



**GREEN
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FUND**

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Report on the activities of the Independent Redress Mechanism

Summary

This report provides an update on the progress made with regard to the activities of the Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM). The reporting period is from 1 January 2026 to 30 April 2026. The document summarises the activities of the IRM based on the work programme and budget of the IRM for 2026 adopted by the Board at its forty-third meeting.

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I. Introduction

1.1 Background and mandate

1. The Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) is mandated in paragraph 69 of GCF's Governing Instrument. The IRM forms an integral part of GCF's accountability architecture and is one of the three independent units. The IRM reports directly to the Board and is subject to the decisions of the Board. It is independent of the Secretariat of GCF.
2. The report on the activities of the Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) provides an update on the progress made and covers key priority initiatives identified in the work programme of the IRM for 2026 as adopted by the Board at its forty-third meeting.¹
3. The reporting period is from 1 January 2026 to 30 April 2026.
4. The work programme of the IRM for 2026-2028 identified the following key components to help guide the work of the IRM:
 - (a) Operating the IRM;
 - (b) Processing complaints from GCF project-affected people and addressing requests from developing countries for reconsideration of funding decisions;
 - (c) Providing advice;
 - (d) Developing the capacity of grievance redress mechanisms (GRMs) of DAEs; and
 - (e) Conducting outreach.

II. Operating the IRM

2.1 Progress on operating the IRM

5. **The implementation of the work programme and budget.** The IRM's terms of reference (TOR) require consultation with the Ethics and Audit Committee (EAC) on the implementation of its work programme, as appropriate. The IRM submits quarterly reports to the EAC as determined by the EAC.
6. **Administrative reporting to the Executive Director.** The TOR of the Head of the IRM provides that, for administrative purposes only, the Head of the IRM reports to the Executive Director (ED). This administrative reporting already happens practically through established systems for tracking and overseeing GCF-wide administrative and procedural requirements. However, some administrative actions fall outside of these systems, and therefore, the IRM has accordingly submitted monthly update reports to the ED.
7. **Staffing.** The IRM team currently consists of seven point five (7.5) full-time staff positions in addition to its Head. The team structure is shaped around the key deliverables of the IRM with the Compliance and Policy team on one side and Dispute Resolution and Capacity Building on the other. In addition, the team includes the registrar function and a communications specialist as well as support staff.
8. The Capacity Building Specialist joined the IRM and IIU in January 2026 and is supporting the two independent units in undertaking their capacity building functions.

¹ Available at: Decision B.43/12 [Decisions of the Board – forty-third meeting of the Board, 27– 30 October 2025 - GCF B.43 21](#)

9. **Consultancies and Professional Services.** The IRM continued using the services of translators and interpreters to process its cases in Egypt, Uganda, and Colombia. An IRM Compliance Expert and Investigator Consultant were engaged for the C0015 compliance investigation in Colombia.

III. Processing complaints and reconsideration requests

3.1 Complaints and requests for reconsideration of funding decisions

10. During the reporting period, the IRM processed 8 complaints from persons adversely affected by GCF-funded projects or programmes. In addition, the IRM received one request for reconsideration and closed one complaint.

11. The complaints and requests for reconsideration handled during this reporting period are discussed in further detail below:

(a) **Cases received in this reporting cycle:**

(i) **IRM Case R-0002-Oman:** SAP052 Building Oman's Climate Intelligence and Early Warning Ecosystem for Risk-Informed Planning and Inclusive Climate-Proof Investment: On 29 January 2026, the IRM received a request for reconsideration of a funding decision of the Board (B.43/03) with respect to Funding Proposal SAP052. The Accredited Entity for the Funding Proposal was the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The request was submitted by the National Designated Authority (NDA) of the Sultanate of Oman. Following an initial review of documentation available, the IRM extended the period for concluding the eligibility determination phase from 4 March 2026 to 4 May 2026 in order to receive and process the final report of proceedings of the forty-third meeting of the Board.

(b) **Cases previously received and for which case handling is ongoing:**

(i) **IRM Case C-0018-Colombia:** FP203 Heritage Colombia (HECO): Maximising the Contributions of Sustainably Managed Landscapes in Colombia for Achievement of Climate Goals: On 12 December 2025, the IRM acknowledged receipt of a complaint pertaining to GCF Project FP203. The complainant was formerly employed within one of the Executing Entities responsible for implementing the GCF Project. The complainant has requested confidentiality, which has been granted in accordance with the IRM's Terms of Reference and Procedures and Guidelines.

