



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

Meeting of the Board

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Provisional agenda item 8

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7 March 2023

2022 Independent Redress Mechanism Annual Report

Summary

This is the 2022 Annual Report of the Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM). It gives a thorough review of the activities of the IRM in 2022 and insights on the IRM's future plans and activities.

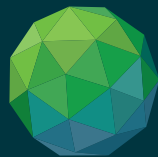
I. Introduction and Background

1. The Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) is mandated in paragraph 69 of the Governing Instrument for the GCF. This paragraph states that “(t)he Board will establish an independent redress mechanism that will report to the Board. The mechanism will receive complaints related to the operation of the Fund and will evaluate and make recommendations.” The IRM performs a key function within the GCF’s accountability mechanisms. The Independent Redress Mechanism reports directly to the Board and is subject to the decisions of the Board. It is independent of the Secretariat of the GCF.

2. The Updated Terms of Reference of the IRM were adopted in September 2017 by the Board. Section VII, paragraph 22 of the Terms of Reference states that “(t)he IRM will prepare an annual report on its work for presentation to the Board, and dissemination to the public.” In line with such provision, the IRM is presenting its Annual Report to the Board, covering the period of 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. The Annual Report is attached below as annex I.

Annex I: 2022 Independent Redress Mechanism Annual Report

The 2022 Independent Redress Mechanism Annual Report is contained below.



GREEN
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Independent
Redress
Mechanism

2022

Expanding Accountability

Independent Redress Mechanism –
2022 Annual Report



EXPANDING ACCOUNTABILITY

Independent Redress Mechanism – 2022 Annual Report

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Independent Redress Mechanism**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Co-Chairs of the Board	3
Message from the Executive Director	5
Message from the Head of the IRM	7
Who we are	10
2022: Expanding Accountability	12
IRM Role and Functions: 2022 Progress Report	13
Processing complaints and requests for reconsideration	13
Advisory	19
Capacity Development of Direct Access Entity Grievance Mechanisms	19
Communications & Outreach	20
Working with Partners	26
Information Appeals Panel	26
Independent Accountability Mechanism Network	26
Strengthening the GRAM Partnership	27
The Future: Looking ahead to 2023	28
Conclusions	29
Appendix 1- Board Approved Work Plan and Budget for 2023	31
Appendix 2- Independent Redress Mechanism Budget 2022	31
Appendix 3- IRM Team Carbon Footprint	32
Appendix 4- IRM Team Profiles	34





MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE BOARD

The IRM is an integral component of GCF's institutional framework. It has been playing a critical role in advancing the core mandate of the GCF, including the application of environmental and social safeguards, as well as internationally accepted standards.

We wish the IRM continued success in 2023 and will support the IRM in implementing its mandate.

We look forward to working with the IRM in enhancing the effectiveness of the GCF's operations.

Nauman Bashir Bhatti & Victoria Gunderson

Co-Chairs of the Board of the GCF in 2023





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As one of three independent units, the IRM plays an important role in ensuring accountability at the GCF.

Since its first projects were approved in 2015, GCF has now grown its portfolio to more than USD 40 billion in assets under management, representing over 200 projects, with 80% already under implementation. With this increase in programming and on-the-ground implementation comes an increased potential for project-related complaints, and hence the need for an effective IRM.

Strong, transparent and effective operating procedures have allowed the IRM to implement its work programme and to successfully carry out its mandate. In 2022, the IRM also conducted a self-assessment of its effectiveness to help identify areas for improvement. Through this self-assessment IRM contributed to GCF's goal of becoming a learning organisation.

The continued collaboration between the IRM and the Secretariat strengthens GCF and ultimately supports the institution in its goal of helping developing countries realise their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions towards low-emission, climate-resilient pathways. We look forward to continued engagement with the IRM and to increasing accountability in our work.

Yannick Glemarec
Executive Director, GCF



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD A.I. OF THE IRM



This year has witnessed several new developments in the Independent Redress Mechanism. The pioneer Head of the IRM, Lalanath de Silva, stepped down in August, near the end of his six-year term. I would like to pay tribute to Lalanath for his tireless work in setting up the IRM and creating a redress mechanism fit to ensure accountability at the GCF. While we await the recruitment of the new substantive Head of the IRM, the Board of the GCF nominated me to act as Head ad interim of the IRM.

One of the major undertakings of the IRM in 2022 was the finalisation of its first compliance review case, involving a complaint from Nicaragua that alleged that a GCF project would harm indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. The IRM concluded its investigation and presented its report to the Board during B.34. This report is currently under consideration by the Board of the GCF.

Furthermore, the IRM also embarked on its first self-assessment, continued its outreach activities with civil society organisations to increase its visibility, expanded the Grievance Redress and Accountability Mechanism (GRAM) partnership, beta-tested a new and innovative board game and launched a podcast. This work could not have been accomplished without the continued support of stakeholders, including the Board of the GCF, the Ethics and Audit Committee, the Executive Director and Secretariat of the GCF, the Independent Integrity Unit and the Independent Evaluation Unit, civil society organisations and other accountability and redress mechanisms. Most of all, it could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of the staff of the IRM.

2023 will be a year of transition for the IRM. With a new Head and two new staff members, I am assured that the IRM will continue to thrive and play an integral role in ensuring accountability at the GCF.

