



# Independent Synthesis of the GCF Accreditation Function

## 1. Context

A key component of the Independent Evaluation Unit's (IEU) 2020 Work Plan and Budget is an independent synthesis of the Green Climate Fund's accreditation function.

The GCF Governing Instrument (GI) states that GCF resources will be accessed through national, regional and international entities accredited by the Board. It also states that recipient countries will determine the mode of access, and that both public and private sector modalities may be used simultaneously.

## 2. Accreditation in the GCF

Accreditation is central to the business model of the GCF. Under the GI's provision for direct access, recipient countries nominate competent subnational, national and regional implementing entities for accreditation. Once accredited, the GCF relies on accredited entities (AEs) to submit, execute, implement, oversee due diligence and undertake risk assessment of its investments.

In the GCF Business Model, AEs are responsible for delivering finance to developing countries. AEs are also

delivery, management, implementation, supervision, and evaluation of GCF-supported projects and programmes. They must also ensure compliance with GCF standards and safeguards. The GCF Board only considers funding proposals submitted by AEs (apart from requests for proposals).

Through various decisions, the GCF Board has established an Accreditation Committee, approved the initial guiding framework for the Fund's accreditation function, taken note of a Strategy on Accreditation, and established the prioritization of entities applying for accreditation.

This synthesis will examine (i) the effectiveness of the accreditation function in supporting the objectives of the GCF's Initial Strategic Plan, and (ii) whether the accreditation function is fit-for-purpose for GCF's next strategic period.

## 3. Aims

The synthesis will be a desk study that examines existing evidence on accreditation. It will systematically and objectively synthesize key findings and make recommendations for the GCF's accreditation strategy. The study aims to:

- Collect all relevant documents produced by the GCF secretariat, IEU and external stakeholders;
- Critically assess these documents in terms of bias, relevance, and the extent to which decision making has been evidence informed;
- Produce a synthesis of the evidence that systematically consolidates knowledge and lessons learned;
- Produce communication products and submit a final report to the Board at B.26

#### 4. Methods

This desk-based study is a synthesis review of existing reviews, evaluations, and analysis prepared by the IEU and other GCF Secretariat divisions or by consultants on their behalf. Therefore, this study will use a combination of critical review and qualitative meta-analyses methods.

**Critical review:** A critical review provides an opportunity to take stock and evaluate what is of value from the previous body of work based on a pre-developed (and piloted) protocol.

Read the full approach paper!



If you have questions/comments kindly contact Dr. Archi Rastogi [arastogi@gcfund.org](mailto:arastogi@gcfund.org) or Dr. Jyotsna Puri [jpuri@gcfund.org](mailto:jpuri@gcfund.org)

#### CONTACT THE IEU:

Independent Evaluation Unit, Green Climate Fund  
 175, Art center-daero, Yeonsu-gu,  
 Incheon 22004, Republic of Korea  
 (+82) 032-458-6428  
[ieu@gcfund.org](mailto:ieu@gcfund.org)  
[ieu.greenclimate.fun](http://ieu.greenclimate.fun)



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**Qualitative systematic review:** A qualitative systematic review is a method for integrating or comparing the findings from qualitative studies.

**Critical appraisal criteria:** Using insights from systematic review methods, a critical appraisal will assess the information provided in various GCF reviews and documents. It will use the following criteria to assess them: relevance, sufficiency/completeness, reliability/risk of bias, and complementarity/coherence.

The Synthesis Study will also include interviews with members of the Accreditation Committee, Accreditation Panel, staff of GCF Secretariat, and a sample of other stakeholders.

#### 5. Output and timing

In addition to the final report presented at B.26, the Synthesis Study will produce an approach paper in February 2020, and undertake data collection and analysis between March and May 2020.