The complainant brought to the attention of the IRM several concerns related to the labour and working conditions associated with their term of employment with the relevant Executing Entity. On 2 February 2026, the IRM determined the complaint to be eligible and the IRM initiated engagements with relevant stakeholders under the Initial Steps Phase. The deadline to conclude the Initial Steps Phase was extended from 3 April 2026 through 18 May 2026 to enable parties to conclude engagements related to choice of process to address concerns raised.

(ii) **IRM Case C-0016-Colombia:** FP134 *Colombia REDD+ Results-based Payments for results period 2015-2016*: On 12 September 2025, the IRM acknowledged receipt of a complaint pertaining to GCF Project FP134. The complainant alleges they were improperly denied benefits previously allocated to them as part of a programme to support sustainable forest management in the region of

Caqueta, Colombia. On 13 January 2026, the IRM determined the complaint to be eligible. The IRM began engagements with stakeholders to understand the preferred modality to address the concerns raised in the complaint. The deadline for the Initial Steps Phase was extended through 30 May 2026 to allow for sufficient time for stakeholders to conclude engagements as part of this stage.

- (iii) **IRM Case C-0015-Colombia:** FP203 *Heritage Colombia (HECO): Maximising the Contributions of Sustainably Managed Landscapes in Colombia*: On 7 May 2025, the IRM registered a complaint pertaining to labour and working conditions, provision of a grievance mechanism, and sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment with relevance to GCF Project FP203. The complaint was declared eligible in June 2025. Following an initial steps phase, the complaint was referred to compliance review as of 18 August 2025. Following compliance appraisal, in which the IRM determined there was *prima facie* evidence of adverse impacts and non-compliance, the complaint was moved to the investigation phase of compliance review in October 2025. The compliance investigation is ongoing.
- (iv) **IRM Case C-0014-Pakistan:** FP085 *Green BRT Karachi*: On 20 March 2025, the IRM registered a complaint by project affected communities who allege impacts to community health, safety and security as a result of construction activities related to GCF Project FP085 in Pakistan. In July 2025, the complainants and the Executing Entity agreed on a corrective action plan. The IRM is continuing Problem Solving in close collaboration with the Office of the Special Project Facilitator of the Asian Development Bank, the Accredited Entity of the project. As of 30 April 2026, 15 of the 17 concrete commitments had been implemented, with some delays in road construction works affecting the implementation of the remaining actions.
- (v) **IRM Case C-0013-Uganda:** FP034 *Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda*: On 12 March 2025, the IRM registered a complaint pertaining to loss of livelihoods and restrictions on access to wetlands due to alleged evictions of wetland-dependent communities under this project. The IRM undertook Problem Solving jointly with UNDP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM), which also received the complaint. Despite repeated efforts by the IRM and the SRM to initiate a dialogue, the Executing Entity maintained reservations regarding its participation in Problem Solving due to ongoing court proceedings in Uganda covering similar issues and involving similar parties. In March 2026, the Executing Entity indicated its intention to proceed with a court-annexed mediation in Uganda, to which the complainants agreed. Considering these developments, the IRM determined that there was no need for a parallel Problem Solving process and decided to refer the case to the compliance function for further consideration.
- (vi) **IRM Case C-0012-Uganda:** FP034 *Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda*: On 11 January 2025, the IRM registered a complaint concerning the fatal drowning incident of a minor in Southwestern Uganda. The complaint was also received by UNDP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism. The incident reportedly took place at a water retention facility or 'pond' that was under construction and located adjacent to wetlands under GCF Project FP034. The IRM worked in close collaboration with the SRM to address the complaint, leading to a confidential agreement in early November 2025. Parties affirmed that the agreement would focus on providing livelihood support to the affected family members and would not redress the

loss of the child's life. In November 2025, the IRM submitted the Problem Solving conclusion report² to the GCF Board and published it on the IRM website. In the subsequent months, the IRM monitored the implementation of the agreement³, and in March 2026 the parties confirmed satisfaction with the Problem Solving outcome, and the IRM closed the case.