Ibrahim Pam

Head of the IRM a.i., GCF





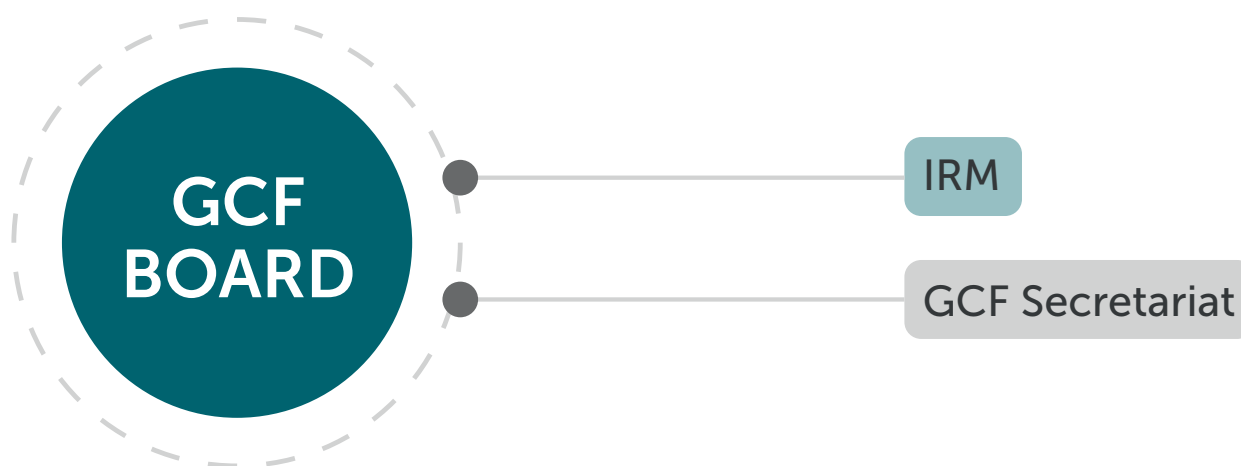
WHO WE ARE

Our mission is to provide recourse to affected people in a way that is **FAIR, EFFECTIVE and TRANSPARENT.**

The Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) addresses complaints by people who believe they are negatively affected or may be affected by projects or programmes funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The IRM also accepts requests for reconsideration from developing countries whose funding proposals have been denied by the GCF Board. The IRM aims to provide recourse to affected people in a way that is fair, effective and transparent, and enhances the performance of the GCF and its projects and programmes.

As a priority, the IRM as an independent unit, enables the GCF to be faithful and accountable to its own policies and procedures, especially those dealing with environmental and social safeguards, gender and indigenous peoples. In delivering its mandate, the IRM is guided by principles of fairness, equity, independence, transparency, effectiveness and justice.

FIGURE 1. THE IRM IN THE GCF STRUCTURE



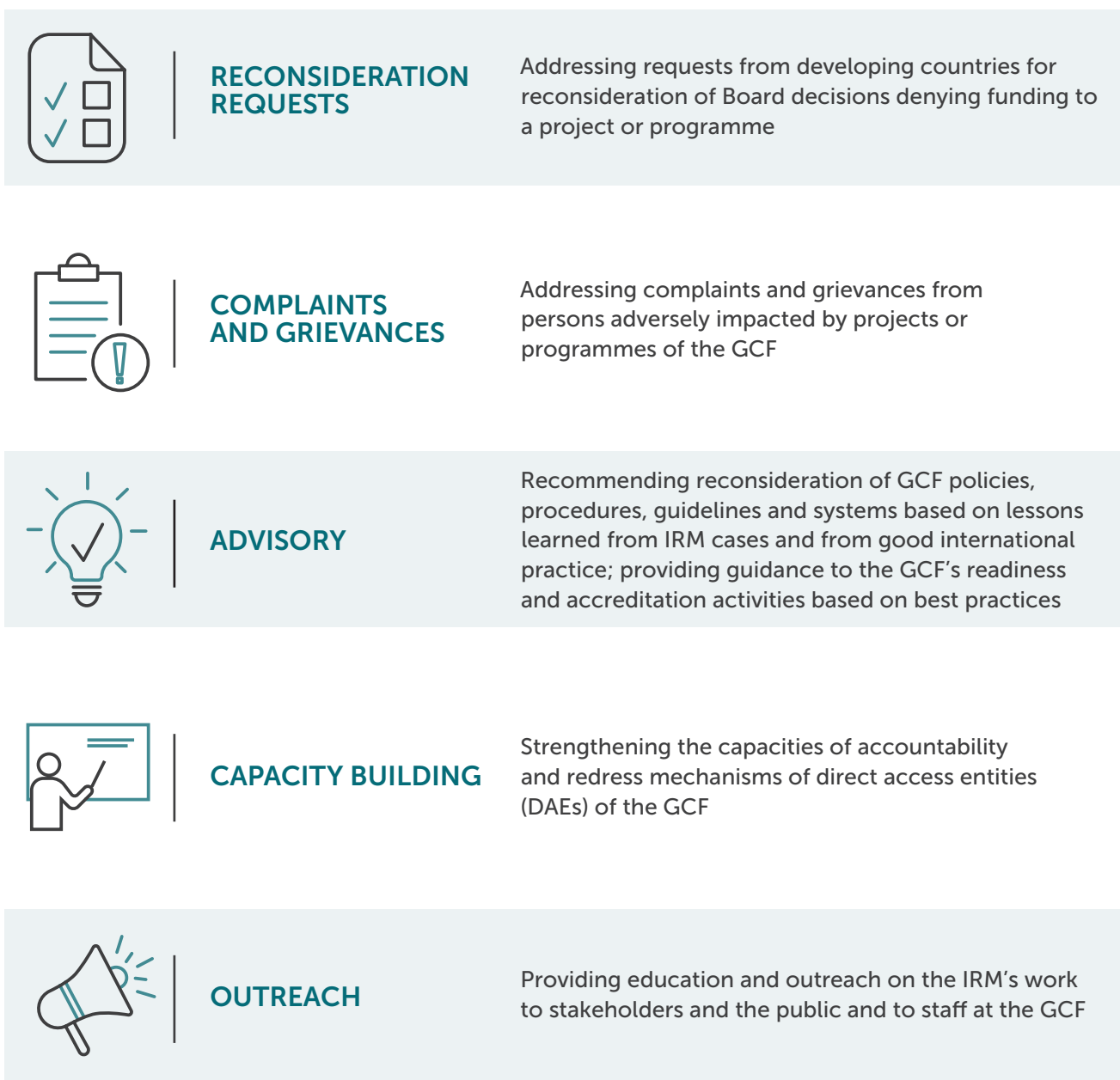
The Board of the GCF is composed of 24 Board members – 12 from developed countries and 12 from developing countries.

