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Independent Evaluation of the GCF's Result Area “Health and Wellbeing, and Food and Water Security” (HWWFW)

Executive summary • January 2025



GREEN CLIMATE FUND
INDEPENDENT EVALUATION UNIT

Independent Evaluation of the GCF's Result Area "Health and Wellbeing, and Food and Water Security" (HWWF)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	IV
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
-------------------------	---

Context	3
---------------	---

Evaluation scope	3
------------------------	---

Evaluation timeline and methods.....	4
--------------------------------------	---

Limitations	5
-------------------	---

Conclusions	6
-------------------	---

Recommendations.....	9
----------------------	---

REFERENCES	13
------------------	----

ABBREVIATIONS

AE	Accredited entity
APR	Annual performance report
B.40	Fortieth meeting of the Board
FP	Funding proposal
GCF	Green Climate Fund
HWWF	Health and Wellbeing, and Food and Water Security
IEU	Independent Evaluation Unit
IRMF	Integrated results management framework
NDA	National designated authority
PMF	Performance measurement framework
RA	Result area
RMF	Results management framework

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CONTEXT

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a key institution in the global architecture for responding to the challenges of climate change. It advances and promotes a paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development, supporting countries and their development partners in doing so, as per the objectives and targets set by the global community. GCF funding and financing are delivered to support the achievement of both mitigation and adaptation results, in line with the global and national priorities articulated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

The GCF delivers programmes and projects targeting eight mitigation and adaptation result areas (RAs), identified for their “potential to deliver a substantial impact on mitigation and adaptation” (Green Climate Fund, 2021b). As outlined in relevant Board decisions, the RAs were to serve as a basis for the GCF and its stakeholders to pursue a strategic approach to developing programmes and projects. The GCF Secretariat divisions and programming teams provide guidance and support for RA(s) selection for funding proposals (FPs) and facilitate result monitoring and management. These eight mitigation and adaptation RAs provide some guidance to the GCF and its stakeholders for producing impact from their collective investments.

In 2024, the GCF's Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) undertook the **Independent Evaluation of the GCF's Result Area “Health and Well-being, and Food and Water Security” (HFWF)** in line with its Board-approved 2024 work plan. The HFWF result area is one of the four GCF adaptation results areas.¹ The evaluation assessed the GCF's approach to and portfolio of the HFWF result as well as the GCF's result management system, against the GCF's evaluation criteria, including relevance, effectiveness, country ownership, coherence and complementarity, results and impact, and sustainability of results.

EVALUATION SCOPE

The scope of this evaluation was two-pronged: first, it assessed the actual and likely achievements of HFWF RA-tagged² GCF investments and key factors that enable or hinder the achievement of results; and second, it examined the value of the GCF's overall RA approach and investments through a close examination of the HFWF RA itself. It considered how effective and efficient the GCF's investments in this RA have been in reducing the vulnerability of local communities to the effects of climate change, what benefits have been produced, and the extent to which these impacts are likely to be sustainable. The evaluation therefore included two levels of analysis, one at the HFWF RA-tagged **project and portfolio** level, and the other at **the RA level more broadly**.

Out of the 286 GCF projects approved as of the fortieth meeting of the Board (B.40) in October 2024, 153 projects were tagged with the HFWF RA. HFWF RA-tagged projects were selected based on RA percentage data currently available for GCF-financing in the Secretariat's portfolio

¹ The four adaptation RAs are (i) Health and Wellbeing, and Food and Water Security (HFWF); (ii) Livelihoods of People and Communities; (iii) Infrastructure and Built Environment; and (iv) Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services. The four mitigation areas are (i) Energy Generation and Access; (ii) Transport; (iii) Buildings, Cities, Industries, and Appliances; and (iv) Forests and Land Use.

