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Board Meeting highlights



July's 23rd Board Meeting (B.23) of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was a momentous event for the IEU.

The IEU submitted the Forward-looking Performance Review (FPR) of the GCF on the final day of B.23, the IEU's most far-reaching assessment of the GCF and also its most ambitious in terms of time and scope.

The aim of the FPR was to encourage learning from the experience of the GCF so far, to assess the extent to which the Fund has delivered its objectives in terms of meeting developing country climate needs, and to look forward to the future by providing recommendations for **enhancing the GCF's performance**.

The Review concluded that during its four years, the GCF has achieved a lot. Specifically, the GCF is a new functioning institution that has committed 83 per cent of its available pledged funding to finance 102 projects in 97 countries. Further, it has provided more

than 200 readiness grants. The Fund has an influential Board that gives equal voice to recipients and contributors (developing and developed countries), a Secretariat, independent learning and accountability Units, a global network of 147 national designated authorities and 84 accredited entities.

The review makes **four critical recommendations**. *First*, the GCF should strengthen its implementation and business processes (at headquarters and in-country) that are likely to better address differentiated developing country needs and capacities, with a focus on increasing the use of **direct access entities**. The focus of these changes should be to increase **speed, predictability** and **transparency** of processes. *Second*, the GCF should institute a **new strategic plan** that positions it as a thought leader and policy influencer and establishes its reputation and niche in **innovation**, and making an **impact** on country needs. *Third*, the GCF should re-emphasise its support to **adaptation investments** while

recognizing the role of new actors in mitigation. Additionally, developing countries will be well-served if the GCF strengthens the role and participation of the private sector, improves access through greater transparency and predictability of processes, and encourages innovative solutions to climate-related problems. *Lastly*, the Review recommends a greater delegation of authority to the Secretariat that emphasises **responsibility, agency** and **speed** in delivering country climate needs.

Overall, the FPR's recommendations are pragmatic, constructive, and timely as the Board considers a new strategy for the Fund.

I owe an enormous thanks to the IEU team and our experienced consultant evaluators for sharing my belief that we, together, can contribute to helping the GCF become faster, better, and smarter.

Jo Puri

Head of the Independent Evaluation Unit, Green Climate Fund

IEU's Forward-looking Performance Review receives strong support at B.23

The FPR was a frequent topic of discussion by Board members, Secretariat staff, GCF entities, civil society organisations, as well as among multilateral and bilateral agencies at the 23rd meeting of the Board.

One Board member described the FPR as “*an important analysis because it comes at the right time*”. Another Board member highlighted that “*Jo and the team have done a remarkable job within time constraints*” and that “*the content of the Review meets the expectations of what we were looking for*”.

Other specific FPR findings noted by different members of the Board included the lack of full resources dedicated to **adaptation**, the **1100 days** entities wait before receiving their first GCF dollar, and the need for a new strategy for **accreditation**.

The Board noted the FPR and the Secretariat's response and requested the Secretariat to provide a management response at B.24 in November, where

it will receive further consideration from the Board.

Further information:

[FPR Final Report](#)

[FPR Executive Summary](#)

Video: IEU's [presentation of the FPR](#) at B.23



IEU's Head Jo Puri addresses the GCF Board at B.23.

Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment builds evaluation capacity

The IEU's Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment (LORTA) is now in its second phase of measuring the level of change attributable to GCF investments and understanding who benefits and how.

In April, LORTA conducted a workshop in Mannheim, Germany, that focused on designing impact evaluations, sample calculations, the theory of change/logic model, and time and budget constraints in conducting evaluations. The LORTA team also published a 270-page synthesis for phase one 2018 that reports on LORTA's project selection process, choice of evaluation questions, lessons learned, recommendations, understanding of theories of change, survey design, sample sizes, and tracking implementation fidelity. LORTA is currently selecting the six projects it will work on in 2019, alongside seven projects continued from 2018.

Further information on LORTA is available [here](#).



LORTA design workshop in Mannheim, Germany

Assessment of the GCF's Country Ownership Approach: better understanding country needs



Farmer's boy playing in a rice paddy, Thailand.
©Somchai_Stock/Shutterstock

An important IEU evaluation in 2019 is its independent assessment of the GCF's country ownership approach (COA).

The assessment examines both the GCF's effectiveness in operationalising the concept of country ownership and how well country needs and ownership are incorporated into the design and implementation of GCF policies and practices. The assessment will review country engagement, research key documents, interview important stakeholders, undertake portfolio analyses, and conduct on-the-ground verifications. Using this data, the IEU will identify what is working, how and for whom, while identifying key bottlenecks restricting

access and commitment to the GCF guiding principle of country ownership.

The IEU will submit its final report to the Board at its 24th meeting in November 2019.

Further information: see [IEU COA Brief](#) and [IEU COA Inception Report](#)

IEU to release two evidence gap maps IEU assessment of the GCF's Environmental and Social Safeguards

Evidence Gap Maps (EGMs) are systematic collections of impact evaluations and systematic reviews on specific topics.

The IEU's first EGM examines **forest conservation** interventions in low- and middle-income countries based on evidence published over the period 2016 to mid-2018. It is an update to a similar EGM by [3ie](#), with refinements to the framework and consideration given to environmental and socio-economic outcomes.

