



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

Meeting of the Board
10 – 12 March 2020
Geneva, Switzerland
Provisional agenda item 6

GCF/B.25/Inf.01

18 February 2020

Report on the activities of the Information Appeals Panel

Summary

This report provides an update on the activities of the Information Appeals Panel (IAP) constituted under the GCF Information Disclosure Policy (decisions B.12/35 and B.BM2018/05). The reporting period is from 1 October 2019 to 31 January 2020.

I. Introduction

1. The Information Appeals Panel (IAP) is constituted under paragraph 28 of the GCF Information Disclosure Policy (IDP) (decision B.12/35) and subsequent Board decision B.BM-2018/05 of 6 April 2018. The IAP entertains and decides appeals filed under the IDP of the GCF with regard to decisions made by the GCF Secretariat on information requests.
2. This report on the activities of the IAP covers the period from 1 October 2019 to 31 January 2020.

II. IAP Chairperson

3. Paragraph 28 of the IDP states that the “IAP Chair will be selected from amongst, and by, the IAP members”. The three members of the IAP are the Heads of the Independent Integrity Unit (IIU), the Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM), and the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) of the GCF.
4. As decided by the IAP Members, the Chair of the IAP shall rotate amongst them following a fixed annual term. The Head of the IIU assumed office on 4 June 2019 until 3 June 2020.
5. The Registrar and Case Officer of the IRM remains in the capacity of the Administrator to the IAP, which position involves managing the processing of information appeals via the IRM’s Case Management System.

III. Information Appeals

6. The IAP did not receive any appeals on information requests during the reporting period.
7. In relation to the IAP’s decision on its first appeal dated 19 November 2018, the IAP has engaged with the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) on the implementation of this decision. While the IAP and OGC have differing views¹ on the applicability of the IDP’s 120-day disclosure period for environmental and social reports in Category A and Category I-1 programmes to multilateral development banks (MDBs), OGC has advised that GCF-accredited MDBs are complying with the IAP’s decision of 19 November 2018. This issue is accordingly no longer a concern for the IAP.

IV. Case Management System

8. The custom-built Case Management System (CMS), which the IRM developed to incorporate IAP appeals, became fully operational at the end of July 2019. The Registrar of the IRM is designated as its System Administrator. On the public reporting side, IAP appeal information and decisions will continue to be housed on the GCF website: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/about/disclosure/appeals>.

¹ In short, OGC is of the view that certain MDBs can operate under an exemption given by the GCF Board and can accordingly comply with their own policies which in most cases require a 60-day disclosure period. The IAP however ruled in its appeal decision dated 19 November 2018 that the 120-day disclosure period in the IDP applies to all Accredited Entities with regard to the disclosure of documents to the GCF Board and Accredited Observers.