² HFWF RA-tagged projects refer to GCF-funded projects identified by the GCF Secretariat and tagged under the Secretariat's portfolio management system, the Integrated Portfolio Management System (iPMS). This evaluation found that tagging selected by AEs on approved FPs sometimes differs from the tagging available in the iPMS.

management system, known as the Integrated Portfolio Management System (iPMS)³. The tagging of projects to RAs is done first through a self-selection by AEs and that this self-selection can be subject to change by the GCF Secretariat.⁴ The portfolio of 153 HWWF RA-tagged projects represents a nominal amount of USD 7 billion that is channelled towards adaptation and cross-cutting projects. Approximately 28 per cent of this amount, USD 2 billion, has been tagged as exclusively HWWF RA-related finance. It should be noted that RAs are not mutually exclusive; therefore, multiple RAs could be identified in any single FP.

EVALUATION TIMELINE AND METHODS

This evaluation was launched in March 2024. Evaluation data collection and analysis was done in the period of April – August 2024, including relevant case study visits and stakeholder interviews. The evaluation team organized a weeklong report outline and sense-making workshop in September 2024. The factual draft report was developed in October 2024 and was subsequently shared with the GCF Secretariat through the established feedback channel. The final evaluation report was prepared and submitted in January 2025 in time for B.41, the first Board meeting to take place in 2025.

The evaluation employed a mixed-methods approach. This included an extensive document review (of both internal and external documents), a portfolio analysis of several GCF databases, stakeholder consultations, field visits resulting in six case studies, a benchmarking analysis, and a review and synthesis of previous IEU evaluations. The evaluation also drew on past institutional and organizational assessment approaches to ascertain the extent to which the GCF's HWWF RA-related approach, its governance and policy environment, and its wider organizational capacity, with particular reference to performance management, have established the institutional and operational conditions for success.

The evaluation was undertaken methodologically as a modified contribution analysis (Mayne, 2008; Apgar and Levine, 2024), informed by a realist evaluation approach (Pawson and Tilley, 1997; Westhorp, 2014; INTRAC, 2017), while drawing on institutional and organizational assessment (Universalia, 2024). It was intent on making visible the strengths and limitations of the GCF's design and implementation of work and investments in the HWWF RA, for the purpose of informing future activities in this RA and other RAs.

Portfolio analysis was conducted by drawing from a series of available GCF databases and IEU-maintained data sets, including portfolio and finance iPMS data (B.40), GCF accreditation applications (B.40), funded activity agreement conditions and covenants (B.40), and portfolio performance management system results data (2023). External databases were also analysed, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Climate-Related Development Finance data sets for 2016–2022 and 2000–2022.

A range of stakeholders were consulted for this evaluation, totalling 237 people across all phases of the evaluation including pre-evaluation, inception, data collection and during field visits. Stakeholders consulted included current and former GCF Secretariat staff members as well as external stakeholders including national designated authorities (NDAs) / focal points, AEs, executing entities, civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples organizations, private sector organizations, various delivery partners and beneficiaries.

³ The 153 HWWF RA-tagged projects include a now-cancelled project, FP115 (*Espejo de Tarapacá*), since this evaluation uses the data cut-off point of B.40 (21–24 October 2024) and the project was cancelled on 28 October 2024.

⁴ This evaluation found that tagging selected by AEs on approved FPs sometimes differs from the tagging available in the iPMS.

The evaluation also included six country case studies in Fiji, Grenada, Namibia, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Senegal and Tajikistan. These countries accounted for 15 per cent of the total approved GCF HWWF financing and 26 per cent of HWWF financing to projects that were fully disbursed or completed, as of B.39.⁵ Country identification for case studies was primarily based on the maturity of the HWWF RA-tagged investments in countries, and it ensured the coverage of HWWF RA-tagged projects implemented by DAEs, of single-country and multi-country projects, and of at least one cross-cutting project. All case studies were conducted with in-person field visits, with the exception of the case study on Grenada (which was conducted virtually). Please see Chapter 1.C of the [evaluation report](#) for more details on the evaluation methodology.

