector approach in the future.”

Assure confidentiality and ask for consent.

For example: “Before we start, I want to assure you that any comments you make will be held confidentially by the IEU evaluation team, and nothing you say will be attributed to you in the evaluation report. In the final evaluation report, though, we will include a list of people we spoke to for this evaluation. Would it be okay to include your name in the report's list of interviewees?”

TIP: These questions can also be tailored for nominated but not yet AE. Certain questions will be more applicable to DAEs than IAEs. Questions about how the GCF fits into the broader climate finance landscape may also be more appropriate for larger development partners than smaller niche DAEs.

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

The evaluation focuses on the GCF's energy approach. We would like to capture your understanding of the interviewee regarding the energy sector and the GCF activities related to energy in his country.

- 1) Based on your experience with the GCF, what does constitute an energy project for the GCF?
 - a) Does it include energy generation, distribution, and consumption?
 - b) Does it consider only mitigation, or is adaptation also considered in the GCF energy project?
- 2) Do you have a taxonomy to categorize energy sector projects?

EVALUATION OF PROJECTS

- 3) Did your organization evaluate the project?
 - a) If yes, can you share the main findings/recommendations/lessons learned?
- 4) How do you estimate the impact of energy projects?

Prompts:

 - a) Which are the used methodologies? (metering, measurement and verification, engineering calculations)
 - b) Are granular data available?

COUNTRY NEEDS, OWNERSHIP AND STRATEGY

- 1) In your view, what **role does the GCF play in supporting your country in implementing its NDC activities** related to the energy sector?
 - a) Are the GCF investments included in the NDC implementation plans?
- 2) Were you involved in the **GCF CP**? If so, what has been the value added of the GCF CP in your country to date? Is the GCF CP relevant and aligned with the country's needs in the energy sector?

Prompts: How relevant is the GCF CP regarding RE/energy efficiency or energy access?
- 3) What **efforts have been made to align GCF programming with other climate finance channels** (such as the CIF, GEF, AF, and other multilateral and bilateral donors) or other donors for **energy projects**? What role is the GCF Secretariat playing? Is this role relevant and effective?

Please provide examples of where GCF funding fits well with or duplicates other climate finance for energy projects. How were those successes achieved? For example:

- a) Scaling up successes of/with other climate funds or development financing institutions?
 - b) Using opportunities for blending, parallel or sequenced finance to improve predictability and impact?
- 4) What do you see as the **comparative advantage of the GCF** in the country relative to other climate finance channels in the **energy sector**? In other words, what are the unique benefits of working with the GCF?

THE GCF'S ENERGY APPROACH (RELEVANCE)

- 5) Do you know the GCF's energy approach?

Prompts: Are you aware of the GCF's sectoral guides (energy efficiency, renewable energy and others)? If yes, how valuable are they?

- a) Energy efficiency
 - b) Energy access and power generation
 - c) Cities, buildings and urban systems
 - d) Other: health, agriculture and food
- 6) Is the GCF working with the appropriate energy stakeholders in the country?
- Prompts:
- a) Which highly relevant stakeholders in the energy sector in your country are not involved with the GCF-funded energy sector projects?
 - b) How have subnational stakeholders been included in activities?
- 7) Do the GCF supported energy projects in your country reflect the needs of the energy market and industry sectors, including policies/strategies?

Prompts: Are the GCF-funded energy sector projects relevant for the country?

GCF GOVERNANCE

- 8) Does the policy and governance framework of the GCF provide sufficient guidance on the nature of the operations undertaken in the energy sector? Especially related to ESS?
- a) Are you aware of the GCF ESS?
 - b) Do you comply with GCF ESS?
- 9) Does the GCF architecture (processes and governance) allow for delivery of its mandate in the energy sector?
- 10) Do you receive sufficient support from the GCF Secretariat to support energy sector projects throughout their life cycle?
- a) Does GCF have appropriate modalities for submitting project concepts and proposals? Why or why not?

ADDITIONALITY

- 11) How effectively does the GCF apply its additionality to the implemented projects in the energy sector?
- a) Are GCF financing instruments appropriate to deliver the expected results of the projects?

RESULTS/OUTCOMES AND SCALABILITY/REPLICATION/SUSTAINABILITY

- 12) Regarding the projects you are implementing in the country in the energy sector, are the projects adapted to the current context?
Prompts: Analyse the projects implemented by the AE (FP and APRs), prepare questions to validate the appropriateness of the project (technically sound, adapted financing support (loans, grants, equity))
- 13) What **key results** have been achieved so far through GCF investments in the energy sector?
- Do you see any emerging evidence of paradigm shift (e.g. scale, replicability, sustainability)?
 - Of outcomes related to enabling environment? Of co-benefits? Of unintended consequences?
- 14) How sustainable are the outcomes of GCF interventions in the energy sector?
- 15) What are the enabling conditions that influence the scalability/replication of GCF interventions in the energy sector?
- 16) Has there been any uptake, second phases or policy changes, etc., due to GCF-funded projects in the country?

