



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

Independent
Evaluation
Unit



TRUSTED EVIDENCE.
INFORMED POLICIES.
HIGH IMPACT.

Independent Evaluation Unit



EVALUATION FUNCTION OF THE GCF

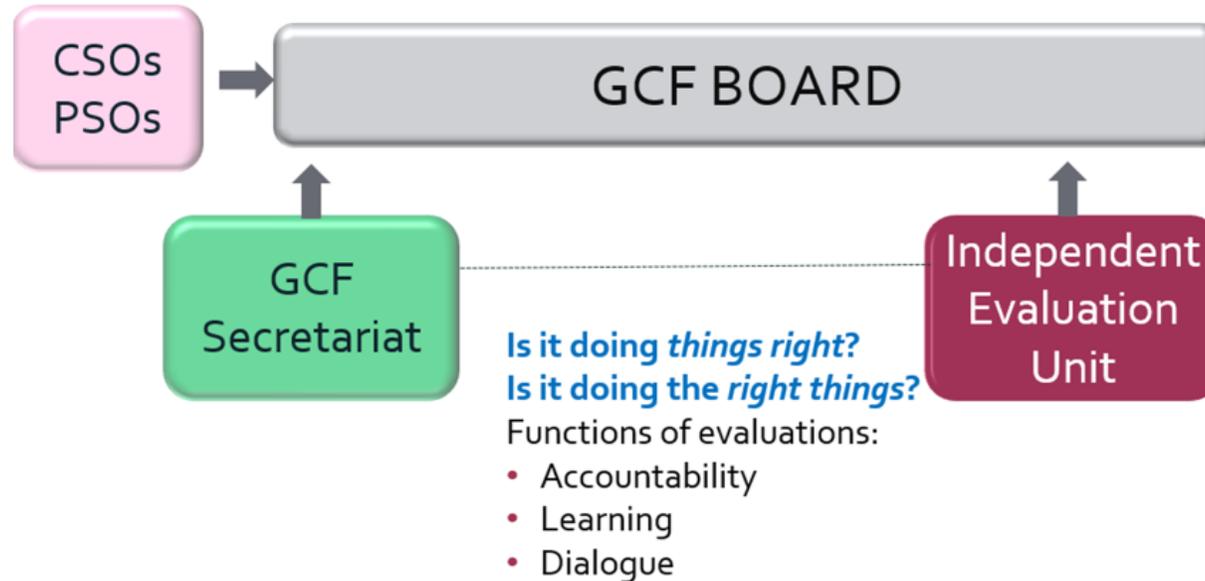
- Para. 23 of the GI: *'Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Fund, providing administrative, legal and financial expertise.'*
- **Secretariat's function** is to *i.a.*:
 - Liaise with members, entities, institutions and agencies;
 - Carry out **monitoring & evaluation** functions;
 - Establish and run effective **knowledge management** practices.
- Para. 59-62 of GI offers details on evaluations, providing for an independent evaluation function:
 - **conduct periodic independent evaluations** to assess performance and results of the GCF;
 - **inform the decision making and strategy**, incl. synthesizing lessons and guiding the GCF and stakeholders;
 - **provide evaluation reports to UNFCCC COP** for purposes of periodic reviews of the financial mechanism of the Convention.

- **The policy recognizes three types of evaluation:**
 - 1. GCF independent evaluations:**
 - Independent evaluations conducted, commissioned and/or managed by the IEU.
 - 2. Secretariat-led evaluations:**
 - Self-evaluations commissioned and/or managed by the Secretariat to fulfil its role on monitoring and evaluation.
 - IEU may attest to quality of self-evaluations.
 - 3. AE-led evaluations:**
 - Project interim and final evaluations that must be submitted to the GCF by AEs.



EVALUATION FUNCTION OF THE GCF

- **Various types** of independent evaluations:
 - Thematic evaluations
 - Performance evaluations
 - Portfolio evaluations
 - Country portfolio evaluations
 - Programmatic and Project-specific evaluations
 - Impact evaluations
- Learning, evidence reviews and synthesis
- Capacity building for evaluations, including LORTA



IEU OBJECTIVES AND KEY ACTIVITIES



Evaluations

Portfolio evaluations, performance evaluations, thematic evaluations, country portfolio evaluations, programmatic and project-based evaluations, and quality assurance



Learning, Advisory, Capacity-building

DataLab
Evidence reviews, learning papers
Evaluation capacity-building
Learning-oriented Real-time Impact Assessment programme



