



**GREEN  
CLIMATE  
FUND**

**Meeting of the Board**  
4 – 7 October 2021  
Virtual meeting  
Provisional agenda item 6

**GCF/B.30/Inf.08/Add.02**

1 October 2021

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# Reports from committees, panels and groups of the Board of the Green Climate Fund – Addendum II

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## **Summary**

This document contains the reports on activities that have already conducted or are planned to be undertaken by the following committees and panels of the Board of the Green Climate Fund during the reporting period from 1 May 2021 to 31 August 2021:

- (a) Independent Technical Advisory Panel

## I. Introduction

1. This report covers the reporting period of 1 May 2020 to 31 August 2021, and also indicates activities planned to be carried out by the committees and panels of the Board of the GCF in advance of its thirtieth meeting (“B.30”).

## II. Report on activities of the independent Technical Advisory Panel

### 2.1 Activities during the reporting period

#### 2.1.1. Review of funding proposals

2. During the reporting period, the independent Technical Advisory Panel (iTAP) continued to assess funding proposals and conduct its assessments based on the initial investment framework and guidelines provided through various decisions of the Board since the adoption of the initial investment framework in decision B.07/06.

3. The iTAP started to review funding proposals under the Board’s newly adopted operational modality for conducting reviews on a rolling basis, as approved by the Board at its twenty-eighth meeting (B.28). Under the rolling review modality, the iTAP must receive from the Secretariat advance notification of funding proposals that will be arriving for assessment. The indicative time for the advance notification from the Secretariat is one month before the submission of funding proposals for assessment. This one-month advance notice should allow the members of the independent TAP, who work part-time for GCF, to block time in their schedules aside from their various other commitments and activities to assess these funding proposals. For the thirtieth meeting of the Board (B.30), the iTAP received three advance notifications, on 7 May, 7 June and 21 June 2021. After receiving each notification, the iTAP allocated the funding proposals among members, creating review teams for each funding proposal.

4. In the 7 May advance notification, the Secretariat informed the independent TAP that six funding proposals (four from the public sector and two from the private sector) would arrive for review on 7 June. Members of the iTAP blocked five weeks of their time to review their allocated funding proposals. However, on 7 June the Secretariat submitted only two of the six funding proposals scheduled, leaving iTAP members without assessment activity for which they had set aside time. The two funding proposals received were assessed by the iTAP and were not endorsed in this round of assessments.

5. In the 7 June advance notification, the iTAP received a list of 10 funding proposals (eight from the public sector and two from the private sector). Again, following the protocol for conducting reviews on a rolling basis, all iTAP members blocked five weeks of their time to review those 10 funding proposals. However, the Secretariat did not submit any funding proposals on 7 July, again leaving the iTAP members without any assessment activity for which they had set aside time. Of those 10 funding proposals, nine were in a batch deferred to 21 July and one was deferred to the thirty-first meeting of the Board (B.31).

6. In the advance notification of 21 June, the iTAP received a list of 14 funding proposals (10 from the public sector and four from the private sector). On 21 July the Secretariat submitted all 14 funding proposals for iTAP assessments as scheduled.

7. The iTAP proceeded to assess all 14 of the funding proposals that were submitted to it on 21 July. In carrying out these assessments, the iTAP continued to engage with the accredited entities (AEs). This was done by sending written questions and receiving written responses, as

well as through conference calls to present the iTAP's opinions and to discuss possible conditions and recommendations, ending with discussions with the Secretariat's Office of the General Counsel, task teams and editors to finalize the assessments.

8. On 30 August 2021, the iTAP concluded its assessment reports and submitted them for editing. Of the 14 funding proposals assessed in the last round, the iTAP endorsed 13 of them for consideration at B.30. One funding proposal was not endorsed.

9. The iTAP missed the deadline imposed by the new rolling review modality for three of the 14 funding proposals submitted for assessment on 21 July. This was the first time the deadline was missed since the iTAP started assessing funding proposals back at the eleventh meeting of the Board (B.11) (with more than 200 funding proposals assessed since B.11). The delay is attributable to two main causes:

(a) Under the new rolling review modality, the iTAP has almost two weeks less to do the assessment; and

(b) The Secretariat missing the deadline to submit funding proposals for review in the earlier round of notifications created a logjam effect at the last possible moment.

10. The "rolling basis" mode of operations envisages a shortened review time based on the assumption that fewer funding proposals would be received at the last possible moment. As this did not happen, it instead created a logjam combined with a shorter assessment time, meaning that all but two of the funding proposals submitted were seen for the first time by the iTAP on the last submission date of 21 July. So rather than having reviews on a "rolling basis", as mandated by the Board's decision, the funding proposals were received almost exactly like they would have been in the old batch mode of operation, but with less time to review them.

11. Because of global travel restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, all iTAP meetings took place online. During these rolling basis assessments, the iTAP had online meetings for 15 days, in which all iTAP members, the Secretariat, and AEs participated. In addition, the iTAP members had numerous online side meetings among themselves or with the Secretariat to discuss specific funding proposals. The virtual mode, used since B.26 assessments, while limiting the discussions due to time zone differences, did not have a major impact on the iTAP's operations.

#### **2.1.2. Policy developments**

12. The iTAP had two meetings with the Secretariat's simplified approval process (SAP) team to provide inputs to and feedback on the SAP toolkit which the SAP team is currently developing. Furthermore, the iTAP also had meetings with the sector team of the Secretariat and provided contributions on the policy papers on programmatic approaches.

13. The iTAP members continued to participate in meetings with GCF's Climate Science Lead, assisting in the development of a climate rationale policy document.

#### **2.1.3. Capacity enhancement**

14. The iTAP is in the final stage of expanding its Roster of Experts by recruiting additional international consultants in areas such as REDD+, forestry, land use, transportation, infrastructure, fisheries and coastal zones. These additional consultants will be needed by the iTAP given the shorter time frame allocated for assessments.

15. The iTAP has continued its discussions with the Secretariat's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) team to establish an operational platform where the iTAP will be able to store all of its assessments and interactions with the Secretariat and AEs to enhance consistency and efficiency in its operations. The platform will also enable the iTAP to prepare and share draft assessments online. The iTAP has provided its full support to the ICT team,

which is developing the platform, and the iTAP will be able to use the platform for its activities for B.31 and beyond.

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