INNOVATIVENESS IN RESULT AREAS

- 17) From your point of view, to what extent has the GCF been playing a catalytic role in promoting innovative approaches to crowd in the climate finance in energy investment in your country?
Prompts: Which innovation was supported by the GCF: innovative product, technology, business model, approach and delivery mechanisms?

GENDER EQUITY AND JUST TRANSITION PRINCIPLES

- 18) To what extent do the GCF's approach and investment in the energy sector consider just transition principles based on a regenerative economy promoting community growth?
- Living well: To what extent do GCF projects support the fundamental rights of workers, communities and most vulnerable groups, mainly women and young people?
 - Meaningful work: To what extent do GCF projects support the development of human potential and create opportunities for people to develop themselves?
 - Self-determination: To what extent does the GCF create spaces for civic participation in decision-making, state-society dialogue and accountability?
 - Resources and power equitable redistribution: To what extent do GCF projects provide equal opportunities, equal redistribution of benefits and/or address power unbalances?
 - Regenerative ecological economics: To what extent do GCF projects promote resilience and reduce resource consumption?
 - Retention of culture and tradition: To what extent do GCF projects promote respect and inclusion for all traditions and cultures (e.g., preserve/consider traditional knowledge on climate)?
 - Local, regional, national, and international solidarity: To what extent does the GCF promote solidarity, territorial approaches, and local, national and global collective action?

- 19) In what ways are GCF-funded activities in the energy sector making a difference for marginalized populations, including **women and Indigenous Peoples**? How, to what extent and which populations?

Prompts:

- a) Are gender/indigenous co-benefits tracked and reported?
- b) Has gender equality been mainstreamed in GCF energy projects?
- c) Are actions and interventions supporting Indigenous Peoples?

Interview guidelines for beneficiaries

PRIOR TO ASKING QUESTIONS

Give a brief introduction.

For example: “First, let me give you a little background on why we requested this interview. The GCF Board has requested the Independent Evaluation Unit to conduct an independent evaluation of the GCF's approach to the energy sector. Country case studies are one method feeding into the evaluation. Our goal with the country case studies is not to evaluate the performance of individual countries or projects but rather to learn about how the GCF's activities in the energy sector are perceived in the country and to gather lessons that could help improve the GCF's energy sector approach in the future.”

Assure confidentiality and ask for consent.

For example: “Before we start, I want to assure you that any comments you make will be held confidentially by the IEU evaluation team, and nothing you say will be attributed to you in the evaluation report. In the final evaluation report, though, we will include a list of people we spoke to for this evaluation. Would it be okay to include your name in the report's list of interviewees?”

TIP: Depending on the project, these questions can also be tailored for each beneficiary.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1) What is your involvement in the project?
- 2) Which results have you experienced thanks to the project?
 - a) Are these results sustainable in time?
- 3) How does the project affect you now, or how will it affect you in the future?
- 4) How do you consider your involvement in the project in terms of innovation?
 - a) What is the main innovation related to your involvement in the project?

Additional questions to be drafted depending on the project.

GENDER EQUITY AND JUST TRANSITION PRINCIPLES

- 5) To what extent does the GCF's approach and investment in the energy sector consider just transition principles based on a regenerative economy promoting community growth?

Prompts: to be adapted to the project

- 6) Living well: To what extent do GCF projects support the fundamental rights of workers, communities and most vulnerable groups, mainly women and young people?
- 7) Meaningful work: To what extent do GCF projects support the development of human potential and create opportunities for people to develop themselves?

- 8) Self-determination: To what extent does the GCF create spaces for civic participation in decision-making, state-society dialogue and accountability?
- 9) Resources and power equitable redistribution: To what extent do GCF projects provide equal opportunities, equal redistribution of benefits and/or address power unbalances?
- 10) Regenerative ecological economics: To what extent do GCF projects promote resilience and reduce resource consumption?
- 11) Retention of culture and tradition: To what extent do GCF projects promote respect and inclusion for all traditions and cultures (e.g., preserve/consider traditional knowledge on climate)?
- 12) Local, regional, national, and international solidarity: To what extent does the GCF promote solidarity, territorial approaches, and local, national and global collective action?

Interview guidelines for external actors (other development partners)

PRIOR TO ASKING QUESTIONS

Give a brief introduction.

