

Harnessing Research and Evaluation to Inform the Green Climate Fund

A GCF Independent Evaluation Unit Expert Workshop

DATE: November 9 to 10, 2023

VENUE: GCF offices, Songdo, South Korea

Objectives

With two performance reviews, three strategic periods, and two replenishments, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is arguably reaching maturity as an institution. There is also a corresponding proliferation of research focusing on the GCF. However, there remains an untapped opportunity to promote an exchange among and between researchers on the one hand, and strategic and evaluative work within the GCF on the other.

The Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) is convening a workshop to promote an exchange between science and policy, with a focus on climate finance and the GCF. The workshop aims to facilitate a dialogue between researchers and thought leaders on multilateral climate finance and the GCF Independent Evaluation Unit, along with its colleagues in the GCF Secretariat. The objectives of this dialogue are to:

- Understand the perspectives of the research community on GCF and climate finance, in particular on the challenges identified in the SPR and the opportunities for enhancing GCF impact under the Strategic Plan for GCF-2.
- Inform mutually beneficial research and evaluation directions for climate finance researchers and the IEU to enhance insight and inform GCF operational and strategic performance.
- Identify opportunities for the GCF and IEU to engage with a broader research community of practice on issues related to the GCF and climate finance more broadly.

Workshop Format

This workshop will be fully in-person with a mixture of short presentations by the GCF IEU and expert participants, along with group discussions. Expert participants will be asked to come prepared to discuss topics outlined in the agenda below, drawing on their own research and knowledge, but will not be expected to present their research in extended detail.

Workshop sessions will be centered around the following three overarching thematic pillars and questions:

- 1. Challenges and Opportunities for the GCF.** In the context of the SPR findings and the direction the GCF is headed under the GCF-2 strategic plan, what can your research tell us about challenges and opportunities for the GCF?
- 2. Emerging Research and the IEU.** Based on your research, what do you think the IEU should be looking at from an evaluative perspective? What future research are you considering on climate finance that could help inform future evaluations?
- 3. Bridging between IEU and the Research Community.** What are some opportunities to build a more open avenue, or even a community of practice, between IEU and the research community on the GCF and climate finance more generally?

Day 1

9:00 – 10:00 Welcome and Introductions

Opening remarks by the GCF IEU, including objectives of the workshop.

Each expert participant introduces themselves and areas of research and expertise.

10:00 – 10:45 Key Takeaways from the Second Performance Review)

Presentation: This session will provide an overview of the recently completed Second Performance Review of the GCF, with an emphasis on key findings, and lessons for the GCF's third replenishment.

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:00 Updated Strategic Plan for GCF-2

Presentation: This session will provide an overview of the USP for GCF-2 and the direction of travel for the GCF during this next period, to frame thematic discussions later in the workshop.

12:00 – 2:00 Brown Bag Lightening Learning Talks & Mid-day Coffee & Tea Reception

Brown bag learning talks & reception. Invited expert participants make lightening presentations (5-7 minutes each) on their GCF-relevant research, followed by Q&A.

All IEU and Secretariat staff will be invited to the learning talks and coffee and tea reception.

Lunch will also be provided for expert participants.

1:30 – 2:00 Break

2:00 – 3:30 Thematic Session 1: Adaptation Impact

Each of the four thematic sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to highlight their perspectives of successes and challenges faced by the GCF. Each session will begin with a short presentation from 1-2 participants on the theme, based on their research and perspectives, followed by a group discussion. In the last 10 minutes, a wrap-up discussion will focus on the implications for the research and evaluation community to support learning on this theme, as well as implications for climate finance as a discipline, feeding into a final session on this on Day 2.

3:30 – 3:45 Break

3:45 – 5:15 Thematic Session 2: Access to the GCF

5:15 – 5:30 Day 1 Wrap-up

Day 2

9:00 – 9:15 Day 1 Readout

9:15 – 10:45 Thematic Session 3: Linkages to national planning and policy

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 Thematic Session 4: Climate finance governance

12:30 – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 – 3:30 Looking Forward: GCF and a Community of Practice

Presentations and group discussion: This session will provide an opportunity for the IEU to present its available datasets and future evaluation plans and for invited participants to share thoughts on their future research ideas, with two-way feedback. IEU and invited participants will also identify evidence gaps (e.g., wishlists for one another).

More broadly, this session will explore potential opportunities for the GCF and IEU to engage with a broader community of practice on research topics related to the GCF and climate finance more generally. This could include more proactive sharing of research and data between climate finance experts and the IEU, and greater opportunities for the climate finance community to provide feedback on GCF strategy, reporting or thematic areas of interest. The discussion will also touch on climate finance as a discipline and how the IEU and research community can contribute to defining this discipline.

3:30 – 4:00 Concluding Remarks