LIMITATIONS

There were several limitations to this evaluation. Of note is that this was the first ever IEU evaluation of an RA, which is distinct from an evaluation of a sector portfolio and approach, such as the energy sector evaluation previously conducted by the IEU. Although the IEU had undertaken a broader review of the results management framework (RMF) in 2018, the evaluation presented in the current document assessed the nature and operationalization of the RA approach of the GCF. Due to the ambiguous nature of the RA approach, the scope of the evaluation evolved as it progressed, responding to the diverse ways in which RAs are understood across the GCF and its organizational ecosystem. This led to an extended inception phase and required some flexibility and adjustments by the evaluation team to narrow or expand areas within scope, in line with the evaluation's overarching utilization-focused approach.

Moreover, the timing of the evaluation coincided with an organizational restructure of the GCF Secretariat. This had several impacts on the evaluation, such as limited stakeholder availability, as some GCF staff members had limited availability to participate in interviews due to competing priorities.

In regard to limitations encountered in addressing questions of the HWWF RA implementation and impacts, the team was also faced with limited available data on results. Beyond the GCF Secretariat restructuring, the GCF has been changing its results management system with the adoption of its integrated results management framework (IRMF) and portfolio performance management system. The GCF reporting system has not yet reached maturity and currently provides very limited reliable data on results. While efforts are under way to strengthen the GCF's monitoring and reporting system, results reporting using this new system has been rather limited. Moreover, the GCF results reporting system (i.e. both the performance measurement framework (PMF) and IRMF and related systems) does not capture the full extent of the impact, with interventions reported to have impacts beyond what is currently captured through the GCF reporting system.

Quality issues are also noted in the data collected under the GCF's PMF, specifically the annual performance reports; there is notable limited quality assurance conducted by the GCF Secretariat on these reports. As a result, the team relied heavily on qualitative data for results reporting, including document review and interviews conducted at both the global and the case study levels. Also of note, there were some gaps in the gender and social inclusion action plans of the projects reviewed in the case studies (i.e. some were incomplete or not completed), and thus they were not available for review or inclusion in this evaluation. Gender-sensitive frameworks are also not disaggregated

⁵ The data cut-off point for the evaluation country case studies was set at B.39, around the time when the case study visits were undertaken. With the exception of the data analyses done for the case studies, the data cut-off point for all other analyses was set at B.40.

by or specific to RAs (where there are particularities), making it yet more challenging to disentangle and track HWWF RA-specific progress. Please see Chapter 1.D of the [evaluation report](#) for more information on the limitations of this evaluation.

CONCLUSIONS

What started out as an evaluation of a single RA quickly became more complex. Originally anchored in the HWWF RA, the evaluation was drawn into an examination of all RAs as a collection of defining claims within an evolving results management architecture. It was called to pay attention both to the yields of GCF investments carried out under the HWWF RA and to capturing insights about the development and use of RAs in pursuit of low-carbon, climate-resilient development.

This evaluation comes at an opportune time for the GCF and for the climate finance community more broadly given the salience of HWWF as an adaptation RA and the urgency of ensuring that GCF climate-related investments are indeed making the changes sought. As it stood at the beginning of the evaluation, and what prompted the work documented herein, the GCF was not in position to know with much certainty what GCF impacts could be traced to activities carried out with HWWF intent (or indeed, with intentions tied to any of the adaptation-related RAs). It was therefore important to find out what claims could be made and what conclusions could reasonably be drawn at two levels: (i) HWWF specifically, and (ii) RAs more broadly.

CONCLUSIONS IN RELATION TO HWWF, SPECIFICALLY

Conclusion 1. The investments made as HWWF RA-tagged projects are recognized by GCF stakeholders for their high degree of relevance and value; their emerging results can be linked to paradigm-shifting trends in multiple countries. In relation to the RA at the centre of this evaluation, the content it addresses is relevant to the GCF's mandate under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to country stakeholders, donor countries and climate finance actors. NDAs / focal points and country stakeholders widely recognize the value of HWWF RA-tagged projects (notably on food and water security, as well as health to the extent they exist in the portfolio) in responding to country needs and priorities.