For example: “First, let me give you a little background on why we requested this interview. The GCF Board has requested the Independent Evaluation Unit to conduct an independent evaluation of the GCF's approach to the energy sector. Country case studies are one method feeding into the evaluation. Our goal with the country case studies is not to evaluate the performance of individual countries or projects but rather to learn about how the GCF’s activities in the energy sector are perceived in the country and to gather lessons that could help improve the GCF’s energy sector approach in the future.”

Assure confidentiality and ask for consent.

For example: “Before we start, I want to assure you that any comments you make will be held confidentially by the IEU evaluation team, and nothing you say will be attributed to you in the evaluation report. In the final evaluation report, though, we will include a list of people we spoke to for this evaluation. Would it be okay to include your name in the report’s list of interviewees?”

COUNTRY NEEDS, OWNERSHIP AND STRATEGY

- 1) In your view, what **role does the GCF play in supporting your country in implementing its NDC activities** related to the energy sector?
 - a) Are the GCF investments included in the NDC implementation plans?
- 2) Were you involved in the **GCF CP**? If so, what has been the value added of the GCF CP in your country to date? Is the GCF CP relevant and aligned with the country's needs in the energy sector?

Prompts: How relevant is the GCF CP regarding RE/energy efficiency or energy access?
- 3) What **efforts have been made to align GCF programming with other climate finance channels** (such as the CIF, GEF, AF, and other multilateral and bilateral donors) or other donors for **energy projects**? What role are the GCF Secretariat and AEs playing in this? Is this role relevant and effective?

Please provide examples of where GCF funding fits well with or duplicates other climate finance for energy projects. How were those successes achieved? For example:

- a) Scaling up successes of/with other climate funds or DFIs?

- b) Using opportunities for blending, parallel or sequenced finance to improve predictability and impact?
- 4) What do you see as the **comparative advantage of GCF** in the country relative to other climate finance channels in the **energy sector**? In other words, what are the unique benefits of working with the GCF?

THE GCF'S ENERGY APPROACH (RELEVANCE)

- 5) Is the GCF working with the appropriate energy stakeholders in the country?

Prompts:

- a) Which highly relevant stakeholders in the energy sector in your country are not involved with the GCF-funded energy sector projects?
- b) How have subnational stakeholders been included in activities?
- 6) Do the GCF supported energy projects in your country reflect the needs of the energy market and industry sectors, including policies/strategies?

Prompts: Are the GCF-funded energy sector projects relevant for the country?

RESULTS/OUTCOMES AND SCALABILITY/REPLICATION/SUSTAINABILITY

- 7) What **key results** have been achieved so far through GCF investments in the energy sector?
 - a) Do you see any emerging evidence of paradigm shift (e.g. scale, replicability, sustainability)?
 - b) Of outcomes related to enabling environment? Of co-benefits? Of unintended consequences?
- 8) In what ways are GCF-funded activities in the energy sector making a difference for marginalized populations, including **women and Indigenous Peoples**? How, to what extent and which populations?

Prompts:

- a) Are gender/indigenous co-benefits tracked and reported?
- b) Has gender equality been mainstreamed in GCF energy projects?
- c) Are actions and interventions supporting Indigenous Peoples?

Interview guidelines for CSOs, PSOs and academia

PRIOR TO ASKING QUESTIONS

Give a brief introduction.

For example: “First, let me give you a little background on why we requested this interview. The GCF Board has requested the Independent Evaluation Unit to conduct an independent evaluation of the GCF's approach to the energy sector. Country case studies are one method feeding into the evaluation. Our goal with the country case studies is not to evaluate the performance of individual countries or projects but rather to learn about how the GCF's activities in the energy sector are perceived in the country and to gather lessons that could help improve the GCF's energy sector approach in the future.”

Assure confidentiality and ask for consent.

For example: “Before we start, I want to assure you that any comments you make will be held confidentially by the IEU evaluation team, and nothing you say will be attributed to you in the

evaluation report. In the final evaluation report, though, we will include a list of people we spoke to for this evaluation. Would it be okay to include your name in the report's list of interviewees?"

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1) What is your organization doing in the country's energy sector?

GCF PARTNERSHIP (NDA, AE, GCF SECRETARIAT, CSO/PSO) AND RESULTS

- 1) How engaged are local CSOs and private sector, and marginalized populations (women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, poor, etc.) in NDA- and GCF-related processes? Is this sufficient?
- 2) In what ways are GCF-funded activities in the energy sector making a difference for marginalized populations, including **women and Indigenous Peoples**? How, to what extent and which populations?

Prompts:

- a) Is there evidence that GAPs are effectively implemented?
- b) Are gender/indigenous co-benefits tracked and reported?
- c) Has gender equality been mainstreamed in GCF energy projects?
- d) Are actions and interventions supporting Indigenous Peoples?