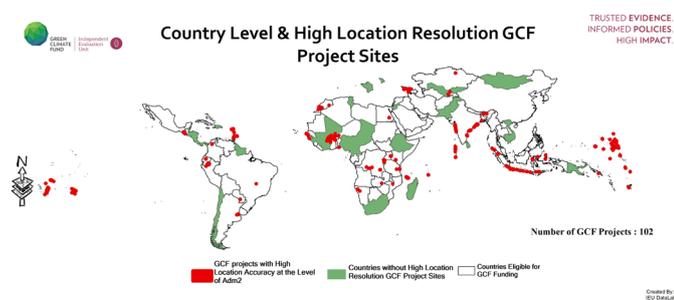
The IEU's second EGM examines **climate change adaptation** by addressing the question: What is the state of the evidence regarding the ability of adaptation interventions to help people in low to middle-income countries adapt to the impacts of climate change?

Both EGMs will be posted to the [IEU website](#) shortly.

IEU DataLab ensuring evaluations

High-quality data is essential to the IEU's efforts to rigorously measure and understand GCF impact, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. The IEU's evaluation activities in 2018 highlighted challenges in accessing reliable and useful information. While the GCF Secretariat has a lot of data in different portals, these are often not consistent or in a machine-readable format.

To remedy this, in February the IEU established the IEU DataLab. Currently staffed mostly by interns and several headquarters-based consultants, the team manually inputs and authenticates data. Authentication and verification requires the team to engage closely with the GCF Secretariat, along with other GCF stakeholders, including accredited entities and national designated authorities.



Evaluation Policy

At its nineteenth meeting, the GCF Board requested the IEU to develop the GCF's Evaluation Policy. The IEU has consulted extensively within the GCF and among its stakeholders about the policy and sought public comment. IEU's Evaluation Policy will now be considered at B.24. To learn more, visit the [IEU's Evaluation Policy](#) web page.



Kids enjoy fishing in waterfall, Thailand. ©Pra Chid/Shutterstock

Another important IEU evaluation this year is the independent assessment of the GCF's Environmental and Social Safeguards. **The assessment will examine the GCF's environmental and social management system (ESMS), comprising its environmental and social policy and a set of internationally recognised environmental and social safeguards standards.**

The IEU's assessment will report on how well the current ESMS: (i) Prevents, mitigates and manages potentially adverse environmental and social impacts of the GCF's activities, programmes and projects, (ii) Improves the environmental and social performance of the Fund and its portfolio over time, and (iii) Assists with the design and implementation of GCF projects. The inception report will be soon available on the [IEU website](#). The IEU will submit its final report to the Board at its 24th meeting in November 2019.

Two new working papers enhance IEU's capacity building roles

The IEU has added two new publications to its Working Papers series.

[IEU Working Paper No. 2](#): Complexity, climate change and evaluation

[IEU Working Paper No. 3](#): Challenges in real-world impact evaluations: Some learning on costs and timeliness

Latest Blog posts

The IEU's website features four recent blog posts, including:

- [Can a better understanding of human behaviour be the key to fighting climate change?](#)
- [Evaluation must promote sustainable development](#)
- [LORTA Workshop 2019 – Mastering the art of measuring impact](#)
- [So, you want to be an evaluator?](#)

Engagements

IEU actively engages with stakeholders in and outside of the GCF. Some recent and highly-productive engagements with partners by the IEU team over the past quarter included:

- Overseeing capacity building workshops at the African Evaluation Association Conference in Abidjan
- Presenting a keynote address at the Australasia Aid Conference in Canberra
- Presenting at the first GCF replenishment meeting in Oslo
- Visiting the College of William and Mary for GIS related work
- Conducting field missions to Indonesia, Zambia, Samoa, Peru, Paraguay, Guatemala and Sri Lanka
- Speaking at Wilton Park (UK) in an international discussion on evaluation and transboundary climate risks
- Engaging with evaluation professionals at the United Nations Evaluation Group's seminar in Nairobi
- Presenting side-events at B.23 on LORTA and ESS

August - November 2019 delights: Whats next for IEU?

- COA and ESS evaluation reports
- Evidence gap maps: Forestry and Adaptation
- LORTA Inception Report 2019
- Field mission to Kazakhstan
- GDN 2019 Conference – Bonn, Germany
- IDEAS Global Assembly – Prague, Czech Republic
- Transformations 2019 Conference – Santiago, Chile
- National Evaluation Capacities Conference – Hurgada, Egypt
- Asian Evaluation Week - Kunming, China
- American Evaluation Association Annual Conference - Minneapolis, U.S.A.

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IEU Lunch Talks receive a make-over

The IEU has upgraded its Lunch Talk page, making videos and podcasts of the IEU more accessible.

Viewers now have the opportunity to watch the full 60-minute video of the Lunch Talk through the IEU YouTube channel or watch shorter, more 'bite-size' segments of the talks.

For those who prefer to listen than watch, podcast episodes of the lunch talks are now available. IEU's most recent Lunch Talks include:

Approaching the ecosystem marketplace: Mr. Stephen Donofrio, Director, Ecosystem Marketplace & Supply Change Initiatives, Forest Trends, discusses how the ecosystem marketplace brings together diverse actors to lay the foundation for innovative policies and make a difference at the local level.

Humanitarian responses to climate change: Dr. Unni Karunakara, Shinhan Distinguished Visiting Professor of Yonsei University, examines how environmental and public health professionals can better respond to humanitarian needs resulting from climate change.

Climate finance and transboundary risk: Kevin M. Adams, Research Associate at the Stockholm Environment Institute, examines components of transboundary risk and their implications for climate finance.

Managing the health risks of climate change: Dr. Kristie Ebi, Director of the Center for Health and Global Environment at the University of Washington, discusses building climate resilient health systems.

Watch the [full-length or highlight-only videos](#), or listen to IEU's [podcasts](#).



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