The broad climate rationale for addressing food and water security aspects, in particular, is well established across GCF programming landscapes. Through its accreditation process, the GCF can show a roster of AEs experienced with and intent on programming in this area. Over its initial strategic cycle, the GCF and its AEs have shown a moderate degree of success (relative to other RAs) in mobilizing co-finances for HWWF. Overall, there is a good alignment between country climate-related needs, on the one hand, and the GCF's strategic commitment and operational reach/capability, on the other. Out of the GCF's 286 approved projects, more than half contribute to the HWWF RA through the GCF's financing as defined in their funding proposal.

HWWF RA-tagged projects have notably supported climate-smart and climate-resilient agriculture, including through the distribution of drought-resistant crops, the introduction of new practices and technologies, and support for the diversification of production, among others. Based on portfolio analysis and country case studies, these projects were particularly common in the least developed countries and African States.

Water security, in terms of access, quality and resilience of infrastructure, has largely been achieved through hard project components, such as the construction of key, climate-resilient infrastructure. Such projects were particularly common in small island developing State.

Health and wellbeing benefits, such as reduced risk of waterborne diseases, improved mental health and quality of life, improved nutrition, and improved physical health, largely occur as a result of increased food or water security, increased resilience to hazards, and newly introduced practices, and as economic or social co-benefits from HFWF RA-tagged projects. HFWF RA-tagged projects have also increased the resilience of communities, including farming communities, through weather forecasting, early warning systems and disaster risk reduction.

Conclusion 2. Results obtained from HFWF RA-tagged projects and the larger contributions made to low-carbon, climate-resilient development have only been associated with the GCF's use of the HFWF RA in a limited manner. The RA approach itself was found to be inconsequential in their achievement. Historically, the GCF's use of the RA has been somewhat disassociated from questions related to programme/project origination and implementation. Its use has been focused instead on the collection and aggregation of HFWF-related data with which to tell a corporate-level results story.

The selection of the RA lacks systematic guidance for AEs, highlighting a key disconnect in the utility and implementation of the RA in practice and allowing for competing interpretations. The HFWF RA is also rarely the only RA tagged by projects and is most commonly tagged alongside the other RAs. It has also been observed that some projects in the GCF portfolio that appear relevant to the HFWF RA are not tagged as such in the GCF's results management system. Therefore, the results story can likely be told at the broader GCF portfolio level and at the adaptation portfolio level, but not at the HFWF RA level.

The evaluation observed the practical challenge of isolating the HFWF RA results from the rest, limited tools for RA-based reporting, and the resource constraints of the Secretariat to undertake the quality assurance in aggregating results data based on the RA approach.

Conclusion 3. HFWF RA-tagged projects generate social, economic and environmental co-benefits, while other projects not tagged under HFWF RA also generate co-benefits and results relevant to the aspects of health and wellbeing, food, and water security. However, there is no systematic approach to aggregate these co-benefits at the Fund level to date. Furthermore, gaps are observed in reporting some areas of co-benefits from HFWF RA-tagged projects.

Not only adaptation projects but also mitigation projects often report on adaptation co-benefits using the adaptation beneficiary indicator, although it is unknown how many of these adaptation co-benefits relate to health and wellbeing, food, and water security.

Although the IRMF has stronger requirements related to co-benefits under the PMF, co-benefit reporting was instead done at the discretion of the AEs due to a lack of clear indicators and further guidance from the Secretariat.

Gender and social equity co-benefits, including for other marginalized groups (e.g. Indigenous Peoples, young people), are rarely reported by AEs, thereby limiting the systematic assessment of co-benefits across the portfolio of HFWF RA-tagged projects. This limitation extends beyond the HFWF RA and calls for further improvements on co-benefit reporting. A gap is also noted in biodiversity-related co-benefits under the GCF's environmental co-benefit category.