COUNTRY NEEDS, OWNERSHIP AND STRATEGY

- 3) In your view, what **role does the GCF play in supporting your country in implementing its NDC activities** related to the energy sector?
 - a) Are GCF investments included in the NDC implementation plans?
- 4) Were you involved in the **GCF CP**? If so, what has been the value added of the GCF CP in your country to date? Is the GCF CP relevant and aligned with the country's needs in the energy sector?

Prompts: How relevant is the GCF CP regarding renewable energy, energy efficiency or energy access?

- 5) What **efforts have been made to align GCF programming with other climate finance channels** (such as the CIF, GEF, AF, and other multilateral and bilateral donors) or other donors for **energy projects**? What role are the GCF Secretariat and AEs playing in this? Is this role relevant and effective?

Please provide examples of where GCF funding fits well with or duplicates other climate finance for energy projects. How were those successes achieved? For example:

- a) Scaling up successes of/with other climate funds or development financing institutions?
- b) Using opportunities for blending, parallel or sequenced finance to improve predictability and impact?
- 6) What do you see as the **comparative advantage of the GCF** in the country relative to other climate finance channels in the **energy sector**? In other words, what are the unique benefits of working with the GCF?
- 7) How can the consultation process around GCF investment be strengthened?

THE GCF'S ENERGY APPROACH (RELEVANCE)

- 8) Is the GCF working with the appropriate energy stakeholders in the country?

Prompts:

- a) Which highly relevant stakeholders in the energy sector in your country are not involved with the GCF-funded energy sector projects?
- b) How have subnational stakeholders been included in activities?
- 9) Do the GCF supported energy projects in your country reflect the needs of the energy market and industry sectors, including policies/strategies?

Prompts: Are the GCF-funded energy sector projects relevant for the country?

Appendix 4. QUALITATIVE DATA MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES, INTERVIEW PROTOCOLS, AND SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

A. QUALITATIVE DATA MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

1. INTERVIEW NOTES

Ideally, interview notes will be directly typed during interviews as the most efficient way to capture rich data. When this is not possible, hand-written notes will be typed up soon after the session (e.g. after focus group discussions with final beneficiaries during site visits).¹⁹

Interview notes should be organized according to the broad categories of the interview guides (see below) and evaluation matrix. They should be sufficiently detailed, capturing the interviewees' perspectives, including specific quotations. The interviewer's interpretation should not influence the interview notes. The notes should transcribe the interviewee's words.

Interview notes should be saved on the IEU OneDrive project folders. They should be labelled with the interviewees' names, affiliations and interview dates. Interview notes saved in this folder will be anonymized and coded into Dedoose by the evaluation team.

2. SECONDARY DATA MANAGEMENT

Secondary data reviewed and referenced by team members should be uploaded into the IEU OneDrive folders so the evaluation team can add each uploaded document to the overall structured bibliography. Zotero software will be used to ensure fast, consistent and accurate reference list.

B. KII PROTOCOLS

Tailored interview protocols have been developed for key stakeholder groups, as follows, and are presented below:

- Country level stakeholders
- Accredited and nominated entities working in the energy sector
- Regional and international organizations and regional advisers working in the energy sector
- GCF staff, Board members and observers
- iTAP members

Interviewers will follow these guidelines in conducting interviews.

As described in the methods section of this approach paper, the evaluation will use only a perceptions survey.

¹⁹ While audio recording can be helpful, especially in case of data losses, we work on the assumption of preparing detailed, typed up interview notes, with a view to their analysis.

C. SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

Perceptions survey

Evaluation of the energy sector approach of the GCF

Outline of the survey questionnaire

The Green Climate Fund was established with the purpose of making a significant and ambitious contribution to the global efforts towards attaining the goals set by the international community to combat climate change.

The Independent Evaluation Unit of the GCF is undertaking an independent evaluation of the GCF's Approach to the Energy Sector provided by two result areas: (i) [Energy access and generation](#) and (ii) [Building, cities, industries, and appliances](#). These result areas are covered by the following sectoral guides: [Energy efficiency](#); [Energy access and power generation](#); and [Cities, buildings and urban systems](#). For each result area, the GCF operates by (i) supporting transformational planning and programming, (ii) catalysing climate innovation, (iii) mobilizing funds at scale, and (iv) sharing knowledge and developing climate expertise. This evaluation serves the learning and accountability function and aims to inform the Board's decision-making.

You are kindly invited to participate in this assessment by completing the following survey. Your insights will be highly valuable for the performance assessment of the GCF's approach to the energy sector.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Estimated completion time: xxx minutes

If you face any technical difficulties with the survey, please contact xxx at xxx@xxx.com.

