



GREEN
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Independent
Evaluation
Unit



IEU Newsletter

Issue 6
January - March 2019

Faster, Better, Smarter



It's exciting to start this year's quarterly newsletter on a positive note: At the February Green Climate Fund

(GCF) Board Meeting (B.22), the IEU presented its first two evaluations. This is a significant milestone in the IEU's still nascent history.

The Board endorsed both evaluations, and their findings were the subject of a lot of discussion in and around B.22.

The IEU's evaluation of the GCF's **Readiness and Preparatory Support Program (RPSP)** was endorsed by the Board and used by the Secretariat to design and plan its new Readiness v2.0 strategy. The RPSP evaluation raised key questions about the now almost \$300 million RPSP programme that the Secretariat aims to answer in its new strategy. These questions include: What does the Readiness program get countries ready for? How will we know countries are ready? And, when are countries ready?

Referring to the IEU's evaluation, the Board asked the Secretariat to focus the RPSP's strategy on getting countries 'GCF-ready'.

The IEU's review of the GCF's **Results Management Framework (RMF)** reached similar fundamental conclusions. It found that the GCF lacks an effective results management system, and this is because implementation of the GCF's results framework faces many challenges. Accordingly, the Board requested the Secretariat to present a work plan at B.23 that operationalizes the IEU's recommendations.

The success of these evaluations is testimony both to the hard, detail-oriented work of my colleagues, and their commitment to producing high quality, useful evaluations. Indeed, delivering these evaluations has taken vision, planning and many long hours.

These evaluations had two main features. First, both evaluations were data-rich: The IEU's **DataLab** made its debut with these evaluations and the team worked tirelessly to quantitatively analyze the GCF's portfolio and processes. Second, the IEU team engaged deeply with the Secretariat, the Board, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the GCF space in general. **Engagement** takes time, and we are thankful to our GCF and external colleagues for providing input without jeopardizing

the independence of the IEU's evaluations.

The response to the two evaluations is a huge endorsement of the GCF's dedication to learning.

Overall, the two evaluations were undertaken in a short period but were nevertheless rigorous. The IEU is committed to doing things differently so that the GCF can be faster, better, smarter.

Cheers,

Dr. Jyotsna Puri (Jo)

Head of the Independent Evaluation Unit, Green Climate Fund

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IEU's RPSP Evaluation: An Update

At B.22, IEU's Head, Jo Puri, [presented](#) the findings of the IEU's 'Independent Evaluation of the GCF's Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme' (RPSP). The IEU recommended rethinking RPSP's overall strategy, focusing on meeting country needs better, and getting countries ready to partner with the GCF. The Board requested the GCF Secretariat to adopt the IEU findings and present an update before 2020. Pa Ousman Jarju, Director of the

Division of Country Programming (DCP), committed the Secretariat to implementing all recommendations. As a result, the Board approved DCP's request for an [additional \\$122 million for its new strategy](#).

Further information:
[Board Decision GCF/B22/03](#) endorsing the independent evaluation of the

GCF's RPSP
Video: [Presentation of the IEU RPSP Evaluation](#) at B.22
Video: [IEU internal discussion](#) of the independent evaluation of the GCF's RPSP



IEU's Head Jo Puri addresses the GCF Board at B.22.

IEU's RMF Review: An Update

At the B.22 [presentation](#) of the IEU's 'Review of the GCF's Results Management Framework' (RMF), Jo



IEU's RMF team working with Viet Nam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

noted the GCF's marginal use of the RMF and GCF's lack of a coherent results management system. Considering the GCF's focus on demonstration and implementation, this is a potential reputational risk. The IEU Review noted a lack of clarity surrounding the roles within the Secretariat, a lack of guidance and protocols for entities, and a lack of procedures regarding indicators included in the RMF. Accordingly, the Board requested the Secretariat to present an updated framework. It also supported the IEU's recommendation that the Secretariat provide guidance to entities to ensure that data collection and

assessments are included in project budgets. The [Secretariat agreed](#) with the majority of the review's findings, saying it will "incorporate actions and budget pertaining to the key summary recommendations that emerged from the IEU review".

Further information:
[Board Decision GCF/B.22/07](#) endorsing the independent review of the GCF's RMF
Video: [Presentation of the IEU RMF Review](#) at B.22
Video: [IEU internal discussion](#) of the independent review of the GCF's RMF

Performance Review of the GCF: An Update

At B.21, the Board requested the IEU to undertake an independent performance review of the GCF. In February, the IEU published its [approach paper](#) for the forward-looking Performance Review (PR). This key document includes information on the PR's:

- Objectives and purpose
- Proposed report structure
- Key stakeholders

- Methodologies, tools and tasks
 - Work plan and deliverables
- The PR team is visiting 12 countries in March and April to engage with representatives from national designated authorities, accredited entities, executing agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia. The IEU team piloted its instruments and tools in Mauritius.

The IEU will submit the final report to the Board at the end of June.

The PR country missions include visits to:

Mauritius	Mongolia
Solomon Islands	Grenada
Namibia	Senegal
Guatemala	Ecuador
Georgia	Bangladesh
Egypt	Rwanda

Assessment of the GCF's Country Ownership Approach: An Update

As part of its 2019 work plan, the IEU is examining the GCF's approach to incorporating country needs and ownership in the Fund's policies and practices. The assessment of the GCF's Country Ownership Approach (COA) includes country engagement and on-the-ground assessment of what is working, how and for whom. A forthcoming inception report will provide details on the:

- Purpose and scope of the evaluation
- Existing evidence on country ownership
- Methodological approach
- Work plan and key deliverables

During April and May, the COA Assessment team will conduct evaluations in Uganda, Morocco, Fiji, Colombia and Indonesia. The final report will be released in October 2019.

