

IEU NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2017

What has the IEU been up to?

Trusted evidence. Informed policies. Greater impact.

Dear Reader,

Welcome to IEU News, our new, regular email update on the work of GCF's Independent Evaluation Unit. IEU's mandate is to ensure that the GCF is accountable for its impacts and processes, effective and efficient. The Unit conducts independent, high quality evaluations of GCF activities to support accountability and learning. It also synthesizes learning from rigorous evaluations to ensure GCF's effectiveness and efficiency and to support evidence-based decision making.

The last few months have been an intense and busy time, and this newsletter sets out some highlights of our recent activities.

If you have any questions or clarifications, you can reach us at ieu@gcfund.org or me at jpuri@gcfund.org. You can also follow us on Twitter [@GCF_Eval](https://twitter.com/GCF_Eval) to find out about our upcoming events and evaluation-related news and publications.

Thank you for your interest in [GCF's Independent Evaluation Unit](#). I invite you to get to know the IEU better. To know more about the IEU's plans and policies please see the [TORs of the IEU](#). I also invite you to look at [approved interim plans at B.16](#) and [supplementary workplan and budget](#).

We will do our best to keep you up to date with our development, and hope to meet and work with many of you in the months ahead.

Onward and forward!



Dr. Jo Puri,
Head of IEU, Green Climate Fund



Evaluation Needs Survey and Capacity Building

One of our first tasks at IEU is to establish the evaluation needs and capacity of GCF's Accredited Entities, particularly for direct access organisations. To learn more about their needs, we conducted two training workshops and carried out a survey of direct access entities (DAEs). The results provided the IEU with the following insights:

- Most direct access entities expressed a need for training in impact evaluations (84%) and process evaluations (82%).
- The understanding of evaluations amongst representatives of DAEs is often quite basic or non-existent.

To respond to these needs, IEU is drawing up a capacity building and advisory plan. This will have the following components:

- A training video;
- Pre-conference and conference panels for stakeholders to be trained and learn from peers;
- A capacity building workshop;
- Conferences on evaluating sub-thematic areas that are relevant to the Fund (i.e. forests, mitigation, etc.);
- Embedding designs for evaluations in five projects, to generate critical lessons for results and data.

IEU Advisory group

The main role of the IEU Advisory group is to advise the Head of the IEU on technical aspects of evaluations. This will help the IEU to ensure that the IEU is at the frontier of practice and theory. The membership of the Advisory Group to the IEU Head has now been finalized and they are all leaders in the field of evaluation. The members are Rob Van den Berg (ex-GEF IEO Head), Dean Karlan (Professor of Economics, Yale University), Paul Winters (Director Strategy and Knowledge management, IFAD) and Vinod Thomas (ex-Director General ADB Independent Evaluation Group). We are looking forward to working with them!



Dean Karlan addresses the first IEU Talk Series event

IEU Talk Series

IEU has launched a series of discussion meetings at GCF's headquarters in Songdo, Republic of Korea. The meetings bring together external experts and GCF staff for brainstorming sessions and workshop sessions on topics relevant to climate change and GCF. At the first event on 30 June, Prof. Dean Karlan from Northwestern University, USA led a talk entitled 'Theory and evidence on climate change communication, mitigation and incentives'. At the second meeting, Dr. Tulika Narayan from Abt Associates, USA, talked on 'What works in incentivizing private sector to solve development problems?'. It has been exciting to see the increasing interest and excitement around these talks.

Two more talks are scheduled for September and October. Prof. Lee will talk about evaluating knowledge platforms in September! Do come if you can!



Signing of MoU with Incheon National University

External engagements & partnerships

As part of its outreach efforts, IEU has formed a number of new partnerships in recent months, including becoming an observer at UNEG (United Nations Evaluation Group) and of IDEAS (International Development Evaluation Association). IEU has also applied for membership of ECG (MDB's Evaluation Cooperation Group).

In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding between INU (Incheon National University, Republic of Korea) and IEU was signed in July 2017. The MoU will promote mutual cooperation of technical expertise, knowledge exchange, and strategic partnership around evaluation.

Jo Puri has also made presentations and speeches at a number of external events in recent months. These include presenting a seminar at Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), addressing the Africa Evaluation Association biennial event (AFREA), a keynote speech to the Community of Evaluators South Asia, Evaluation Conclave, and a keynote to the Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative (HQAI).

Preparation for the Independent Evaluation of the Readiness Programme

One of the first major evaluations to be conducted by the IEU will be of the Fund's Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme (RPSP), which enhances country ownership and prepares developing countries to engage with GCF.

Following a Board mandate, a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the independent evaluation of this programme has now been prepared. It includes background, objectives, evaluation criteria, methods, and timeline for the evaluation. IEU will proceed with a procurement process to recruit external experts and a staff as an evaluation team following approval of the ToR by the GCF Board.

After that, the three key phases of the evaluation (Inception period, Main evaluation period, and Evaluation report period) are expected to be undertaken, with the report planned for August 2018.



The IEU team

IEU setup and staffing update

A key task for the IEU head is to start building the capacity of the Unit.

The Unit has been growing, with Jihee Kim joining as team assistant staff member in June, along with two interns Yaejun Kim and Nupur Khanna. The recruitment of a further four staff positions is currently being prepared.

IEU's work is also supported by external consultants, and recently terms of reference for a number of positions have been advertised, including an Independent evaluation policy advisor, evaluability consultant, an editorial expert, and a communications consultant. Appointments are expected to be confirmed soon.



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