Disclaimer: All responses will be treated as confidential. The data gathered will be presented as aggregated analysis without identifying individual respondents unless explicit permission is granted.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1) To which stakeholders' group do you belong? (All)
 - a) GCF Board members (BM)
 - b) Accredited entities (AE) and executing entities
 - c) National Designated Authority (NDA)
 - d) Civil Society Organizations (CSO)
 - e) Private sector national observers (PSO)
 - f) Academia/energy experts (ACA)
 - g) Project beneficiaries (PB)
 - h) Others (please specify)
- 2) Have you been involved, or are you currently involved in a GCF energy sector project? (All)
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 3) If yes (Q2), please provide the names or FP numbers of the energy sector project(s) you have been involved in. (Open, All)
- 4) If yes (Q2), based on your experience, which of the following should be considered energy projects within the GCF? You may select multiple answers. (All)
 - a) Mitigation projects related to the energy sector
 - b) Mitigation and adaptation projects related to the energy sector

- c) Projects with low CO₂ energy generation
- d) Fully clean energy generation projects
- e) Projects that lower carbon emissions through reducing fossil fuels consumption by at least 20 per cent
- f) Projects enhancing energy access independently from the energy source
- g) Other (please specify, multiple definitions can be added)

RELEVANCE/RESPONSIVENESS

The Green Climate Fund, as the world's largest climate fund, is mandated to support developing countries raise and realize the ambitions of their Nationally Determined Contributions towards low-emissions, climate-resilient pathways.

- 5) From your point of view, how relevant is the GCF energy sector approach to its mandates under the UNFCCC? (All)
- a) Very relevant
 - b) Relevant
 - c) Not relevant (text box: Please explain why not)
 - d) Do not know
- 6) Based on your knowledge, how aligned is the GCF's energy sector approach to its mandate under the UNFCCC? (All)
- a) Very well aligned
 - b) Somewhat aligned
 - c) Poorly aligned
 - d) Do not know

(Comment box: Please suggest actions to align it better with UNFCCC's mandate)

According to the International Labour Organization, just transition means greening the economy in a way that is fair and inclusive of everyone, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind.

- 7) Based on your knowledge, do you think just transition principles are well mainstreamed in the GCF's approach and investment portfolio in the energy sector? (All)
- a) Very well mainstreamed
 - b) Somewhat mainstreamed
 - c) Poorly mainstreamed
 - d) Do not know

(Comment box: please provide more information)

The GCF considers the following result areas for the energy sector: (i) Energy access and generation, (ii) Buildings, cities and industries and appliances. These result areas cover (i) Energy access and generation, (ii) Energy efficiency, (iii) Decarbonization of urban energy systems, and (iv) Energy efficiency in building stock.

- 8) How well aligned are GCF result areas and support with the needs of your country regarding building and developing the energy sector in energy efficiency, energy access and renewable energy? (NDA, CSO, PSO, PB, ACA)
- a) Very well aligned
 - b) Well aligned
 - c) Somewhat aligned
 - d) Not aligned
 - e) Do not know

- 9) From your point of view, how well aligned are GCF result areas and support with the needs of the countries to build and develop their energy sector in energy efficiency, energy access and renewable energy? (BM, AE)
- a) Well aligned
 - b) Somewhat aligned
 - c) Not aligned
 - d) Do not know
- 10) From your point of view, how well aligned are GCF result areas and support with your country's international commitments to combat climate change in the energy sector? (NDA, CSO, PSO, PB, ACA)
- a) Very well aligned
 - b) Somewhat aligned
 - c) Poorly aligned
 - d) Do not know
- 11) From your point of view, how well aligned are GCF result areas and support with the international commitments of the countries to combat climate change in the energy sector? (BM, AE)
- a) Very well aligned
 - b) Somewhat aligned
 - c) Poorly aligned
 - d) Do not know
- 12) How well aligned are GCF energy sector projects with the policies and strategies of supported countries for developing and transforming their energy markets and industrial sectors (paradigm shift)? (BM, AE)
- a) Very well aligned
 - b) Somewhat aligned
 - c) Poorly aligned
 - d) Do not know
- 13) How well aligned are GCF energy sector projects with the policies and strategies of your country for developing and transforming energy markets and industrial sectors (paradigm shift)? (NDA, CSO, PSO, PB, ACA)
- a) Very well aligned
 - b) Somewhat aligned
 - c) Poorly aligned
 - d) Do not know

The GCF works with various implementation partners to deliver results and impact. These partners include (i) the Accredited Entities who work alongside countries to come up with project ideas and submit funding proposals for the GCF Board to approve, (ii) National Designated Authorities and government institutions that serve as the interface between each country and the GCF by providing broad strategic oversight of the GCF's activities in the country and communicate the country's priorities for financing low-emission and climate-resilient development, (iii) the EEs which execute, carry out or implement a GCF-funded activity or any part thereof, and (iv) beneficiaries.