IEU Lunch Talks

The IEU organized [Lunch Talks in January and March](#). In January, Elena Kulinskaya, Professor in Statistics at the University of East Anglia, delivered a presentation titled 'Temporal trends in effect sizes: causes, detection and policy implications'. Professor Kulinskaya discussed temporal changes in cumulative evidence and the importance of separating spurious from real changes.

In March, Juan Chang, the GCF's Principal Specialist in Forests and Land Use, explained the basics of REDD+, and discussed its importance to the GCF's mission. Juan highlighted the significance of the Board's approval of the first REDD+ results-based payments for both the GCF and the UNFCCC.



Juan Chang delivers the IEU Lunch Talk in March, 2019.

IEU's Environmental and Social Safeguards Assessment: An Update

In 2019, the IEU is assessing the GCF's Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) and its Management System (ESMS). The IEU's assessment examines the effectiveness of current social and environmental safeguards in preventing and mitigating key risks for the Fund. Focusing on Least Developed Countries, African countries and Small Island Developing States, the assessment addresses how to best mainstream environmental and social considerations in the Secretariat's work.



Rainforest in Borneo, Malaysia, is destroyed to make way for oil palm plantations. ©Rich Carey/Shutterstock

Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment: An Update

The IEU's multi-year Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment ([LORTA](#)) programme has been operating for 12 months. A LORTA synthesis report has been published on the IEU website that includes the following:

- LORTA's phases, including its formative work
- Selection criteria for projects participating in LORTA
- Engagement with project teams and key stakeholders
- Field mission reports
- Summaries of questions, designs and timelines
- Country updates
- Lessons learned and recommendations

IEU in the news

The IEU has appeared in several media stories in 2019:

[Today.NG](#): Nigeria to get GCF's \$100 million solar scheme aid. 5 March 2019

[IISD](#): GCF Board Paves Way for the Fund's First Replenishment. 5 March 2019

[GCF Press Release](#): GCF Board meeting sets the stage for successful replenishment. 28 February 2019

[Zambia News Diggers](#): Climate change has cost Zambia US\$4 billion - UNDP. 15 February 2019

[Global Development Network](#): Interview with Jo Puri on using insights from behavioural economics to save the planet. 16 January 2019

IEU's participation in events

Australasia Aid Conference, Canberra, Australia: Head of the IEU, Jo Puri, was invited to participate in a keynote panel on 'Making Evaluation Influential: Evaluation Knowledge for Development Effectiveness'. Jo and other leading global evaluators discussed the critical role of evaluation in improving development quality and effectiveness.

The African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) 9th International Conference, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. IEU's Principal Evaluation Officer, Dr. Solomon Asfaw, facilitated a workshop titled 'Doing Impact Evaluation for Real-world Projects and Programmes: Learning and Measurement' and presented several IEU learning papers. IEU's Evaluation Associate Consultant, Peter Mwandri, also participated and made a presentation on 'Geospatial Data for Evaluation'. The workshop and presentation provided programme managers, project team members and advanced students with information on building theories of change, defining evaluation questions and selecting appropriate methods.



IEU's Dr. Solomon Asfaw and Peter Mwandri meet AfrEA's President, Adeline Sibanda.

Wilton Park's workshop on Transboundary climate risks, West Sussex, UK: Andreas Reumann, IEU's Principal Evaluation Officer, attended on behalf of IEU Head, Jo Puri. The seminar examined how policy responses to risks posed by climate change are formulated largely at the national level, despite the transnational nature of many ecosystems and communities.

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Latest publications

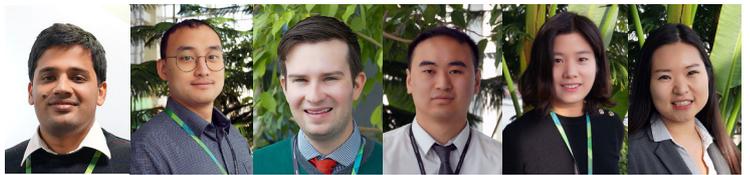
The IEU's website features more than 20 recent blogs, articles and publications, including:

- Blog by Timothy Cha: [Co-creating an evaluation design: Insights from the field](#)
- Blog by Professor Nathan Fiala: [Why learning is critical for climate change investments](#)
- Video: [Building good Theories of Change](#)
- Working Paper No. 1, 2019: [Becoming bigger, better, smarter: A summary of the evaluability of the Green Climate Fund proposals](#)

New IEU staff

The IEU team has grown in recent months. New team members include (*from left to right*):

- Aemal Khan, Evaluation Assistant Consultant
- Byungsuk Lee, Data Assistant
- Courtland Matthews, Communications and Uptake Associate
- David Huang, Evaluation Researcher - Data
- Nayeon Kim, Data Analysis and GIS Assistant
- Viktoria Khan, LORTA Assistant



Coming up

The IEU will organize or participate in several upcoming events, including:

- IEU Lunch Talk: Kevin Adams, Stockholm Environment Institute, April 30, Songdo, Korea
- IEU and Division of External Affairs Lunch Talk: Dr. Unni Karunakara, Distinguished Professor, Yale University, May 30, Songdo, Korea
- Country ownership evaluation country missions to Uganda, Morocco, Fiji, Indonesia, Colombia.



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