



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

Independent
Evaluation
Unit

IEU Newsletter



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Collaboration is key

Basketball superstar, Michael Jordan, once said, "Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships." Sure, he was talking about basketball, but the statement also holds true for achieving 'championship' evaluations.

You cannot evaluate on your own. No matter how good you are. An evaluator is only as good as the people she is collaborating with.

That is why the IEU places so much emphasis on building a strong foundation of trust and collaboration.

The IEU and the GCF Secretariat have worked closely to strengthen clauses related to evaluation and ensuring they are included in all Accreditation Master Agreements.

In March, the IEU signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

We also signed partnership agreements with agencies

such as the Global Development Network and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

These agreements see partners share information and develop joint knowledge products related to climate action evaluation.

As nearly all this edition's articles indicate, partnership and collaboration have become increasingly important as the IEU rolls out more evaluations and starts working with other organizations. Michael Jordan might call that a 'win-win'.

Onward and upward!

Dr. Jyotsna Puri (Jo)
Head, Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU), Green Climate Fund



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The GCF's Evaluation Policy: An Update

The IEU has been working with an array of partners in developing the GCF's evaluation policy, as requested at the nineteenth meeting of the Board. To ensure the new policy reflects state-of-the-art practice and is well supported, the IEU has been conducting a variety of consultations.

IEU has consulted members of Civil Society Organizations, Board members and GCF staff.

Using phone interviews, face-to-face meetings and webinars, the

IEU has reached out to its global stakeholders asking:

- What do you expect to see in an evaluation policy at the GCF?
- Do you have any good practices you would like to recommend?
- How can the policy be best designed to help the GCF achieve its objectives and deliver to its member countries?

We also asked questions during focus group discussions and consultations with National Designated Authorities and Accredited Entities



at the GCF Structured Dialogues in Mali and Viet Nam.

The Evaluation Policy approach paper summary can be seen on the IEU's website.

Evaluating the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme



"The purpose of the evaluation is to inform the Board about the three-year old programme, in particular RPSP's effectiveness, efficiency, likelihood of impact and its sustainability"

Mr. Joseph Mutunga
Evaluation Associate Consultant,
IEU

The Independent Evaluation Unit is being supported by the Universal Management Group to conduct an evaluation of the GCF's Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme (RPSP).

The Readiness programme is a funding facility that aims to enhance country ownership and access to the Fund. It provides resources for strengthening the institutional capacities of National Designated Authorities (NDAs), focal points and Direct Access Entities (DAEs) to efficiently engage with the Fund.

According to the IEU's Evaluation Associate Consultant, Mr. Joseph Mutunga, "The purpose of the evaluation is to inform the Board about the three-year old programme, in particular RPSP's effectiveness,

efficiency, likelihood of impact and its sustainability."

The key objectives of the evaluation are to:

- Assess the effectiveness of the RPSP and the extent to which RPSP processes are fulfilling its intended objectives, and the objectives of country ownership.*
- Review approaches in the implementation of the RPSP with a view to making recommendations for improved alignment with the objectives of the RPSP; and recommend gains in effectiveness, efficiency, country ownership and sustained impact.*

RPSP evaluation activities have included IEU and Universal Management attending GCF's second

Empowering Direct Access workshop, held late May in Songdo.

The event provided a perfect opportunity to interact with entities and learn of their experiences and expectations in dealing with the RPSP. It was also an opportunity to conduct training in measuring impacts and building good theories of change.

Similar RPSP-related evaluation activities will continue through June and July, with meetings scheduled for Mongolia (currently underway), Vanuatu and Senegal, among others.

The IEU will provide regular updates about the report on the IEU website.



Farmers harvesting tea leaves. Yen Bai, Vietnam. ©Hanoi Photography

LORTA: Request for Proposals

The IEU has issued a Request for Proposals for the provision of consultancy services to support IEU's LORTA or Learning-Oriented Real-time Impact Assessment. It is an exciting opportunity for projects and managers to learn from their programmes in real time and measure their results and outcomes rigorously.