- 14) From your point of view, which relevant energy sector stakeholders have not been included in GCF energy sector project implementation? (Open, NDA, CSO, PSO, PB, ACA)
- 15) What is your overall perception of the GCF's energy sector approach? (All)
(Matrix - Multiple selection is possible)
- a) Has a catalytic impact
 - b) Has a marginal impact

- c) Creates market momentum
- d) Mainstreams investments
- e) Increases crowding in capital
- f) Is redundant
- g) Ensure collaboration with the international players

EFFECTIVENESS

- 16) In your opinion, is it likely that the GCF will achieve the expected results (outcomes) of the energy sector projects in the supported countries? (BM, AE)
- a) Very likely
 - b) Somewhat likely
 - c) Not likely
 - d) Do not know
- 17) In your opinion, is it likely that the GCF will achieve the expected results (outcomes) of the energy sector projects in your country? (NDA, CSO, PSO, PB, ACA)
- a) Very likely
 - b) Somewhat likely
 - c) Not likely
 - d) Do not know

Comment/Note box

- 18) Have GCF projects in the energy sector been able to bring about changes in the practices and priorities of stakeholders involved in the projects? (All)

Matrix

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
AEs					
NDA					
Public sector institutions					
Regional and international stakeholders					
Other development partners					

- 19) If yes (Q18), please give example(s) of the changes GCF projects brought about in the energy sector. (open)

Co-benefits of GCF interventions are defined as wider benefits that the energy sector project may achieve, including environmental, social, economic and development.

- 20) Do you think GCF investments in energy have created co-benefits in the beneficiary countries? (All)
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Do not know
- 21) If yes (Q20), what co-benefits have been created by GCF investments? (All)

- 22) At the programme and project levels, what are the major positive elements that have contributed to the (All)
 - a) Achievement of results?
 - b) Efficiency?
- 23) At the programme and project levels, what are the major negative elements that have undermined the (All)
 - a) Achievement of results?
 - b) Efficiency?
- 24) If yes, do you think the GCF investments in the energy sector have created unintended positive results? (All)
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Do not know
- 25) If yes (Q24), which unintended positive results were created by GCF investments in the energy sector?
- 26) Do you think the GCF investments in the energy sector have created unintended negative results? (All)
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Do not know
- 27) If yes (Q26), which unintended negative results were created by GCF investments in the energy sector?

EFFICIENCY

- 28) Do you think the GCF has made enough human resources available to implement energy sector projects throughout their life cycle? (All)
 - a) Yes, sufficient
 - b) Yes, somewhat sufficient
 - c) No, not sufficient
 - d) Do not know
- 29) If No (Q28), please provide more information.
- 30) If yes, does the GCF's policy and governance framework provide sufficient guidance on the nature of the operations undertaken in the energy sector? (BM, AE, NDA)
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Do not know
- 31) If yes/no (Q30), please provide more information.
- 32) If yes, how would you rate the structure of GCF architecture (i.e. process and governance) in enabling the delivery of energy sector projects? (BM, AE, NDA)
 - a) The GCF architecture is well structured
 - b) The GCF architecture is good
 - c) The GCF architecture can be improved
 - d) Do not know
- 33) If (c), which areas in the GCF architecture need improving?
- 34) If yes, how would you rate the capacity of the GCF Secretariat to support energy sector projects throughout their life cycle? (BM, AE, NDA)
 - a) The GCF Secretariat has sufficient capacity to deliver results
 - b) The GCF Secretariat has to improve its capacity to deliver results

- c) The GCF Secretariat lacks the capacity to deliver results
 - d) Do not know
- 35) If (b) or (c) of (Q34), please provide more information.
- 36) Are you aware of the GCF's sectoral guides in the energy sector? (All)
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Do not know
- 37) If yes, how would you rate the GCF's sectoral guides in the energy sector in
- 38) Based on the suggested metrics, how would you rate the cost-effectiveness of the GCF investments in the energy sector compared to that of (Matrix) (BM, AE, NDA, PSO)
- a) Private sector?
 - b) Other public finance institutions?
 - c) Development agencies?