Conclusion 4. Encompassing three expansive sectors while also suggesting a "nexus" orientation, the HFWF RA formulation itself introduces an uncertainty of expectation for an

organization that is primarily sector oriented. The cross-sectoral orientation suggested in the term “**Health and Wellbeing, and Food (Security)⁶ and Water Security**” is at odds with the GCF’s sector-oriented makeup as an organization. Projects tagged as HWWF seemingly operate more as disconnected sector projects rather than as a truly integrated RA approach that links health and wellbeing, food security and water security all together. In practice, HWWF projects have tended to be sector led, most often on food or water security with scope to report additional results as “co-benefits”. In keeping with this, the GCF’s two levels of indicators (core and sub/supplementary) to measure the RA contribution to the GCF’s adaptation-related impact have also been sector focused. As a result, the nexus orientation suggested in the HWWF RA has been irrelevant for some (primarily at the GCF Secretariat) and confusing for others (across NDAs / focal points and AEs).

The shift is marked with the introduction of sectoral guides, starting in 2021, including three that explore paradigm-shifting pathways and associated financing strategies for **health and wellbeing**, for **water security**, and for **agriculture and food security**. To date, although interpreted differently by diverse stakeholders concerning their purpose and use, the sectoral guides have been used for communication between the AEs and the GCF and have facilitated sector-oriented programming.

Conclusion 5. The absence of a tracking indicator under the IRMF for health-related impacts is inconsistent with the growing recognition of the “health–climate change” nexus, which demands increased attention. Relative to water and food security, the slower development of the health and wellbeing facet of the HWWF RA can in part be traced to this sector’s more recent emergence as a climate change issue. Over the life of the RA, the wellbeing dimension in particular has remained mostly unexplored. At a time when the global call for action on the health–climate change nexus grows louder, the GCF has diminished its ability to track health-related impacts. The absence of any health-related indicator in the IRMF, when one existed in the earlier RMF, signals this trend and is inconsistent with the times.

CONCLUSIONS IN RELATION TO RAs, BROADLY

Conclusion 6. At a foundational level, the purpose and role of GCF RAs are insufficiently articulated and understood across the GCF’s stakeholders, which raises a question about their continued utility. The latitude provided in early documents to pinpoint how RAs should be used to greatest effect has not been adequately developed through the GCF’s initial cycle under the RMF and into its current cycle under the IRMF. There are references to the use of RAs along the programme/project **origination–implementation–monitoring and reporting** continuum, and in supporting country programming and the GCF’s accreditation process. So far, however, the reason for their continued existence appears most closely aligned with a corporate reporting function.

With regard to this reporting function, the rationale for aligning RAs to monitoring and reporting was clearest under the RMF, but it has become less so with the introduction of the IRMF (2022). As a consequence of being integrated with the GCF’s original RMF and featured as corporate outcomes with tightly associated indicators, RAs were mostly identified with the GCF’s bid to demonstrate impact. But now, redeployed under broader, strategic outcomes as a device to organize data sourced through a more loosely connected set of core and supplementary indicators, their role is less essential in telling the GCF’s results story. In fact, RAs complicate matters. Under the IRMF, the

⁶ The HWWF result area is presented as “Health and Wellbeing, and Food and Water Security” in official GCF documents including the IRMF. However, the evaluation team added the word ‘security’ after food to more clearly indicate that the HWWF result area construct includes at least three expansive areas and sectors, which are health and wellbeing; food/agricultural security; and water security.

GCF's story of impact and paradigm shift is now one that can be told with reference to these outcomes and indicators and to GCF strategy, **without reference to RAs at all.**

As it stands today across the GCF – its Secretariat and its ecosystem of NDAs / focal points and AEs – there is little shared understanding of what the purpose of RAs is or should be and, indeed, little external recognition of their presence except through their continuing use in tracking the GCF's intended investments. Despite post-2018 evaluation and IRMF-related improvements in the GCF's results management and reporting, there remains widespread acknowledgement of the practical challenges experienced in isolating results in one RA from other RAs, and of the inconsistencies in data quality, both across AEs and from year to year as RA guidance has developed over time. The results harmonization discussion and approach at the multilateral development bank level has been largely disregarded by the GCF so far.

