



GREEN
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Independent
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Unit



IEU Newsletter

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Dear IEU friends, I begin this newsletter with the sad news of the passing of

our dear colleague, Leo Paat, following a long struggle with COVID-19. All of us at the IEU will miss him. Leo was kind, excellent at his work and generous with his time.

To the many readers of the IEU newsletter, it is with mixed emotions I announce this edition will be my last. After more than three and a half years as the Head of the IEU, I am moving on to another challenge.

The decision to move was tough. I leave with a mixture of sadness and pride. It is sad because I have formed so many friendships, watched young colleagues blossom into mature professionals, developed a network of climate specialists and formed an abiding love for South Korea.

Saying farewell also fills me with pride. When I arrived in early 2017, the IEU consisted of one desk and myself. Rarely do you get the chance to build something important like the IEU from the ground up. I was privileged and daunted when the

GCF Board entrusted me with the task. Today, the office space vibrates with the voices of more than thirty IEU colleagues-who-are-friends.

Today the IEU is a critical part of the GCF ecosystem. Its evaluations and findings support the GCF's strategy and replenishment processes while ensuring the institution stands at the forefront of trusted, unbiased, high-quality evidence.

During the past three and a half years, the IEU team has delivered seven high-quality strategic evaluations. It's heartening to see the GCF Board and the Secretariat are using these evaluations and their evidence to inform its policies, programmatic and institutional strategy and day-to-day decision-making.

None of this would have been possible without the IEU dream team. Together we have worked tirelessly to build a culture of data-driven evidence and support for evidence-based strategies and policies.

I don't think it is an overstatement to say that the IEU is now seen as a leader both internally and externally, in using state of the art methods for climate programming related evidence.

The IEU's anthem of 'Trusted Evidence, Informed Policies, High Impact' has guided all our actions and our outputs.

High-quality, unbiased, independent evaluations that **speak truth and bring evidence to power** are essential for any organization keen to learn and grow. This role of strengthening both the accountability and the learning responsibilities of the IEU are especially critical in the world today and the GCF is stronger for it.

I can only be thankful to the Board, the Secretariat, the representatives from accredited entities and the colleagues from civil society and private sector organizations who recognize the need to build a function that helps the GCF become stronger, faster and better.

This is not goodbye. I will simply be in a different part of the world – the GCF and the IEU will remain with me for a long time.

Stay safe. Keep healthy. Be strong.

Dr Jyotsna Puri (Jo)

*Head of the Independent Evaluation Unit
Green Climate Fund*

IEU at B.26

Due to COVID-19-related constraints, the GCF conducted the twenty-sixth meeting of the Board (B.26) online. B.26's condensed agenda prevented the IEU from presenting and discussing its two recently completed evaluations. The shorter agenda also curtailed Board discussion of the two evaluation reports submitted at B.25. Discussion of IEU evaluations during B.26 was limited to a brief overview of their findings during Dr Puri's presentation of the IEU activity report. The report also summarized IEU's activities in advisory services, learning and capacity-strengthening; and uptake, communications, and partnerships. A recorded video of Dr Puri's presentation is available in the [Board section of the GCF website](#). This newsletter expands on the material Dr Puri presented to the Board while also summarizing other key IEU activities.

B.26 side events

The IEU hosted and recorded two virtual side events as part of B.26. The first event, featuring Dr Puri, Dr Rastogi and Mr Lars Roth, Chair of the Accreditation Committee, examined the key findings in the IEU's study of the GCF's accreditation function ([video](#)). The second event discussed the IEU's assessment of the GCF's simplified approval process (SAP) pilot scheme ([video](#)) and featured Dr Puri, Mr Demetrio Innocenti, the Secretariat's SAP manager, and

Mr Prudencio Calado from the LandBank of the Philippines, a GCF accredited entity. The IEU's success in targeting its webinars at the right stakeholders was evident, with both events attracting more than 60 active participants from various climate backgrounds.

Learning and evidence Prize for best paper

The IEU's Dr Puri and Mr Cornelius Krüger won the 'best paper' award at the Climate 2020 Conference, organized by the Research and Transfer Centre at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences. The paper, *'Going the Last Mile: Behavior Science and Investments in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation'*, argues that effective climate actions must address people's failure to change their behaviour during the 'last mile' when plans must become action. The paper is available in the '[Other IEU Publications](#)' section of the IEU microsite.