The IRM reports to the Board, and actively consults with the Ethics and Audit Committee (EAC), a sub-committee of the Board.

Grievance mechanisms like the IRM offer significant benefits both for the projects of the parent institution and for potentially affected people and other stakeholders. Grievance mechanisms provide a forum for resolving disputes relatively quickly and can help to avoid project delays and costs associated with conflict. Grievance mechanisms also provide a cost-effective method for reporting complaints and a structure for accessing a fair hearing and appropriate remedies.

The IRM is independent of the Secretariat of the GCF and reports to the Board of the GCF on all substantive matters.

FIGURE 2. THE IRM PLAYS FIVE ROLES IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH ITS MISSION.



2022: EXPANDING ACCOUNTABILITY

Two years after the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, the world finally started to open back up. In 2022, the IRM saw many things return to normal. We returned to working in the office, departed on mission travel and held an off-site team retreat.

The IRM also saw some new developments. The IRM completed its first compliance review on a case involving indigenous and Afro-descent communities in Nicaragua. Staff travelled to Nicaragua to investigate the complaint and presented its compliance review report at B.34. As of December 2022, the case is under consideration by the GCF Board.

The IRM also embarked on other mission travel. The IRM took part in the Annual Meetings of the Independent Accountability Mechanism network (IAMnet) in New York City and participated in two side-events at COP27 in Egypt. Additionally, the IRM travelled to the Korean countryside for a team retreat to discuss its upcoming strategy and transition period. While travel in 2022 increased over the two previous years, it has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels.¹

The IRM is pleased to report that it has delivered on its mandate and all the commitments made in its 2022 Work Plan and Budget.² To further strengthen the IRM's mandate in 2023 and beyond, the Board of the GCF approved the IRM's 2023 Work Plan and Budget.³ In 2023, the IRM will recruit two new staff positions - a Senior Dispute Resolution Specialist to lead the IRM's work in compliance investigations and a Mediation Case Officer to assist the IRM with its mediation work.



¹ See Appendix III: Carbon Footprint Report.

² Green Climate Fund (2021), *Independent Redress Mechanism Work Plan and Budget for 2022* (GCF/B.30/10). <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b30-10>

³ Green Climate Fund (2022), *Independent Redress Mechanism Work Plan and Budget for 2023* (GCF/B.34/20/Rev.01). <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b34-20-rev01>

IRM ROLE AND FUNCTIONS: 2022 PROGRESS REPORT

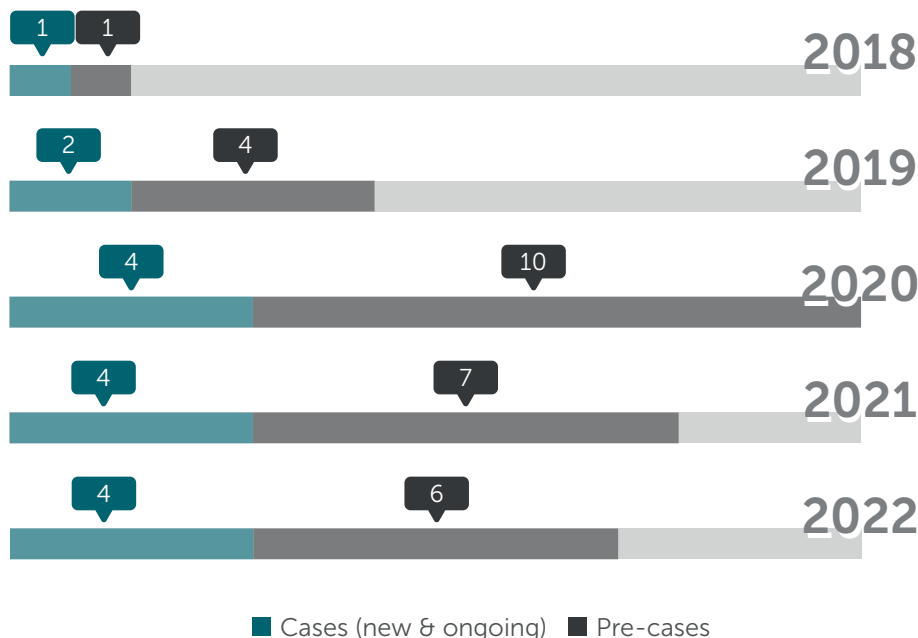
PROCESSING COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS FOR RECONSIDERATION

In 2022, the IRM did not receive any requests from developing countries, for reconsideration of decisions by the Board denying funding to project proposals. On the other hand, the IRM has continued to receive a steady number of complaints from project affected persons.

In 2022, the IRM received two new complaints, processed two ongoing complaints and considered six pre-cases. A pre-case is a communication from an external party to the IRM that is registered in the Case Management System as a pre-case and may or may not mature into a complaint. In comparison, in 2018, the IRM received one request for reconsideration of a funding proposal and considered one pre-case. In 2019, the IRM processed one self-initiated inquiry and one complaint, and considered four pre-cases. In 2020, the IRM processed one self-initiated inquiry and one complaint, and considered ten pre-cases. In 2021, the IRM received two new complaints, processed two ongoing complaints and considered seven pre-cases. In 2022, the IRM received two new complaints, processed two ongoing complaints and considered seven pre-cases.



Complaints & Requests





FP001: Building the Resilience of Wetlands in the Province of Datem del Marañón, Peru⁴

The IRM concluded the monitoring of the outcomes of its 2019 preliminary inquiry into FP001, Peru. A preliminary inquiry is an early phase of an IRM self-initiated investigation. A self-initiated investigation is a proceeding initiated under para 12 of the IRM's Terms of Reference (TOR) if the IRM receives information from a credible source that a GCF project or programme has or may negatively impact a community or person. The IRM concluded its preliminary inquiry into FP001 in early 2019, determining that there was prima facie evidence that the conditions set out in para 12 of the IRM's TOR for initiating an investigation were met. The IRM however agreed not to initiate proceedings under that paragraph in view of an undertaking given by the Secretariat on 1 May 2019 to implement several remedial actions.