SUSTAINABILITY

- 39) Based on your knowledge, how well has investment sustainability been mainstreamed into the GCF's approach and investments in the energy sector? (Matrix) (All)
- a) Environmental and social safeguards
 - b) Gender equality
- 40) Based on your knowledge, how sustainable are the outcomes of GCF interventions in the energy sector? (All)
- a) They are sustainable
 - b) They are not always sustainable (comment box: why)
 - c) Do not know
- 41) How would you rate GCF interventions in the energy sector globally regarding BM, AE, PSO, CSO?
- a) Innovation?
 - b) Potential for replication?
 - c) Potential for scaling up?
 - d) Paradigm shift?
 - e) Market/Sector transformation?
- 42) How would you rate GCF interventions in the energy sector in your country regarding AE, NDA, PB?
- a) Innovation?
 - b) Potential for replication?
 - c) Potential for scaling up?
 - d) Paradigm shift?
 - e) Market/Sector transformation?
- 43) In your opinion, how effective have GCF interventions in the energy sector promoted: (All) and why?
- a) Innovative product/technology?
 - b) Innovative business models?
 - c) Innovative approaches and delivery mechanisms?
- 44) From your point of view, what are the main enabling conditions that influence the scalability/replication of GCF interventions in the energy sector? (Open, All)
- 45) As a result of GCF energy sector funded projects, has there been any uptake, second phases or policy changes, etc., in the beneficiary country or in other country? (AE, NDA, CSO, PSO, PB, ACA)

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Do not know

COHERENCE

- 46) Do you think GCF interventions in the energy sector across different regions and vulnerabilities would have occurred in the presence of GCF funding? (BM, AE, NDA)
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Do not know
- 47) From your point of view, does the GCF offer any advantages over other multilateral funds in the context of the energy sector? (AE, NDA, PSO)
- a) Yes (comment box: what are they)
 - b) No
 - c) Do not know

GENDER EQUITY

- 48) Have GAPs properly mainstreamed gender and social issues in the GCF's energy sector interventions? (AE, NDA)
- a) Yes
 - b) No (comment box: please provide more information)
 - c) Do not know
- 49) Are GAPs implemented as designed, and are they achieving the desired outcomes? (AE, NDA)

	Yes	No	Early to say	I do not know	Comments
Implemented as designed					
Achieving the expected outcomes					

- 50) Based on your knowledge, do GCF interventions in the energy sector support Indigenous Peoples? (AE, PB, NDA)
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Do not know
- 51) If yes (Q50), how are GCF interventions in the energy sector supporting Indigenous Peoples?

Identification of the respondent [Optional] (All)

Would you like to share your personal information with us?

- Yes
- No

What is your name? Open

What is your job title? Open

What is the name of your organization? Open

What is your position in your organization? Open

[Text: end of the questionnaire, thank you for participating]

Appendix 5. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION PLAN

A. BACKGROUND

Paragraph 64 (a) of the Evaluation Policy for the GCF, contained in [Annex I of decision B.BM-2021/07](#), states that:

*The IEU and the Secretariat will include a **dissemination/knowledge management plan for evaluations** in their respective work programmes. The Secretariat's knowledge management function will also play a critical role in this space.*

Further, paragraph 64 (d) of the Evaluation Policy says that “the GCF will promote the sharing of evaluative evidence across GCF partners through **different modes of dissemination and communication.**”

In this context, a draft dissemination/knowledge management plan has been developed by the IEU for its “Independent Evaluation of the GCF's Approach to the Energy Sector (ES2023)”. This plan outlines how the IEU aims to disseminate the findings and learnings from this evaluation, including information about suggested modes of dissemination and communication. It also provides an indicative timeline for key activities and engagement opportunities specific to the ES2023 evaluation.

B. ABOUT THE EVALUATION

This evaluation aims to assess the progress, gains, effectiveness and efficiency of the RPSP while gauging the extent to which the RPSP has led to transformational projects and programmes in the GCF. The IEU will deliver, in time for B.35 (March 2023), a synthesis note on RPSP as a preliminary deliverable from the evaluation to inform the development of the GCF's RPSP strategy. The final evaluation report will be submitted to the Board in time for the last Board meeting in 2023.

This evaluation of the energy sector will cover a wide geographic area of GCF operations with themes covering the relevance, efficiency, suitability, effectiveness, and innovativeness of the GCF's portfolio in the energy sector in achieving climate goals alongside the lessons learned from the investments. The evaluation report will be submitted to the Board in time for the first Board meeting in 2024.

C. OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

The draft plan focuses on raising awareness of the evaluation during its implementation and after its completion. It aims to promote and disseminate the evaluation's findings and recommendations, primarily to decision makers and other key stakeholders in the GCF ecosystem.