- (vii) **IRM Case C-0010-Uganda:** FP034 *Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda*: On 3 April 2024, the IRM received a complaint alleging adverse impacts related to the implementation of FP034, including restrictions on access to wetlands, lack of compensation and adequate consultation, increased food insecurity and impoverishment of wetland-dependent communities and increased threats to community health, security, and safety, among others. Following a comprehensive Problem Solving process facilitated by the IRM, on 3 July 2025, parties reached an agreement⁴ on the issues raised in the complaint.

The case is currently in the Problem Solving Monitoring stage where the IRM is monitoring the implementation of parties' commitments. During this reporting period the Executing Entity finalised the profiling of wetland users and assessed the functionality of project-level grievance redress mechanisms which are currently subject to improvements. At the end of March 2026, which marked the originally agreed timeline for the agreement implementation, the Executing Entity shared their challenges in completing all tasks within the agreed timeline and requested an extension of the agreement through December 2026, to which the complainants agreed. In early May 2026, the IRM engaged with relevant parties to document the amendment to the agreement.

- (viii) **IRM Case C-0009-Egypt:** FP039 *GCF-EBRD Egypt Renewable Energy Financing Framework*: In September 2022 and November 2022, the IRM received two (2) complaints related to working conditions and access to grievance mechanism in the Benban Solar Park under GCF Project FP039. The IRM handled the complaints through two parallel complaint streams: (i) complaints concerning working conditions and access to grievance mechanisms filed by former workers of Benban Solar Park were processed under Compliance Review, and (ii) a complaint submitted by community members regarding broader community concerns, was processed and subsequently closed under Problem Solving.

- (1) **Compliance Review.** Complaints related working conditions and labour management issues were processed through a Compliance Review and investigation that concluded on 15 December 2025. The investigation culminated in a Compliance Review Report that was submitted to the GCF Board for consideration.⁵ The GCF Board considered the compliance report at B.44 in March 2026, endorsed the IRM's recommendations and suggestions, and requested the Secretariat to develop a draft Remedial Action Plan in collaboration with the IRM and the Accredited Entity, in line with the IRM's Procedures and Guidelines.

² Available at <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/case/c0012-problem-solving-conclusion-report.pdf>

³ Available at <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/case/irm-case-c0012-problem-solving-monitoring-report.pdf>

⁴ Available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/case/irm-case-c0010-problem-solving-conclusion-report.pdf>

⁵ The complaints related to working conditions and access to the grievance mechanism were transferred from problem-solving to compliance review in 2024. Compliance appraisals for both complaints were completed in July and September 2024, with the IRM concluding that there is prima facie evidence of adverse impacts and non-compliance with GCF operational policies and procedures, thus initiating a compliance investigation.

- (2) **Problem Solving.** In December 2023, the IRM supported parties engaged in Problem Solving to reach an agreement on the concerns related to corporate social investment projects in the Benban community. During the agreement Monitoring phase, the parties implemented their commitments across four main areas: community consultation, livelihoods support, educational projects, and community health care assistance. Following the signing of the agreement, the IRM monitored its implementation by regularly discussing progress with the parties and conducting site visits to Egypt when necessary. The IRM local mediator travelled to Aswan, Egypt in February 2026 to provide final updates to the parties and receive feedback on the IRM's Problem Solving Monitoring Report⁶. After confirming the parties' satisfaction with the Problem Solving process, the IRM closed the case in April 2026 and notified the GCF Board accordingly.

12. **Pre-cases.** A pre-case can develop from communication from an external party or information received by the IRM. It can then be registered in the Case Management System as a pre-case and may or may not mature into a complaint. The IRM processed 12 pre-cases through 27 April 2026. A summary of such pre-cases received by the IRM is updated periodically and is available on the IRM website.⁷

13. **Information Appeals Panel.** The Head of the IRM, together with the Heads of the Independent Evaluation Unit and Independent Integrity Unit, constitute the Information Appeals Panel (IAP). The Registrar and Compliance Specialist of the IRM serves as Secretary to the IAP. As of 1 November 2025, the Head of the IEU assumed the position of Chair for a one-year period. No appeals were filed during the reporting period.⁸ A separate report on IAP activity is submitted to the Board.

IV. Providing advice

4.1 Providing advice

14. The IRM has engaged with the Secretariat on a number of policy developments, including the Updated Gender Action Plan and the Country Ownership Guidelines. The IRM continues to encourage the Secretariat to provide sufficient time and space for meaningful consultations on key policy developments.