The IRM continued to monitor the implementation of these undertakings in 2022. Out of the four undertakings provided by the Secretariat, three were completed before the start of the year - the issuance of guidance on Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) requirements, and on risk categorization for projects involving Indigenous Peoples, and the completion of a legal assessment/opinion examining the potential impacts of the creation of the Áreas de Conservación Ambiental (ACA) on collective land rights of indigenous people who are part of the Project. The IRM received the last progress report from the GCF Secretariat on 11 July 2022,⁵ noting that the AE has confirmed the establishment of a new ACA, which was the last of the four undertakings provided by the Secretariat. Following a Secretariat assessment of the consent documentation submitted by the AE, the IRM began the process of closing the self-initiated inquiry, given the successful execution of all four undertakings outlined within the monitoring agreement. The IRM drafted a report on the outcomes of its preliminary inquiry into FP001, Peru, due to be published in early 2023.

FP146: Bio-CLIMA: Integrated climate action to reduce deforestation and strengthen resilience in BOSAWÁS and Rio San Juan Biospheres⁶

In June 2021, the IRM received a complaint relating to FP146. The complainant(s), while welcoming the objectives of the project, alleged that the project would harm indigenous and Afro-descendant communities as 1) prior to the approval of the project, there was no proper consultation with communities, including no free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC); 2) the project will lead to environmental degradation and attacks by armed non-indigenous settlers; 3) the Accredited Entity's actions do not seem to comply with the GCF's policies, especially on participation and information disclosure; 4) the GCF Board conditions placed on the project, especially relating to the implementation of FPIC and to the selection of independent third party monitor(s), will not be defined and complied with effectively; and 5) the executing entity will not fulfil its obligations in the implementation of the Bio-CLIMA project (more details about the complaint can be found in the eligibility determination report). The complainant(s) requested and were granted confidentiality in accordance with the IRM's Terms of Reference, Procedures and Guidelines, and as a result of its retaliation risk assessment.

⁴ *Independent Redress Mechanism of the GCF (n.d.) C0002 Peru FP001: Building the Resilience of Wetlands in the Province of Datem del Marañón, Peru. Independent Redress Mechanism. <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/case/c0002>*

⁵ Available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/case/fp001-irm-progress-update-june-2022.pdf>

⁶ *Independent Redress Mechanism of the GCF (n.d.) C0006 Nicaragua FP146: Bio-CLIMA: Integrated climate action to reduce deforestation and strengthen resilience in BOSAWÁS and Rio San Juan Biospheres Independent Redress Mechanism. <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/case/c0006>*

The IRM's compliance appraisal report⁷ concluded there was prima facie evidence that the complainant(s) may be affected by adverse impacts through non-compliance of FP146 with GCF operational policies and procedures identified in that report. As a result, the IRM proceeded with the compliance investigation phase on 24 March 2022. The IRM constituted an investigation team led by the Head of the IRM and contracted the services of two subject experts who were specialists in the fields of Indigenous People's governance and on Indigenous Peoples and land titling matters. The IRM investigation team gathered information through virtual interviews with the GCF Secretariat staff and accredited entity staff. The IRM also undertook interviews with external experts on conflict sensitivity and indigenous peoples in Nicaragua. Additionally, some members of the IRM investigation team as well as the problem-solving team conducted a mission to Nicaragua in June 2022, and separately held in-person and virtual meetings with the complainant(s) and other indigenous peoples. While on mission in Nicaragua, the IRM team met with the accredited entity's country office staff, officials affiliated with agencies and ministries of the Nicaraguan Government and Presidents of some Indigenous Peoples Governments. Based on the interviews and evidence gathered, the IRM finalised a report containing the factual findings and recommendations of the compliance review process. A draft report was circulated with the GCF Secretariat, AE and complainant(s) for comments and feedback. The final compliance review report was submitted to the Board on 30 August 2022 and is currently under consideration by the Board. During meetings of the Board held in October 2022 (B.34), the Board issued a decision related to the ongoing consideration of the IRM Compliance Report.⁸

FP121: REDD+ Results-based payments in Paraguay for the period 2015-2017⁹

In June 2022, the IRM received a complaint relating to FP121. The complainant (Instituto Paraguayo del Indígena (Paraguayan Indigenous Institute, INDI) raised concerns regarding their lack of inclusion as part of the Board of Directors for FP121. As a legally recognised and established institution tasked with representing indigenous peoples in Paraguay, the complainant claimed that they should be involved in decision-making processes related to activities of the project that impact indigenous communities. The IRM declared the complaint to be eligible on 28 July 2022.¹⁰ The case proceeded to the Initial Steps phase, where the IRM explored options for problem solving or compliance review, in consultation with the complainant and other stakeholders. The IRM's Compliance and Dispute Resolution Specialist held a series of meetings with several stakeholders, including the complainant, the national designated authority – Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MADES) of Paraguay – and the accredited entity – the United Nations Environment Programme. The initial conclusion of these rounds of meetings was that the apparent disagreement had been caused by miscommunication and that the initiation of a formal process would likely not be needed. More specifically, during the calls, the National Designated Authority stated that its intention was to offer the complainant a seat on the steering committee of the project and that only several delays had prevented it.