LORTA embeds real-time evaluations into funded activities to provide GCF programme managers high-quality data on implementation and the likelihood of impacts. It also builds state-of-the-art designs into approved GCF projects. These designs use theory-based counterfactuals to measure the causal changes that can be attributed to GCF projects.

IEU Blog: Why waste precious resources on evaluation?

In her provocative blog on the usefulness of evaluations, Dr. Jo Puri asserts that evaluations will not be a waste of resources if they meet certain criteria. These include undertaking evaluation independently, doing formative evaluations that are able to identify weakest links and building measurements and impact evaluations at the start of a project. All these can make project managers learn. These and other issues are the subject of Jo's blog, now on the front page of the IEU website.



Is independence important? A debate at UNEG's Evaluation Week

'Independence is not the most important thing in evaluations'. This was the motion before the house in a stimulating debate hosted by the IEU for this year's United Nations Evaluation Group's Evaluation Week.



Artist's impression of IEU's 1st session discussions. ©UNEG 2018

The Oxford-style debate was chaired by IEU Head, Jo Puri, and included representatives from UNDP Evaluation, UN Environment and WFP. The experts split into two teams and debated whether independence remains relevant today. IEU convened a second event during the

week that looked at 'Emerging principles and lessons learned for the development of organizational evaluation policies.'

Chaired and moderated by IEU, FAO, the UN's Joint Inspection Unit and Tesoro, the discussion included representatives from a range of multilateral agencies. Visit the IEU website for articles and videos about IEU at UNEG Evaluation Week.



Artist's impression of IEU's 2nd session discussions. ©UNEG 2018

IEU Lunch Talks are popular!



Mr. Drazen Kucan
Senior Urban Development
and Energy Efficiency Specialist,
GCF Secretariat

"Cities generate nearly 70% of total global GHG emissions, yet none of the world's 50 biggest cities meet international air pollution standards"

The IEU Lunch Talks continue to attract large and interested audiences. In March, Mr. Drazen Kucan, GCF's Senior Urban Development and Energy Efficiency Specialist, addressed the question 'Can Cities be Climate Neutral Engines of Growth?'. According to Drazen, cities generate nearly 70% of total global GHG emissions, yet none of the world's 50 biggest cities meet international air pollution standards. Drazen, however, believes it is possible for cities to decouple their GDP growth from further carbonization.

In April, Dr. David Molden, Director General of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) delivered a presentation on 'Climate+Change in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH)', an area with immense human and biological diversity shared by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan, and which is under threat from climate change. Building resilience to climate change will require the co-creation of innovation among communities, gender, civil society, governments and the private sector.



ICIMOD's Dr. David Molden speaks at IEU's Lunch Talk. ©IEU



UNISDR-IEU joint seminar with two international consultants, Stephanie and Joanne. ©UNISDR

In May, Ms. Stephanie Hodge, a Senior Technical Advisor and Evaluator in Early Recovery, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), and Ms. Joanne Burke, a Senior Consultant in capacity development for reducing disaster risk and building sustainable development, presented a seminar titled 'How can capacity development in DRR and CCA be evaluated?' The event was jointly supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the IEU.

Videos of the talks are available on the IEU's YouTube Channel.

IEU Team Expands

One of the IEU's key goals for 2018 is to build and strengthen the Unit.

The IEU is well on the way to achieving that following the recent appointment of four new team members. The new people to join our culturally diverse team of professionals include:

- **Roberto La Rovere:** IEU's Evaluation Advisor
- **Andreas Reumann:** IEU's Principal Evaluation Officer for Synthesis, Uptake and Communication
- **Solomon Asfaw:** IEU's Principal Evaluation Officer for Impact Evaluations, Data Systems, Methods Advice and Capacity Support; and
- **Giang Pham:** IEU's Assistant Communications and Outreach Intern



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