With specific regard to HWWF, and largely due to the RA approach, there is acknowledgement that the GCF has only captured a minimal amount of the health, water security and food security related adaptation story of its investment. In this wide configuration, the HWWF RA is less amenable to capturing results with the degree of contextual richness needed to substantiate the GCF's impact claims and to inform programming.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In their formulation, the RAs have remained unchanged since they were approved just ahead of the GCF's initial resource mobilization period (2015–2019). Since then, of course, their deployment has been subject to multiple influences as the climate finance space has evolved and as GCF corporate strategies, programming and operations have adapted.

Over this dynamic period, the evaluation finds that the GCF's assignment of purpose and role for RAs has lost at least some of its natural alignment to the GCF's results monitoring and reporting functions and, at the same time, has not kept up with opportunities emergent in relation to investment policy and planning, country programming and to programme/project and accreditation pipeline development.

With their run time of nearly 10 years, the evaluation concludes that a reconsideration and rearticulation of the purpose and formulation of RAs is warranted. In this vein, the evaluation sets out recommendations to address the evolving purpose of RAs, their value-addition to GCF investment decision-making and reporting under the IRMF and Updated Strategic Plan for the GCF 2024–2027, and their compatibility with the GCF's sector-oriented mode of programming.

Recommendation 1. The Board should rearticulate the purpose and use of RAs across the entire GCF system and, in collaboration with the Secretariat and on the basis of this rearticulation, reformulate them as a set. As the GCF continues to evolve and adjust its strategic pathway and organizational setting, the evaluation recommends that the Board review the purpose of RAs. Such an exercise should be carried out in concert with its strategic planning cycle. Internally, the GCF should be cognizant of its operational requirements for results management and accountability. Externally, it should be cognizant of climate finance landscape trends, including any prospects for building coherence and complementarity in results management across actors. The recommendation includes the following:

- **Recommendation 1.1.** The Board should consider revisiting the RAs as part of the review of the IRMF, scheduled for 2026. The review should examine the fundamental roles of RAs in the entire GCF ecosystem.

- **Recommendation 1.2.** Working closely with the Secretariat, the Board should identify and reconcile competing or overlapping concepts and frameworks related to results management practice at the GCF and streamline communications accordingly. Items requiring consideration include (i) the comparative value of RAs to the operation of the Investment Framework and to the IRMF; (ii) the case for continuing to use/develop the integrated RA formulations as epitomized with the HWWF RA; (iii) the case for referencing core results (tied to core and supplementary indicators) as distinct from co-benefits; and (iv) the case for tailoring the use of the RAs across country-focused projects and multi-country projects, and with regard to programmatic approaches.
- **Recommendation 1.3.** On the basis of a rearticulation of purpose focused on programme/project origination rather than on reporting requirements, the Board should mandate an expert-led, multi-stakeholder working group to review the existing set of eight RAs on three levels: their consistency in formulation and their relationship to GCF indicators housed in the IRMF to support monitoring and reporting, their operational coherence as a set in relation to the GCF's strategic ambitions, and their compatibility with larger global and regional commitments.
- **Recommendation 1.4.** The Board should inform its review of GCF RAs (purpose, use, reformulation) and the systems supporting their use on the basis of an understanding of the practices of other climate finance actors related to results-focused monitoring and reporting. Engaging with other actors in the climate finance space should be done with an intent to facilitate complementarity and coherence across such institutions. For example, among others, the GCF may wish to consider the multilateral development bank common approach to measuring climate results to further define climate results strategically.

Recommendation 2. Based on the review of RAs by the Board and the rearticulation of the roles of RAs, the Secretariat should provide comprehensive guidance on the use of the RAs internally and revisit the results reporting system accordingly.

- **Recommendation 2.1.** Based on the rearticulation of the roles of RAs, if the GCF decides to keep the RA approach, the Secretariat should draft guidance internally for the GCF Secretariat on how the RAs should be considered throughout the project cycle, while taking into account existing manuals and guidelines such as the Programming Manual, Appraisal Guidance, sectoral guides, and draft Results Handbook.
- **Recommendation 2.2.** Apart from the review of RAs, the Secretariat should conduct a quality check of the data registered in the results management system on a regular basis. This would address inconsistencies and discrepancies between the information in funding proposals and the data registered in the results management system/database.

