



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

1. Context

As part of its Board-approved 2023 workplan, the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) is undertaking the Independent Evaluation of GCF's Approach to the Energy Sector. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, renewable energy must supply 70 to 85 per cent of all electricity by 2050 for the world to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and to keep global temperatures well below 2°C. The Governing Instrument of the GCF recognizes the urgent need for large-scale interventions within the energy sector that addresses not only CO₂ emissions but also increases the energy access of under-served people, creates jobs and bolsters economic growth. In this regard, "Energy generation and access" forms one of the eight main result areas of GCF under the overall theme of mitigation.

2. Purpose and objectives

The aim of the evaluation is to assess the relevance and effectiveness of GCF's approach to the energy sector to inform future strategy, policy or guidance and will be used to update the GCF sectoral guidance. The overall aim is to examine what is working, how and for whom, while identifying lessons learned to inform the overall performance of the GCF.

The evaluation addresses the following key questions:

- Assess the GCF's effectiveness and relevance of its approach to the energy sector, its policy framework and comparative advantage.
- Investigate the impacts and results of GCF-funded projects in the energy sector and the extent to which these have fostered a paradigm shift.
- Consider the innovativeness of GCF's approaches



in climate finance in its energy investment.

- Assess GCF's gender responsiveness to the issues of gender mainstreaming and indigenous people in its energy investment.

The IEU's energy sector evaluation team, consisting of IEU staff and external consultants, will answer these and other key questions in the evaluation report to be finalized by the end of 2023.

3. Scope

The evaluation will provide an extensive analysis of the results achieved as well as scenarios for future strategies of the GCF. It will also review evidence on the performance and likelihood of impact of GCF's energy sector approach.

4. Methods

The methods for the Energy Sector evaluation include:

- Programme and project theory analyses
- Policy and project document analyses
- Review of the literature, including from comparator organizations and peer-reviewed literature
- Benchmarking studies
- Synthesis of past evaluation reports and past case studies
- Portfolio and subportfolio 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

5. Country visits

The IEU's Energy Sector evaluation team will conduct five in-person country case studies and a regional deep dive in eastern Europe (mostly through desk review). To the extent possible the country missions will be in-person. The IEU will use the criteria to select country case studies, which include amount of energy investments, diversity of geographical coverage, projects, energy result areas, financial instrument, and AEs. The Energy Sector evaluation team will treat all comments received during country visits as confidential. The team will also release responses from country visits anonymously. After each country visit the team will circulate a report on its findings among relevant stakeholders for review and fact-checking. The team will also include an annexe on country visits in the final report. The IEU will request GCF country focal points, members of accredited entities, delivery partners, and civil society and private sector organizations to support the evaluation team in identifying suitable stakeholders for interviews and assist in making appropriate introductions.

Countries: Chile, Indonesia, Mongolia, Tonga and Zambia.

Regional deep dive: Bosnia Hercegovina, north Macedonia and Serbia.

CONTACT THE IEU

Independent Evaluation Unit
Green Climate Fund
175, Art center-daero, Yeonsu-gu
Incheon 22004
Republic of Korea

☎ (+82) 032-458-6450
✉ ieu@gcfund.org
🌐 ieu.greenclimate.fund



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