⁷ Available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/case/compliance-appraisal-report-publicationc0006.pdf>

⁸ The Board decision is available at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/decision/b34-23>

⁹ Independent Redress Mechanism of the GCF (n.d.) C0008 Paraguay FP121: REDD+ Results-based payments in Paraguay for the period 2015-2017. <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/case/c0008>

¹⁰ The eligibility determination is available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/case/determination-eligibility-final.pdf>



Following these initial engagements, the National Designated Authority reported to the IRM that, on 5 September 2022, INDI had been formally granted a seat in the JDP (Junta Directiva del Proyecto) or steering committee of the project. Subsequently, at the request of the complainant, the IRM closed the case.¹¹

FP039: GCF-EBRD Egypt Renewable Energy Financing Framework¹²

In September and November 2022, the IRM received two complaints related to concerns over working conditions and access to a grievance mechanism in the Benban Solar Park, with relevance to FP039. The complainants were formerly employed by the company Health and Safety Home, working on various projects in the Benban Solar Park. The complainants raise several allegations regarding working conditions and labour management issues, including the quality of food provided and differential treatment of employees in terms of salary, benefits and promotions, prevention of access to a grievance mechanism, and retaliation for filing complaints. Complainants have alleged a lack of community development in the village (BenBan) where the project is based. The IRM has determined both complaints to be eligible¹³ and proceeded to the initial steps phase to determine their choice for the case-handling process. The initial steps phase for both complaints concludes on 7 February 2023.

Pre-cases¹⁴

The IRM processed 6 pre-cases in 2022. A pre-case is a communication from an external party to the IRM and information received by the IRM that is registered in the Case Management System as a pre-case and may or may not mature into a complaint. The list of the IRM's pre-cases, accessible in the Case Register, contains a summary of all the pre-cases registered in the IRM's Case Management System as of 31 December 2022.

Overview of Grievances Received and Processed by Accredited Entities with the GCF for the Calendar Year 2021

Annual Performance Reports are submitted by Accredited Entities and document progress on project activities and objectives. At the IRM's suggestion, the Annual Performance Report (APR) queried Accredited Entities on (i) activities undertaken to disseminate information about accredited entity or project-level grievance redress mechanisms as well as the Independent Redress Mechanism of the GCF and (ii) the number, status and description of grievances reported. As this is self-reported data, the IRM cannot guarantee the accuracy of responses or draw any conclusions on the nature, operations or functioning of individual grievance redress mechanisms.

In the second year of collecting and analyzing this data, the IRM notes that accredited entities reported a substantial increase in complaints or grievances received i.e., 1,236 complaints or grievances from a total of 130 submitted APRs. In CY2020, accredited entities had reported 275 grievances from a total of 109 submitted APRs. Of the 1,236 reported complaints or grievances received in CY2021, 1,185 were marked as resolved

¹¹ The initial steps report is available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/case/initial-steps-report-paraguay-final.pdf>

¹² Independent Redress Mechanism of the GCF (n.d.) C0009 Egypt FP039: GCF-EBRD Egypt Renewable Energy Financing Framework. <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/case/c0009-egypt>

¹³ The eligibility reports are available at: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/case/determination-eligibility-c0009.pdf> and <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/case/determination-eligibility-c0009-complainant2.pdf>

¹⁴ Independent Redress Mechanism of the GCF (n.d.) Case Register Independent Redress Mechanism. <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/case-register#>

and 51 were considered 'active' and were carried into the following year for resolution. Grievances have been recorded by both International Access Entities and Direct Access Entities and cover a wide range of issues, including requests for changes in the construction of physical works, funds and compensation, personnel or labor issues, consultation and disclosure, pollution brought about by project activities, and property damage. Grievances have been submitted by various stakeholders such as community members, contractors, and indigenous peoples.

The IRM is encouraged by the increased reporting on grievances handled by accredited entities, demonstrating in a practical sense what the 'Ecosystem of Grievance Mechanisms' could achieve in expanding access to remedy and recourse. The IRM continues to collaborate with grievance redress mechanism colleagues in international and direct access entities, to build capacity and improve the operation of mechanisms at every level.

ADVISORY

The IRM is mandated to recommend to the Board reconsideration of policies, procedures, guidelines and systems based on lessons learned from the IRM's work and from good international practice and provide guidance to the GCF's readiness and accreditation activities based on best practices.¹⁵



The IRM also works collaboratively with the other two Independent Units (IUs), the Independent Integrity Unit (IIU) and the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU), and the Secretariat to provide advice and feedback on a range of policy documents and Administrative Instructions (AIs) for GCF staff. In 2022, the IRM engaged with the Secretariat on the draft Safety and Security Travel Policy, the draft MOU between the Secretariat and the IUs, the draft internal Appraisal Guidelines, the draft Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Standards and the draft floorplan for the new office, among others. The IRM also worked with the Secretariat to create a new staff onboarding package, highlighting key principles and procedures of the IRM.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF DIRECT ACCESS ENTITY GRIEVANCE MECHANISMS

One of the key functions entrusted to the IRM by the Board in the updated 2017 TOR is that of capacity building for the grievance redress mechanisms (GRMs) of Direct Access Entities (DAEs). The GCF currently has 72 Direct Access Entities with an effective accreditation master agreement and all of them are expected to have a grievance redress mechanism at the institutional level. However, the IRM's research had shown that such GRMs, in the case of some DAEs, were either non-existent, weak or lacked capacity. The Board mandate to the IRM is critical in ensuring that GRMs are in place, and appropriately structured, so that accountability exists at all levels and conflicts and disputes at the project level can be addressed properly by DAEs.



With support from the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), the IRM consolidated its previous regional workshops into a single global capacity building training. In total, 36 people from 19 organisations completed the training in 2022, which was conducted throughout June. The IRM is currently translating the new version of the online learning

¹⁵ *Green Climate Fund. (2017) Decision of the Board on updated Terms of Reference of the Independent Redress Mechanism (Revised). Independent Redress Mechanism of the Green Climate Fund. <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/bbm-2017-10-decision-board-updated-terms-reference-independent-redress-mechanism-revised.pdf>*

modules into French and Spanish. It also provided individualised support to GRMs of DAEs through CBI.

