



**GREEN  
CLIMATE  
FUND**

**Meeting of the Board**  
9 – 13 November 2020  
Virtual meeting  
Provisional agenda item 7

**GCF/B.27/Inf.13**

2 November 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.BM-2018/05). The reporting period is from 1 July 2020 to 30 September 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 July 2020 to 30 September 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 held office from 4 June 2019 until 3 June 2020 and the Head of the IEU assumed office on 4 June 2020 until 3 June 2021.
5. The current Head of the IEU’s last day of office at the GCF is 8 November 2020. The advice of General Counsel has been sought on the status of the IAP after this date if no interim or replacement Head of IEU is appointed by the Board by then.
6. The Registrar and Case Officer of the IRM remains in the capacity of Secretary to the IAP, which position involves managing the processing of information appeals via the IRM’s Case Management System.

## III. Information Appeals

7. The IAP received one appeal during the reporting period on 14 August 2020. The information appeal was filed by an Alternate CSO Active Observer of the GCF with regard to an “indicative list of which [funding] proposals may be submitted to the iTAP [independent Technical Advisory Panel] prior to these upcoming [Board] meetings [B.26 and B.27].” The Appellant further elaborated on the information sought, by stating that she “would anticipate that this indicative list to be shared with us would include, at minimum, the current funding proposal title, country/ies involved in the proposal, the accredited entity, the email address of the contact person at the accredited entity as well as the GCF, and the anticipated Board meeting (B.26 & B.27) it will be proposed. Appreciated information, to the extent that this is already available at the time of disclosure, would be the suite of information included in A.1 of the funding proposal, the brief project/programme information.”
8. The IAP, having processed the appeal in line with the Information Appeal Guidelines adopted by the IAP on 16 October 2018, made its decision on 22 September 2020.<sup>1</sup> The IAP concluded that:
  - (a) The exceptions referenced by the GCF Secretariat do not apply to the limited, basic information requested by the Appellant;

---

<sup>1</sup> The decision is available on the GCF website at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/iap-decision-idp2020c002-22-september-2020-publication.pdf>

- (b) Paragraphs 16 and 17 of the IDP do not impose a restriction on the earlier disclosure of basic project information; and that
- (c) An interpretation of the IDP that restricts access to the information requested would render nugatory the GCF's policy goals of early stakeholder engagement in GCF activities, including the development of measures to mitigate, manage and monitor environmental and social risks and impacts.
9. The IAP recommended that the limited information requested (other than the email addresses of the contact persons at the Accredited Entities and GCF, which has already been provided to the Appellant by the Secretariat) be disclosed without any further delay.
10. In accordance with paragraphs 32 and 33 of the IDP, the IAP's decision is in the format of a recommendation to the Executive Director, and the ultimate decision on whether or not to release the information requested rests with the Executive Director. The IAP has communicated its decision to both the Appellant and to the Executive Director. As at the date of this report, the IAP has not been informed of the Executive Director's final decision on whether to release the information as recommended by the IAP.
11. In its decision, the IAP further recommended that the categories of information requested by the Appellant in relation to B.26 and B.27 and other relevant and publicly disclosable information be routinely and proactively made available by the GCF Secretariat at the earliest stage possible for all funding proposals, and the IAP encouraged the GCF Secretariat to develop an appropriate public platform whereby this information can be routinely disclosed. In the IAP's view, such proactive disclosure would serve the purposes of Principle 1 of the IDP and enable early stakeholder and community engagement on funding projects and programmes of the GCF and allow them, if adversely affected to access the Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) for early problem solving and if need be, compliance review. Early stakeholder and community engagement will also fulfill the policy goals of the GCF's environmental and social safeguards regime and ensure it remains accountable to such policies.
12. The IAP looks forward to a decision from the Executive Director on this broader recommendation for proactive disclosure of basic project information at the earliest stage possible for all funding proposals.
-