D. TARGET AUDIENCES/STAKEHOLDERS

KEY AUDIENCE GROUP	TARGET SUBGROUP (IF APPLICABLE)	DESIRED CHANGE	KEY OUTPUTS, ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES	MAIN PRODUCTS OF INTEREST
GCF Board	All Board Members, including the Co-Chairs	Board Members are aware of the evaluation's key findings and consider and use the evaluation's recommendations to improve the GCF business model and operations as the GCF's ultimate decision-making body.	IEU webinars, Board side events, bilateral consultations between the IEU management and the Board members, IEU newsletters, social media, COP28 side event(s)	Executive summary, final evaluation report, GEvalBrief, IEU newsletters, and the 'evaluations' section of IEU activities/annual reports.
GCF Secretariat	The Senior Management Team and relevant Divisions and their focal points/technical experts, especially those from the DPM, DCP, DMA, PSF and the policy team of the GCF Secretariat	The Secretariat is aware of the evaluation's key findings and recommendations and submits a timely and thoughtful Management Response to the evaluation. The Secretariat integrates the evaluation learnings in future planning processes.	IEU webinars, IEU Learning Talks, regular meetings between the IEU Head and the ED, IEU newsletters, news updates on the GCF intranet Green Shift and social media, IEU presentations in GCF all-personnel meetings, GCF-organized conferences or dialogues, joint pavilion events and engagements with the GCF Secretariat at COP28	Executive summary, final evaluation report, GEvalBrief, regular Green Shift updates, IEU newsletters, press releases, (if resources permit) IEU video recordings that present the evaluation findings and recommendations.
GCF partners (AEs, executing entities, NDAs, delivery partners, etc.)		GCF partners' understanding of the GCF is improved, and they become aware of the IEU evaluation's key findings and recommendations.	IEU webinars and side events, IEU engagement in external conferences/events hosted by GCF partners, IEU newsletters, social media updates, COP28 Pavilion and other side events	Executive summary, final evaluation report, GEval Brief, press releases, (if resources permit) IEU video recordings that present the evaluation findings and recommendations.

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE MATERIALS AND OUTPUTS (INDICATIVE TIMELINE)

OUTPUT	KEY AUDIENCE	CONTENT/COMMENTS	EXPECTED DELIVERY
IEU website	All	Serves as a hub for all public resources generated by the evaluation; updated immediately once new content becomes available	A designated web page created as early as December 2022 and updated throughout 2023
Approach paper	Board, Secretariat	Approach, questions, methods and timeline of the evaluation	May 2023
Approach webinar(s)	All	Presentation of the content of the approach paper and discussion with the audience	May 2023
Draft country case study reports	All	Six country case study reports	Q3 of 2023
Draft evaluation report	All	Contains evaluation questions, in-depth data analyses, and findings/conclusions	October 2023
Webinars and/or Board side events to present key findings	Board, Secretariat	In these webinars or (virtual) Board side events, the evaluation team will present the evaluation's key findings and answer any questions the attendees may have	October 2023
Final evaluation report	All	Contains the evaluation question, in-depth data analyses, conclusions, findings and recommendations	December 2023
Executive summary	All	A 10-15-page executive summary of the final evaluation report	December 2023
4-page summary brief (GEvalBrief)	All	A 4-page summary brief that focuses primarily on the evaluation's background, key questions, findings and recommendations. The brief is designed for busy readers and is useful for disseminating evaluation learning to a wider audience	January 2024
Final country case study reports (edited, formatted)	All	All country case study reports compiled and published as volume 2	Q1 of 2024
Social media	All	Key updates for every product/event related to the valuation	Throughout the evaluation cycle

F. OPPORTUNITIES AND PLANS FOR ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS ON THE EVALUATION FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Webinars on the approach paper | Q2 of 2023

Three webinars will be held in Q2 of 2023 for different audience groups – the Board and advisers; the GCF Secretariat; and AEs, NDAs, CSOs, PSOs and observers. They will present information and elicit initial comments on the approach and methods of the evaluation. The webinars will be recorded and published online.

2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) | November – December 2023

The IEU will host a number of joint pavilion events at COP28 and disseminate the lessons learned from ES2023. This will give the IEU another opportunity to share the evaluation's findings with GCF stakeholders, partner organizations, evaluators and other climate finance experts attending COP28.

IEU Webinars, Board side events, and Learning Talks on the findings | Q4 of 2023

The IEU will organize webinars, Board side events and/or learning talks to present the evaluation's findings to its target audiences, identified above.

Global evaluation conferences of relevance

The IEU personnel will attend several global evaluation conferences throughout 2023 and present ES2023 findings where relevant and useful. One such example could be the 2023 Asian Evaluation Week.

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Independent Evaluation Unit
Green Climate Fund
175, Art center-daero, Yeonsu-gu
Incheon 22004, Republic of Korea
Tel. (+82) 032-458-6450
ieu@gcfund.org
<https://ieu.greenclimate.fund>



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