Recommendation 3. The GCF should find ways to operationalize the uses of RAs at the country level and for AEs, if the GCF wishes to keep the current RA approach. Integral to the stocktaking described in Recommendation 1, the Secretariat should reconsider the ways to operationalize RAs from the vantage points of NDAs / focal points and AEs. Such a review should be forward-looking, attending to the questioned value, perceived lack of clarity, and high degree of confusion about RAs observed in this evaluation. The ways in which RAs are to be used as part of the GCF's results management should be socialized clearly and effectively among NDAs / focal points and AEs to ensure a common understanding of how RAs are to be used along the **origination–implementation–monitoring and reporting** continuum. This review should be done in close alignment with the NDAs / focal points and in consultation with AEs. The recommendation includes the following:

- **Recommendation 3.1.** Once the purposes and uses of RAs are stabilized and confirmed, the Secretariat should communicate their “high-level” purpose and use to NDAs / focal points and AEs. This communication should target NDAs / focal points and AEs on the role of RAs in country programming and on programme/project and accreditation pipeline development.
- **Recommendation 3.2.** As part of operationalizing the guidance from the Board, the Secretariat should examine the value RAs could add to country programming across the mitigation–adaptation spectrum and to programme/project and accreditation pipeline development. Given the country-driven approach of the GCF, the RA approach should be conceptually integrated into the country programme and into country-level programmatic approaches.
- **Recommendation 3.3.** The Secretariat should establish the common practice of engaging with NDAs / focal points and AEs using RAs in the origination of projects, based on such external guidance.

Recommendation 4. The Secretariat should advance its monitoring and reporting practices in relation to addressing the GCF’s cross-cutting priorities and to capturing co-benefits generated through the GCF’s investments.

- **Recommendation 4.1.** The GCF should review practices and organizational capacities relevant to the monitoring and reporting of co-benefits associated with gender dimensions, Indigenous Peoples and ESS. Given the centrality of gender, Indigenous Peoples, and environmental and social considerations in the HWWF portfolio, the GCF should ensure that adequate gender equality and social inclusion and environmental expertise is made available to the project development teams focused on this RA (or future iteration of this RA) and RAs more broadly. In particular, expertise is needed in developing gender-sensitive and in other ways suitable monitoring frameworks with indicators that are able to support reporting on results and co-benefits appropriately.
- **Recommendation 4.2.** The GCF should provide capacity-building support to AEs for effective monitoring and reporting of co-benefits. As things stand, some areas of co-benefits relevant to health and wellbeing, food, and water security are significantly underreported. Additional capacity strengthening support for monitoring and reporting for AEs and implementing partners is required to ensure that outputs and outcomes are properly captured and are not perceived as optional.
- **Recommendation 4.3.** The GCF should develop a pool of experts, or provide support for securing the services of experts, skilled in mainstreaming these cross-cutting priorities, drawing on (among other things) the support of the GCF’s RPSP.

Recommendation 5. The Secretariat should take note of global calls for a greater integration of health in climate finance programming and reflect such in its updated articulation of purpose and use. The recommendation includes the following:

- **Recommendation 5.1.** The Secretariat should consider having one or more health-related result indicators in its RMF. Currently, there are no health-related indicators in place in the IRMF. An additional indicator on health outcomes needs to be developed if the GCF is to include health in the scope of its results management. In consultation with AEs (or those close to achieving accreditation) with a mandate in health (e.g. World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Children’s Fund), the GCF should find key entry points and articulate how this links with the climate change rationale.

- **Recommendation 5.2.** The Secretariat should develop a uniform approach to capturing health-related results in other adaptation and mitigation RAs. In doing so, it should align with practices across all RAs for monitoring and reporting on co-benefits.

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