The IRM's virtual curriculum, paired with interactive and live discussions, provided participants with the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the basics of operating and managing a grievance redress mechanism. Participants who successfully completed the online learning modules and who attended all sessions received a certificate from the IRM, the Consensus Building Institute, and the Harvard-MIT Disputes Program. The workshops received positive feedback from the participants and were rated as being informative and comprehensive. Having concluded four consecutive trainings between 2019 and 2022, the IRM has now completed trainings for a majority of Direct Access Entities.

Additionally, in November 2022, the IRM successfully hosted two separate company-community mediation trainings – one for the Asia-Pacific region and another for the other regions – to GRM personnel of the GCF's DAEs who had already completed the basic GRM training. A total of 18 participants completed the training and received certificates.



COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Under paragraph 16 and 17 of the Updated Terms of Reference, the IRM has a mandate to provide education and outreach on the IRM's role and work to stakeholders and the public, including the staff of the GCF.¹⁶

In 2022, the IRM hired a full-time Communications Associate. Through this additional staff member, the IRM has greatly enhanced the capacity and reach of its communications. In particular, the IRM expanded its presence on social media, increased its website visits by 24% and launched a new podcast.¹⁷

For outreach, the IRM organised four virtual webinars and launched a collaboration programme with CSOs, reaching nearly 200 people in over 20 countries. These activities were targeted at regional and national CSOs and community leaders.

CSO outreach webinars

Latin America¹⁸

In March 2022, the IRM hosted two outreach activities in Latin America - a focus group discussion and webinar - with the Early Warning System network. These activities allowed the IRM to explain its role in addressing complaints around GCF projects to 30 + civil society participants in Latin America. The workshops were simultaneously interpreted in Spanish.

South Asia¹⁹

On 26 July 2022, the IRM hosted a virtual outreach event for South Asia, in collaboration with the Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) in Sri Lanka and the Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE) in India. The IRM explained its role in

¹⁶ Green Climate Fund. (2017) Decision of the Board on updated Terms of Reference of the Independent Redress Mechanism (Revised). Independent Redress Mechanism of the Green Climate Fund. <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/bbm-2017-10-decision-board-updated-terms-reference-independent-redress-mechanism-revised.pdf>

¹⁷ Redress Now, a podcast by the IRM. <https://anchor.fm/redress-now-irm>

¹⁸ IRM outreach in Latin America: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/news/engaging-latin-american-civil-society-two-way-dialogue>

¹⁹ IRM outreach in South Asia: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/event/irm-outreach-south-asia>



addressing complaints around GCF projects to 60+ civil society participants in South Asia. To increase accessibility for local communities, the online event featured Tamil and Sinhalese interpretation.

Pacific Islands²⁰

On 14 September 2022, the IRM hosted a virtual outreach event on climate redress in the Pacific, co-hosted with the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN) and the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) of the GCF. The event featured sign language interpretation for attendees.

Kenya²¹

On 23 November 2022, the IRM, together with the Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA) and the Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG), met with over 60 participants from Kenya for its last outreach webinar series of the year. The webinar was conducted in English and Swahili.



CSO collaboration programme

To reinforce the IRM's presence at the grassroots level and strengthen relations with national civil society organizations (CSO), the IRM embarked on a new initiative in 2022.

The IRM collaborated with two CSOs in India – Bridge Policy Think Tank and Environics Trust – who helped raise awareness about the IRM, its mission, and values. The CSOs organised workshops and webinars, distributed informational materials and created social media ads, all targeted at local populations in GCF project areas. The main objectives included raising awareness of climate change and the importance of redress mechanisms to ensure access to justice, transparency and accountability.

COP27

The IRM also participated in-person at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, speaking on two panels.²² The first event looked at the core principles needed for a successful

²⁰ IRM outreach in the Pacific: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/news/climate-redress-pacific-increasing-visibility-irm>

²¹ IRM outreach in Kenya: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/news/connecting-irm-civil-society-kenya>

²² Redress, the IRM and COP27. <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/news/redress-irm-and-cop27>

independent grievance process as part of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The second event, co-hosted by the IRM, the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and the Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba), looked at how Indigenous Peoples have been impacted by climate finance projects, and how grievance accountability mechanisms like the IRM have helped provide recourse to Indigenous Peoples and others who have been affected by development projects. During COP27, the IRM also conducted several liaison meetings with civil society organisations.



IRM at COP27 (November 2022)



IRM at COP27 (November 2022)

WATCH THE
COP27 SIDE-
EVENT AT



Other events

The IRM was also invited to speak at various events throughout the year, including:

West African Webinar on the GCF: On 10 June 2022, the IRM participated in a regional webinar, organised by Jeunes Volontaires Pour L'environnement Cameroun (JVE). The webinar brought together environmental stakeholders in the region and focused on the main highlights of the GCF's 31st and 32nd Board meetings.

GCF Watch Webinar Series:²³ On 7 July 2022, the IRM joined GCF Watch for an online discussion with Germanwatch, AESVT Maroc, Aksi! for gender, social and ecological justice, the Women's Environment & Development Organization and the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development on the role of CSO-led monitoring and evaluation of GCF-approved projects.

GCF's Global Programming Conference:²⁴ On 14 September 2022, the IRM participated in session 3.3.2 on "Funded Activities: Lessons from implementation, adaptive management, and evaluation" at the GCF's Global Programming Conference. The IRM discussed how lessons from IRM cases can be used to help avoid complaints during the project implementation process.

Amfori Annual Event:²⁵ On 20 October 2022, the IRM participated in the amfori - Trade with Purpose - Annual Event. We talked about the GRAM partnership during a session on "Resolution through Collaboration – towards Impactful Grievance Mechanisms".