Evidence gap maps

The IEU is finalizing several evidence gap maps (EGMs) which show the presence or absence of high-quality evidence in thematic areas relevant to the IEU. The EGMs include reviews of climate change adaptation in low- and middle-income countries, private sector investment in mitigation, results-based evidence payments and transformational change in the energy and public health sectors, which will be made available on the IEU microsite's '[Evidence Reviews](#)' section.

Evidence Trees

After each evaluation, the IEU produces an evidence tree that shows how the evaluation progressed from questions to findings and

recommendations. Evidence trees assist with developing impact pathways to improve the uptake of IEU recommendations by policy makers. The IEU has produced evidence trees for the [country ownership evaluation](#), the environmental and social safeguards assessment, the [forward-looking performance review](#), the rapid [assessment of the simplified approval process](#) and the [synthesis of GCF's accreditation function](#).

Paper on impact investment and impact washing

An IEU staff paper titled *'The case for Climate Impact Investing and dealing with the accountability challenge of Impact Washing.'* will soon be published in Global Handbook of Impact Investing. Puri, J. Khan, A. Asfaw, S. (2020). 'The case for Climate Impact Investing and dealing with the accountability challenge of Impact Washing.' In the Global Handbook of Impact Investing: Solving Global Problems Via Smarter Capital Markets Towards A More Sustainable Society, Elsa De Morais Sarmento and R. Paul Herman, Wiley Publications, 2020.

Capacity building

Due to COVID-19, LORTA – the IEU's Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment programme team – will conduct its annual workshop online. The 9-week course starts in September and will consist of a series of impact measurement modules.

Several IEU colleagues recently completed a part-time, online course with Busara Centre for Behavioural Economics. Study units included the nature of behavioral science, the effect of bias on climate investments and behavioural barriers in project implementation, among others. The training enhanced the IEU's



Dr Jyotsna Puri presents the IEU's activity report at B.26

understanding of how behaviour impacts climate-related decisions.

IEU evaluations – an update

Further information about each of the IEU's evaluations discussed below is available in the IEU microsite's 'Evaluations' section. To increase the potential uptake of evaluation recommendations among decision-makers, the IEU disseminates an array of materials in various formats and mediums to suit the communication preferences of different target audiences. Some of these uptake materials include approach papers, briefs, main reports, evidence trees and videos, among others.

Assessment of the GCF's simplified approval process (SAP) pilot scheme 2020

This assessment, submitted at B.26, examines how effectively the SAP accelerates access to GCF resources. It found that the time for getting SAP approval is not significantly faster than the GCF's regular project approval processes (365 days versus 399 days).



Synthesis of GCF's accreditation function 2020

This IEU synthesis examines the GCF's accreditation function, a key element in GCF's business model. An essential function of accreditation is to ensure country-level entities can design, deliver, manage and evaluate GCF-supported activities. The report, submitted to the Board in June 2020, recommends building a *strategy* for accreditation and clarifying its key objectives; and strengthening the accreditation sub-committee and the accreditation panel, among other things.



The report, an executive summary, and videos of the evaluation's webinar and B.26 side event are

available on the 'Evaluations' section of the IEU microsite.

Evaluation of the GCF's country ownership approach 2019-2020

This evaluation examines the GCF's success in integrating country needs and ownership into the design and implementation of GCF's policies. Its key recommendations include clarifying definitions of country ownership, ensuring it becomes a requirement rather than an indication of the quality of proposals submitted to the GCF, and building the capacity of direct access entities. Videos and recorded webinars explaining the evaluation have been added to existing uptake materials in the 'Evaluations' section of the IEU microsite.



Evaluation of the GCF's environmental and social safeguards and its environmental and social management system 2019-20

The ESS review examines GCF's *interim* environmental and social safeguards. It assesses how environmental and social considerations may be used and mainstreamed optimally to assist the GCF. The evaluation recommends developing new, positive ESS standards commensurate with GCF's climate mandate, developing a policy on stakeholder engagement and fully operationalizing GCF's monitoring and accountability framework. The IEU first submitted the evaluation for consideration at B.25. However, on the advice of the Co-Chairs, discussion of the evaluation was deferred until a later meeting. [Read the report here.](#)

Evaluation of the effectiveness of GCF's investments in small island developing states 2020-21

The impact of climate change on small island developing states (SIDS) is disproportionately higher compared to their contribution to the build-up of greenhouse gases. This evaluation is assessing the relevance and effectiveness of the GCF's portfolio of investments in SIDS. The evaluation's key questions include, among others: is the GCF business model appropriate for the specific needs and urgency of climate action in SIDS? And do GCF

investments in SIDS cater to the high potential for transformation within these economies? Recent activities by the evaluation team include interviewing SIDS representatives, preparing an [introductory brief in English](#) and [French](#), an [inception report](#), and conducting a [video-recorded webinar](#) with key stakeholders. The IEU will submit the final report to the Board in late 2020 or early 2021.