⁶ Available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/case/irm-case-c0009-problem-solving-monitoring-report.pdf>

⁷ Available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/document/history-irm-pre-cases>

⁸ Available at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/about/disclosure/appeals>

V. Capacity building of Direct Access Entities' grievance mechanisms

5.1 Capacity building of Direct Access Entities' grievance mechanisms

15. Between January and April 2026, the IRM has further strengthened its dedicated support for learning and institutional development of GCF's Direct Access Entities.

16. Further, between January and April 2026, a total of 103 individuals enrolled in the three language versions (English, Spanish and French) of the IRM's Grievance Redress Mechanism e-learning course⁹. By the end of April 2026, 22 staff members in charge of grievance redress within GCF's Direct Access Entities completed the course.

17. In February 2026, the IRM also delivered an orientation session for newly recruited GCF Liaison officers during their onboarding workshop, which was attended by 17 officers from 17 different countries. It is IRM's hope that the liaison officers can play a pivotal role in helping DAEs strengthen their accountability framework.

18. In March 2026, the IRM delivered an orientation session for newly accredited Direct Access Entities, focusing on their roles and responsibilities within the GCF accountability framework and highlighting the learning opportunities offered by the IRM to enhance their ability for grievance redress and stakeholder engagement.

5.2 Independent Accountability Mechanisms Network (IAMnet)

19. The IRM remains active within the IAMnet community. The IRM is contributing to the planning and development of the 2026 IAMnet Annual Meeting agenda, and is leading efforts in its ad hoc governance committee to further initiatives related to member resource contribution and promoting ways IAMnet can strengthen mechanisms' mandates and operations.

VI. Outreach

6.1 Communications strategy

20. The IRM has continued to implement its existing strategy and undertook the following activities during the reporting period:

(a) **Outreach**

- (i) Organised one (1) virtual outreach webinar.¹⁰
- (ii) Launched a call for proposals for the IRM's 2026 CSO Advocacy Grant.¹¹
- (iii) Hosted a lunch session at the GCF Indigenous Peoples Conference.¹²

(b) **Communications**

⁹ Available at:

https://ilearn.greenclimate.fund/thematicarea/category?id=3&_gl=1*1d9u6wo*_ga*NTk2NDAYMzA3LjE3NTYyNjI4NDI.*_ga_R4E8SRK8JR*czE3NzkxNzEzNTgkbz1MCRnMSR0MTc3OTE3MTU5NCRqNDIkbDAkaDA.

¹⁰ Available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/blog/responding-grievances-gcf-key-takeaways-irm-webinar>

¹¹ Available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/news/irm-launches-2025-advocacy-grant-csos>

¹² Available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/news/underscoring-grievance-redress-gcf-indigenous-peoples-conference>

- (i) Published the 2025 IRM Annual Report.¹³
- (ii) Published a new IRM video featuring interviews with IRM stakeholders.¹⁴
- (iii) Published eleven (11) news items.¹⁵

VII. Budget utilisation for the reporting period

7.1 Budget utilisation from 1 January to 30 April 2026

Table 1: Independent Redress Mechanism Unit Budget utilisation as of 30 April 2026 (in USD), reported by Finance

Budget Category	2026 Approved budget	Actuals	%
Staff, Consultants, Interns			
Full-time Staff	1,838,668	634,491	35%
Consultants	382,350	40,760	11%
Interns	23,460	377	2%
Sub-total	2,244,478	675,629	30%
Travel			
General	74,078	7,321	10%
Travel associated with cases	250,472	4,620	2%
Staff travel to attend Board meeting	6,150	-	0%
Sub-total	330,700	11,941	4%
Contractual services, general operating, information technology costs			
Contractual Services	128,330	20,005	16%
Other Operating costs	155,100	33,826	22%
Sub-total	283,430	53,831	18%
TOTAL	2,858,608	741,402	26%
Shared cost allocation	247,848	82,616	33%
Grand Total	3,106,456	824,018	27%

Note on IRM's budget utilisation:

As of 30 April 2026, the budget execution of the IRM remains broadly on track, with an actual expenditure of USD 824,018, representing 27% of the total approved adjusted budget of USD 3,106,456 for the year. Expenditure levels reflect the phased implementation of the IRM's 2026 Work Programme, with higher utilisation expected in subsequent quarters as case-related and operational activities intensify.

¹³ Available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/blog/irm-releases-its-2025-annual-report>

¹⁴ Available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/blog/new-video-why-irm-important>

¹⁵ Available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/news>