²³ GCFWatch webinar series (July 2022): <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/event/gcfwatch-webinar-series-cso-led-monitoring-and-evaluation-gcf-approved-projects>

²⁴ GCF's Global Programming Conference (September 2022): <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/gcf-conference-opens-calls-developing-countries-increased-finance-climate-action>

²⁵ Amfori Annual Event (October 2022): <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/event/irm-amfori-annual-event>



IRM at the Amfori Annual Event (October 2022)

Inreach to GCF Staff

In addition to its external communications, the IRM continued inreach events with the GCF Secretariat. The goal of these events is to foster collaboration, trust and understanding within the GCF and its staff and to encourage institutional learning. The IRM has hosted two such events in 2022. The first event, in April, was an orientation session for new staff to introduce them to the work of the IRM. During the second event in December, the IRM introduced the beta version of its new board game - “Road to Redress” - to the GCF Secretariat and Independent Units. Players walked through the different scenarios that could arise during the four major stages of the complaint process.



IRM inreach with the GCF Secretariat (December 2022)

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

INFORMATION APPEALS PANEL

The Heads of the three Independent Units at the GCF make up the Information Appeals Panel (IAP) established under the GCF's Information Disclosure Policy (IDP) and related Board decisions. Information disclosure requests which are made to the GCF Secretariat under the IDP and which are denied, may be appealed to the IAP. In 2022, the Information Appeals Panel did not receive any information appeals. From 4 June 2021 to 3 June 2022, the Head of the IRM served as the Chairperson of the IAP, which was then passed to the Head of the IEU.

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM NETWORK

With Board approval, the IRM joined the Independent Accountability Mechanisms Network (IAMnet) in February 2017. IAMnet is a community of practice for accountability mechanism practitioners. There are over 20 accountability mechanisms of international financial institutions and multilateral and bi-lateral development funds, and a significant number of the grievance redress mechanisms of the current accredited entities are members of this network. The IRM continues to actively participate in IAMnet, including attending its Annual Meeting and serving on working groups to develop good practices, collaborate on outreach activities, and implement governance reforms. In 2022, the IRM actively participated and made presentations in the IAMnet's 19th Annual Meeting,²⁶ which took place both in-person and online between 24-27 October 2022 in New York City and was convened by the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU) of UNDP. The IRM also beta-tested its new board game "Road to Redress" with IAMnet members and civil society organisations. Over 140 staff members of Independent Accountability Mechanisms participated in the hybrid meeting.



Current and former IRM staff at the 2022 IAMnet Annual Meetings in New York City (October 2022)

²⁶ 2022 IAMnet Annual Meeting: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/news/accountability-core-2022-iamnet-annual-meetings>



STRENGTHENING THE GRAM PARTNERSHIP

In 2019, the IRM formed the Grievance Redress and Accountability Mechanism (GRAM) partnership to offer leadership, a learning and knowledge platform and a meeting space to an increasing number of GRAMs (especially the staff of Grievance redress mechanisms of the GCF’s Direct Access Entities) that are emerging in different spheres. In 2022, the IRM hosted a series of 3 virtual GRAM Partnership webinars, providing increased opportunities for accountability practitioners to share their insights and learnings:

5th GRAM Partnership Webinar:²⁷ In March, the IRM convened the fifth GRAM Webinar, on the topic “Practical examples of involuntary resettlement and land acquisition related complaints and their management through problem solving and compliance review”, addressing how companies are encouraged to prevent involuntary relocation and mitigate the impact on those who are displaced through mitigation measures such as fair compensation and improved living conditions.

6th GRAM Partnership Webinar:²⁸ In June, the Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism (MICI) of the Inter-American Development Bank hosted the sixth GRAM webinar on the topic “Practical examples of Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP), Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples (FPIC) and Broad Community Support (BCS)”, focusing on how performance standards have been applied in cases, using both problem solving and compliance review methods.

7th GRAM Partnership Webinar:²⁹ In October, the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) hosted the seventh GRAM webinar on the topic “How to integrate human rights principles and requirements in safeguard policies and grievance mechanism processes”, focusing on how grievance mechanisms can integrate human rights standards in their policies to deliver on their own mandates and respond to evolving regulatory demands.

²⁷ 5th GRAM Partnership Webinar: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/news/land-acquisition-and-involuntary-resettlement-lessons-gram-community-practice>

²⁸ 6th GRAM Partnership Webinar: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/news/performance-standards-practice-gram-partnership-webinar-mici>

²⁹ 7th GRAM Partnership Webinar: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/news/human-rights-principles-safeguard-policies-gram-partnership-webinar-secu-and-ohchr>

THE FUTURE: LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023



Handling cases: The IRM's case load continues to see an increase in numbers and complexity. The IRM continues to engage with stakeholders on the case related to FP039 (Egypt) and is in the process of closing its preliminary inquiry into FP001 (Peru), following the completion of all pending activities. Furthermore, the IRM awaits a Board decision on the complaint related to FP146 (Nicaragua). The IRM stands ready to receive any new complaints and/or reconsideration requests in 2023.



Capacity building: The IRM has successfully trained a majority of DAEs on the basics of setting up and operating a grievance redress mechanism. In 2023, the IRM will conduct a three-week virtual capacity-building workshop for DAE personnel based in Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. The IRM will also continue to offer its training for DAEs in company-community mediation, which will be added to the current curricula and contents of the IRM trainings. To encourage participation from African countries, the IRM will merge its workshops on company-community mediation and setting up and operating a grievance redress mechanism into a single in-person workshop. This in-person workshop will take place in an African country and will be offered to representatives of the GRMs of DAEs of African countries.



Outreach: The IRM will continue to conduct virtual outreach events in 2023 and organise one in-person outreach event in Africa to expand its accessibility amongst relevant stakeholders. The IRM will also continue its collaboration programme with civil society in reaching grassroots communities. The IRM will also launch its new board game "Road to Redress." The game's goal will be used to teach stakeholders about different scenarios that may arise during the four major stages of the complaint process (Eligibility, Problem Solving, Compliance Review and Remedy/Monitoring).



