



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

Meeting of the Board

25 – 28 March 2026

Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Provisional agenda item 15(c)

GCF/B.44/07/Add.01

17 March 2026

Management response to the Independent Evaluation of the GCF's Approach to and Portfolio of Climate Information and Early Warning System Interventions

Summary

This document presents the Secretariat's management response to the Independent Evaluation of the GCF's Approach to and Portfolio of Climate Information and Early Warning System Interventions undertaken by the Independent Evaluation Unit.

I. Introduction

1. The Secretariat welcomes the Independent Evaluation of the GCF's Approach to and Portfolio of Climate Information and Early Warning System Interventions undertaken by the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) and thanks the IEU for its professionalism in producing the evaluation report. The IEU encouraged feedback from and dialogue with the Secretariat throughout the evaluation process, presenting webinars on its methods, findings and recommendations. The Secretariat provided comments at key points in the process, and many Secretariat staff participated in interviews that contributed to the findings and recommendations presented in the evaluation report. In accordance with the Evaluation Policy for the GCF, the Secretariat will incorporate these findings and recommendations into its decision-making, management, operations, strategies, budgets and practices.
2. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation broadly resonate with the Secretariat's experience and lessons learned from programming and projects under implementation.

II. General response to findings and recommendations

3. Consistent with the Fund's Governing Instrument, GCF's approach to climate information and early warning systems (CIEWS) remains fundamentally country-driven. A paradigm shift in this area is expected to occur primarily through nationally led investments embedded within countries' broader adaptation priorities, including national adaptation plans (NAPs), nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and related sectoral strategies. In this regard, the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme continues to play an important role in supporting countries to strengthen policy frameworks, institutional coordination and technical assessments, helping to integrate CIEWS priorities into national planning processes and establish the foundations for programmatic investments in this area.
4. The Secretariat also acknowledges the importance of continuing to strengthen learning, knowledge management and portfolio-level monitoring as the CIEWS portfolio grows. GCF will continue to contribute to collective learning by sharing insights from its financing and programming experience, including on programmatic approaches, partnership models and integration of CIEWS into national adaptation strategies, as well as scaling the expertise of CIEWS global actors. The Secretariat will take the recommendations of the evaluation into account in further strengthening its operational approaches, subject to guidance from the Board under the forthcoming updated Strategic Plan for the GCF 2028–2031.

III. Response to specific recommendations

Recommendation	Secretariat response
<p>1 The GCF Board and Secretariat should capitalize on the Fund’s position as the leading financier in CIEWS and prepare to assume a leadership role beyond 2027. The GCF Board should offer strategic guidance on GCF’s intended role and designate CIEWS as a strategic priority under the USP-3. In turn, the Secretariat should operationalize this guidance aligned with the USP-3.</p>	<p>Not applicable. (recommendation to the Board)</p> <p>The Secretariat stands ready to support the Board in planning for the forthcoming Updated Strategic Plan for the GCF 2028-2031 (USP-3), building on the progress made under the Updated Strategic Plan for the GCF 2024–2027 (USP-2) and ongoing engagement with global initiatives such as Early Warnings for All. As the largest multilateral financier of CIEWS interventions, GCF plays a central role in enabling countries to strengthen and scale up CIEWS through sustained investment and partnerships.</p> <p>At the same time, the Fund’s approach remains fundamentally country-driven. A paradigm shift in CIEWS is expected to occur primarily through context-relevant and nationally led investments embedded within countries’ adaptation priorities, including NAPs and NDCs. While the strategic global leadership role of GCF has value, it will also contribute to global CIEWS efforts primarily through sharing internationally accepted best practices and existing standards to which it adheres. The Secretariat will continue to support the Board in operationalizing strategic guidance under the forthcoming USP-3 in ways that strengthen national systems, mobilize additional finance, consider options for different types of instruments, and facilitate partnerships that enable countries to scale up programmatic approaches to CIEWS.</p>
<p>2 As a continuously learning institution, the GCF Secretariat should continue to shift towards a structure and operations that ensure learning and feedback loops across projects, countries and entities clearly and systematically. The Fund should share its CIEWS expertise with relevant CIEWS stakeholders to strengthen the GCF’s role as a knowledge broker, besides its position as the leading financier in the CIEWS space.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>As a continuously learning institution, the Secretariat recognizes the importance of strengthening systematic learning and feedback loops across projects, countries and accredited entities. The Secretariat will continue to enhance portfolio-level learning, knowledge management and dissemination mechanisms to ensure that operational lessons from diverse sectors and thematic areas, including CIEWS, inform future programming and portfolio management.</p>