Uptake, Communication, Partnerships

Evaluation reports, summaries, briefs & translations
Multimedia
Evaluation and climate conferences, incl. COP



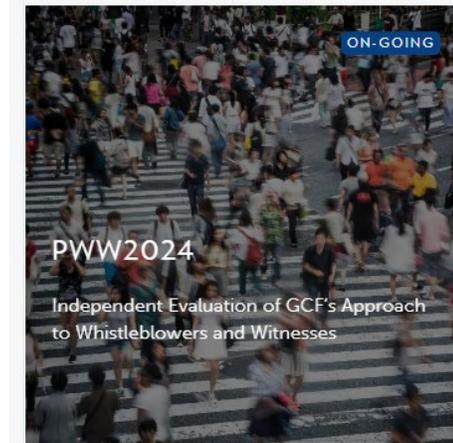
Building & strengthening the IEU

Team building, value & culture retreats
Internal training
Strengthening internal data analysis & management
Evaluation Policy & Evaluation Standards



Evaluations:

- Launch of the **Third Performance Review (TPR)**
- Independent Evaluation of GCF's Approach to **Whistleblowers and Witnesses (B.39)**
- Independent Evaluation of the Relevance and Effectiveness of GCF's Investments in the **Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) States (B.40)**
- Independent Evaluation of the GCF's Approach to **Indigenous Peoples (B.41)**
- Independent Evaluation of the result area **Health, Food and Water Security (B.41)**.



- **Global evidence reviews:**
 - Evidence Review of Just Transition (2023)
 - Evidence review on coastal and terrestrial water-sector interventions in developing countries (2023)
 - Evidence Review of market-based approach (2023)
 - Global Evidence Review on Forest Conservation.
- **Synthesis and quality assurance**
 - Synthesis note on access
 - Quality assurance and review of GCF project interim evaluations
 - Evaluability study of the GCF funding proposals.
- **Methods and learning paper.**
 - Global SDG Synthesis Coalition – Planet Pillar.



GREEN CLIMATE FUND | Independent Evaluation Unit | **IOU** International Labour Organization | **IEU BRIEF** No. 5 - 2023

REALIST REVIEW ON JUST TRANSITION

Key findings:
Common enablers for just transition interventions across all or most sectors included in this review are robust funding mechanisms, strong alignment with needs and priorities, political will and ownership, alongside social dialogue and stakeholder engagement.
Hard enablers such as funding, investments in infrastructure and technology as well as strategic clustering of projects were more evident in the **energy sector**, together with **soft enablers** such as political will, trust building and collaborations and partnerships.
In the **agriculture and ecosystem sectors**, we found that **soft enablers** such as alignment, coordination and contextual awareness emerged as important features of just transition interventions, alongside funding and technical know-how.
Common barriers to successful just transition across all sectors included bureaucratic and legal barriers, exclusion and unequal distribution of benefits, as well as inadequate technical skills.

1. Objectives
This realist review on just transition, completed by the Green Climate Fund Independent Evaluation Unit (GCF-IEU) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), provides a rigorous and precise summary of global evidence on interventions aiming at outcomes consistent with a just transition in developing countries, specifically in the energy, agriculture, and infrastructure sectors, and in ecosystem services.

2. What are realist reviews? Why are they useful?
A realist synthesis explores the contexts, mechanisms, enablers and barriers to successful implementation.

3. The rationale for this review
Just transition supports the transformation towards greener, more inclusive, more resilient societies. It is a strategic approach to the pursuit of climate goals and sustainable development by minimising social risks and maximising social and decent work opportunities from mitigation and adaptation. It pays full attention to the fairness of processes and to the distribution of costs.

The examination of theories of change in this review has illuminated the mechanisms and conditions for just transition through overarching and sectoral enablers and barriers. As just transitions in developing countries are at a formative stage, this evidence helps to predict the likelihood of early indicative outcomes and impacts.

TRUSTED EVIDENCE. INFORMED POLICIES. HIGH IMPACT.



- Independent measurement systems for **GCF impact**.
 - In particular, impact evaluations for the Learning-oriented real-time impact assessment (LORTA) programme;
 - Impact evaluations of GCF projects.
- Evaluation capacity building efforts at structured and regional dialogues, to foster the implementation of the **evaluation policy**.
- Tailored evaluation capacity building efforts for **DAEs and country partners**, based on DAE evaluation capacity needs assessment undertaken in 2023.
- Evaluation capacity building efforts for the **GCF Secretariat**.





OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION POLICY

GCF Evaluation Policy :

- Sets out GCF's approach to evaluations.
- Sets up a **framework** to help the Fund and its stakeholders produce and use high quality evaluations to **credibly and objectively assess** the results, performance, efficiency and effectiveness.
- GCF Evaluation Policy came into force in May 2022.
- IEU is the custodian of the Evaluation Policy





Scope of the Evaluation Policy

The Policy:

- Is a GCF-wide policy covering the **evaluation function** of the Fund
- Helps the Fund to credibly and objectively measure its performance, results, and efficiency in delivering on its mandate
- Also covers aspects on evaluation capacity development needs of AEs
- Does *not* cover the monitoring functions of the Fund

Evaluation Policy for the GCF

This document captures the policy as adopted by the Board in decision B.BM-2021/07. The policy was sent to the Board for consideration as a proposed decision without a Board meeting in document GCF/BM-2021/09 titled "Evaluation Policy for the GCF".





GCF EVALUATION POLICY AND STANDARDS

Evaluation Policy

- **IEU is the custodian** of the Evaluation Policy
- Is a **GCF-wide policy**
- Covers the evaluation functions of GCF exercised by the IEU, Secretariat, and AEs
- Covers how the Fund may respond to the evaluation **capacity development needs of AEs**

Evaluation Standards

- **IEU is the custodian** of the Evaluation Standards
- Operates within the scope of Evaluation Policy
- Is developed to support the **implementation and operationalization of the Evaluation Policy**



GCF EVALUATION STANDARDS – KEY EXAMPLES

STANDARD 1 - INDEPENDENCE

- Four components:

**Structural
Independence**

**Functional
Independence**

**Organizational
Independence**

**Behavioral
Independence**

- Independence also implies freedom from:

**Political
influence**

**Organizational
influence**

- Guidelines/good practices :
 - Evaluation activities should be separate from managers responsible for program design and implementation.
 - Self-evaluations must have independent evaluators who are free from conflicts of interest related to the program, project, or policy being evaluated.
 - Those commissioning evaluations should ensure evaluator's independence and conflict-free procurement and recruitment processes.



GCF EVALUATION STANDARDS – KEY EXAMPLES

STANDARD 2 - IMPARTIALITY & OBJECTIVITY

- Adherence to highest professional and ethical standards.

Operational
Impartiality &
Objectivity

Analytical
Impartiality &
Objectivity

Reporting
Impartiality &
Objectivity

Dissemination
Impartiality &
Objectivity

- Evaluators must be operationally and analytically **unbiased with no vested interests**.

- Guidelines/good practices:
 - Evaluation teams should be independent to avoid undue influence and bias, ensuring objective and credible results.
 - Team members should not have been directly responsible for policy-setting, design, or management of the evaluation subject.
 - They must have complete freedom to conduct impartial evaluations without career-related risks.





TYPES OF EVALUATIONS

Three types recognized by the Policy:

1. IEU-led evaluations

Independent evaluations

2. Secretariat-led evaluations

Self-assessments

3. AE-led evaluations

Project-level evaluations

Also, ex-post evaluations...





IEU'S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Custodian of the GCF Evaluation Policy (Para. 50)
- Undertakes evaluations (Para. 52)
- Learning-Oriented Real-Time Impact Assessment (LORTA) (Para. 53 & 54)
- Strengthens evaluation capacities (Para. 55)
- Disseminates lessons learnt (Para. 56)





SECRETARIAT ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN IEU-LED EVALUATIONS

- Shares relevant data, including the APRs, in a timely manner
- Shares mid-term evaluation and final-term evaluation reports from the AE-led evaluations with the IEU
- Remains available and cooperates for interviews and focus groups with the IEU
- Prepares Management Responses on IEU-led evaluations





AE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN IEU-LED EVALUATIONS

- Cooperation with evaluation interviews
- Cooperation with country case studies – field visits, country visits, liaison with other country stakeholders, etc.



Type of Evaluation	Role of IEU	Role of AEs	Role of Secretariat
IEU-led Evaluations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertakes evaluations • Prepares management action reports • Synthesizes and presents these to the Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shares information and data • Facilitates engagement with project stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shares information and data • Facilitates engagement with project stakeholders • Shares monitoring data such as APR, MTE/ FTE • Is available for interviews
Secretariat-led Evaluations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertakes quality assurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shares information and data • Facilitates engagement with project stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engages with the IEU in quality assurance of self-evaluation
AE-led Evaluations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforces evaluation policy and standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertakes MTE/ FTE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews and undertakes quality assurance



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Thank you!

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