Evaluation of the GCF's adaptation-related investments 2020-21

To be delivered at B.28, this evaluation looks at how the GCF can contribute to a paradigm shift in adaptation. It examines where the GCF can be a leader in adaptation finance and its ability to meet its objectives in adaptation finance. It also looks at how effectively GCF responds to global and national adaptation needs in pursuing relevant, innovative strategies and policies for adaptation. A [short brief, video](#) and the evaluation's [approach paper](#) are available in the '[Evaluations](#)' section of the IEU microsite.

Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment programme – LORTA 2020

LORTA currently embeds real-time impact evaluations in 13 GCF funded projects to help task managers better access accurate data on the effectiveness of project implementation and the likelihood of project impact. A recent and important LORTA activity was its partnership with Conservation International to produce the Sustainable Landscapes in Eastern Madagascar Baseline Household Survey Report. Another key activity was the production of [several videos of the 2019 LORTA workshop](#) in Mannheim. Available on the IEU microsite, the videos' topics include engaging the private sector, understanding human behaviour and becoming faster, smarter and better. The team also published its [Synthesis Report of LORTA's 2019 Projects](#).

Communications and uptake expanding

The IEU's communications and uptake workstream has been active since its March Newsletter. It has increased its [profile in traditional yet influential media](#) such as newspapers. For example, six of the eight blogs written for the IEU microsite in this period appeared in the opinion pages of The Korea Herald and Korea Times and digital outlets such as [Live Mint.com](#). The IEU blogs were also published on [Medium](#). News articles featuring the IEU were published, including a [Korea Herald interview with Dr Jo Puri](#). Another new initiative is the IEU's

podcast series called '[The Evaluator](#),' with the first episode featuring Dr Unni Karunakara discussing the impact of COVID-19 on developing countries. With COVID-19 preventing the IEU from holding its well-attended monthly lunch talks inside the G-Tower, the IEU switched to virtual talks. Presented by experts in their field, and recorded on video, the virtual talks have attracted more than 600 participants from around the world. Topics have included "[COVID-19 in focus](#)," presented by Dr Unni Karunakara; "[Climate change and biodiversity-related action in North Korea](#)," presented by Mr Doug Watkins and Dr Bernhard Seliger; "[Looking at the Global Water Cycle](#)," presented by Dr Ania Grobicki, and "[Wildmeat, health, climate and environment](#)," presented by Dr Robert Nasi. The IEU's efforts to boost its global reach in engaging with stakeholders has been significantly enhanced by publishing evaluations and reader-friendly briefs in French, Spanish and Arabic.

The IEU's new podcast series, The Evaluator, is available



LISTEN TO IEU'S NEW PODCAST: '[The Evaluator](#)'

Episode 2: Behavioural Science and Climate Change

from the [IEU microsite](#), [Spotify](#), [Google podcasts](#), [RadioPublic](#) and [Breaker](#). [Tweet us](#) using [#TheEvaluator](#).

The IEU's new partners

The IEU continues to engage actively with partners and climate finance stakeholders. In recent months, new formal partnerships have been formed with the [University of Warwick](#), the [Busara Center for Behavioral Economics](#), [Seoul National University](#) and [WOCAN](#) (Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management). The IEU also presented the results from its joint work with [DEval](#) (German Institute for Development Evaluation) on the Evidence Gap Map on Climate Change Adaptation at the [Asian Evaluation Week](#).

Looking ahead

The IEU looks forward to a productive second half of 2020 and beyond. It has drafted a new work plan and budget for both 2021 and its rolling three-year plan. In 2021, IEU will conduct four evaluations and launch the Second Performance Review of the GCF, following on from the seminal first review in 2019. The IEU will continue to build on its key pillars of evaluations; advisory services, learning and capacity strengthening; and uptake, communications, and partnerships.