Recommendation	Secretariat response
	<p>Knowledge management will be demand-led. GCF will make valuable knowledge available both within the Secretariat and to its partners and countries based on evidence of effective project and programme design and implementation approaches. These include climate finance structuring, programmatic approaches and integration of CIEWS investments into national adaptation planning. It is important to note that the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme continues to play an important role in supporting countries to integrate CIEWS priorities into national strategies such as NAPs and NDCs, helping to establish the policy and institutional foundations for future CIEWS investments.</p>
<p>3 The Fund should revise how it presents the paradigm-shifting pathways in the CIEWS operational guidance, as outlined in Recommendation 1. A clearer, more structured approach is needed to identify investment gaps across each country's CIEWS value chain. The revised pathways should align with global standards, including the six value chains of the Global Framework for Climate Services and the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems pillars.</p>	<p>Partially Agree. (subject to Board decision)</p> <p>GCF will continue to explore ways to further clarify guidance for countries and partners on how to achieve paradigm-shifting pathways for CIEWS in order to support countries and accredited entities in identifying indicative investment opportunities across the CIEWS value chain. Existing GCF frameworks have already drawn on internationally recognized approaches, including the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems pillars and the Global Framework for Climate Services, and future refinements will continue to align with relevant global standards against which funding proposals will be appraised.</p> <p>At the same time, the Secretariat emphasizes that a paradigm shift in CIEWS is expected to emerge primarily through context-specific local, national and regional strategies. Subject to Board guidance on Recommendation 1, the Secretariat will explore options to improve the sharing of operational guidance on effective practice and to provide tools to partners and countries to enable them to better identify gaps in their CIEWS and develop programmatic investments aligned with their national priorities and global best practices and standards.</p>

Recommendation	Secretariat response
<p>4</p> <p>Across all stages of the project cycle, and particularly during project design, the GCF Secretariat should strengthen considerations of the sustainability of CIEWS investments. Such measures should consider including participatory needs assessments that engage both providers and end users of climate information services, including women, Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable groups, as well as comprehensive feasibility studies for revenue-generating activities undertaken by national meteorological and hydrological services or related agencies.</p> <p>In addition, the Secretariat should strengthen its appraisals of CIEWS funding proposals to ensure that GCF-funded equipment serves its intended use, aligns with local institutional and technical capacity, and that post-project operation and maintenance are properly considered in the project design.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>The Secretariat recognizes the importance of strengthening sustainability considerations across the CIEWS project cycle, from project design to appraisal and implementation. The Secretariat will continue to encourage accredited entities to incorporate participatory needs assessments and appropriate institutional arrangements in project design and implementation. Accredited entities are expected to work with countries and propose clear plans for operation and maintenance embedded in national and local institutional systems to ensure that investments are sustainable, particularly those related to systems and assets.</p> <p>Furthermore, the sustainability of CIEWS is closely linked to the strength of national institutions and policy environments. Through both readiness support and investment projects, GCF will continue to assist countries in strengthening national adaptation planning processes, institutional coordination mechanisms and technical assessments. In particular, the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme has supported the integration of CIEWS priorities into national frameworks such as NAPs, NDCs and related sectoral strategies, helping to ensure that CIEWS investments are embedded within nationally owned adaptation strategies and institutional systems.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>The GCF Secretariat should leverage the 2026 review of the Integrated Results Management Framework to align indicators with global best practices, including the Belém Adaptation Indicators. In doing so, the Secretariat should also consider additional measurement approaches capable of capturing the operational progress of CIEWS interventions and their outcomes at the community level. The primary objective should be to improve the monitoring of progress across CIEWS projects, thereby ensuring that the reported results are both reliable and suitable for comparison and impact measurement.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>The Secretariat is currently undertaking a review of the Integrated Results Management Framework, which includes efforts to strengthen indicator definitions, harmonize indicators across funding cycles, and improve the comparability and credibility of reported results. As part of this process, the Secretariat will assess alignment with emerging global adaptation metrics, including indicators associated with the global goal on adaptation adopted at the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties in Belém, Brazil, particularly those relevant to CIEWS.</p>

Recommendation	Secretariat response
<p>The GCF Secretariat should formally define CIEWS as part of its operational guidance, as outlined in Recommendation 1, to ensure its consistent application across the portfolio. It should also establish a clear CIEWS taxonomy, aligned with the revised framing of paradigm-shifting pathways set out in Recommendation 3, to address existing challenges in CIEWS tagging and investment identification.</p>	<p>Furthermore, the Secretariat is advancing a joint initiative with other multilateral climate funds to develop an improved taxonomy and methodologies for tracking direct and indirect beneficiaries of GCF projects/programmes. This work moves beyond intent-based classifications by incorporating the intensity of interventions, thereby enhancing the credibility, transparency and comparability of beneficiary data across institutions.</p> <p>In addition, the Secretariat will explore options to further clarify the operational definition and taxonomy of CIEWS within GCF with the objective of improving the consistency of tagging and monitoring of related investments. In this regard, the Secretariat is already engaging with relevant partners, including the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative, in the context of the forthcoming update of the CREWS framework. It aims to identify opportunities to better harmonize GCF CIEWS-related indicators and monitoring approaches with those used by other global actors working on early warning systems and climate services.</p>