Lessons learned: The IRM will prepare, as appropriate, advisory reports in 2023 for presentation to the Board. The IRM will participate in the first 5-year Independent Review of the Mechanism, which will evaluate the IRM's procedures, operations and activities over the past five years and propose recommendations for improvements. The IRM will continue to work collaboratively with the other two Independent Units and the Secretariat to provide advice and feedback on a range of policy documents. The IRM will also continue to push for greater transparency in relation to project information and continue to model best practices in information disclosure.

CONCLUSIONS

As the world moves on from COVID-19, the IRM will continue to fulfil its mandate by addressing complaints from affected people, providing recourse in a way that is fair, effective and transparent, and enhancing the performance of GCF's climate funding.

2022 brought about many new changes for the IRM. A new Communications Officer has helped increase awareness and exposure of the IRM's work and the IRM's first compliance review case, which is currently under Board consideration, has laid the groundwork for future cases to come.

2023 will bring about even more change for the IRM. The IRM will welcome a new Head and bring on board two additional staff members to strengthen the unit's work.

The IRM is confident that it is ready to meet future challenges associated with handling complaints and requests for reconsideration and the discharge of its other mandates with the support of the Board, the GCF Secretariat and other IRM stakeholders, including accredited entities and their grievance redress mechanisms, and civil society organisations.





APPENDIX 1

BOARD APPROVED WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2023

Please visit this link:

<https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/gcf-b34-20-rev01.pdf>

APPENDIX 2

INDEPENDENT REDRESS MECHANISM BUDGET 2022

BUDGET EXECUTION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022 (IN USD)

	2022 APPROVED BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE TO 31 DECEMBER 2022	BALANCE	% SPENT
3.1 Staff, Consultants and Interns				
3.1.1 Full-time Staff	1,095,945	902,254	193,691	82%
3.1.2 Consultants and Interns	160,390	64,207	96,183	40%
Subtotal: Staff, Consultants and Interns	1,256,335	966,461	289,875	77%
3.2 Travel	-	-	-	-
3.2.1 General	19,030	53,452	-34,422	281%
3.2.2 Travel associated with complaints/ requests	42,530	24,959	17,571	59%
Sub-total: Travel	61,560	78,411	-16,851	127%
3.3 Contractual Services				
3.3.1 Professional Services	147,651	134,182	13,469	91%
3.3.2 Operating costs	29,900	14,715	15,185	49%
Sub-total: Contractual Services	177,551	148,898	28,654	84%
Total	1,495,446	1,193,770	301,676	80%
Shared cost allocation	150,469	144,430	6,039	96%
Grand total (1+2+3)	1,645,915	1,338,200	307,715	81%

APPENDIX 3

IRM TEAM CARBON FOOTPRINT

Since 2019, the IRM has been collecting data on its carbon emissions from air travel. As the world adapts to the spread of COVID-19, the IRM has resumed international travel to carry out its activities more effectively. The IRM's carbon emissions from air travel in 2022 showed an almost threefold increase from the 2021 emissions, but this is about a 60 per cent decrease compared to the 2019 emissions. In 2022, there was a significant increase in travel related to complaints handling, and other travel included attending the GCF Board Meeting, COP27 and the IAMnet annual meeting.

In 2023, the IRM will continue to increase travel, with the addition of one in-person capacity building workshop and one in-person outreach event as well as the recruitment of three new staff members. While carbon emissions from air travel are expected to rise, the IRM continues its efforts to mainstream carbon emissions reductions into its operations.

YEAR	TOTAL CARBON EMISSIONS (T)	IRM'S FUNCTIONS					BOARD MEETING (%)	STAFF RECRUITMENT AND BENEFITS (%)
		COMPLAINTS HANDLING (%)	RECONSIDERATION REQUESTS (%)	OUTREACH (%)	CAPACITY BUILDING (%)	ADVISORY (%)		
2019	61	0	0	36	30	0	0	34
2020	7.4	0	0	32	0	0	0	68
2021	8.1	17	0	26	0	0	0	57
2022	23.3	38	0	34	0	0	10	19



APPENDIX 4

IRM TEAM PROFILES



IBRAHIM PAM

HEAD OF UNIT A.I. (SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER)

Ibrahim Pam is the ad interim (a.i.) Head of the Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM). He was previously Head of the GCF Independent Integrity Unit (IIU), an Analyst and Investigator in the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and Chief Investigator in the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Department of the African Development Bank (AfDB). Most recently, he has been the chair of the Ad Hoc External Panel on Workplace Culture for the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC and is a Member of the Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Ibrahim holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Jos and a Master in Criminal Justice Policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



LALANATH DE SILVA

HEAD OF UNIT (JANUARY – AUGUST)

Dr. Lalanath de Silva was the Head of GCF's Independent Redress Mechanism from January to August 2022. Lalanath has extensive experience in legal affairs, with more than 30 years of service as a practicing lawyer. In Sri Lanka, he supported the Ministry of Environment as a legal consultant, and was a member of his country's Law Commission. Lalanath previously worked at the Environmental Claims Unit of the UN Compensation Commission in Geneva, and served as Director of the Environmental Democracy Practice at the World Resources Institute (WRI) in Washington DC. As a member of the Compliance Review Panel of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), he led the review of multiple compliance cases. Lalanath has a PhD from the University of Sydney, a Master of Laws from the University of Washington, and graduated from the Sri Lanka Law College as an Attorney-at-Law.



PACO GIMENEZ-SALINAS
COMPLIANCE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION SPECIALIST

Paco Gimenez-Salinas, born in Spain, is a lawyer by profession specialized in alternative dispute resolution with a focus in mediation. He has participated in cases handled by the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (IFC) as an external facilitator, as well as in cases managed by the Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism (IADB) in the role of its consultation phase coordinator. In México, he spent several years working in the field of community mediation. Amongst other experiences, he has participated in the design and facilitation of several major multi-party dialogues around issues such as air pollution reduction strategies, the impacts of dams and windmill fields, the strengthening of conflict resolution systems of land tenure related conflicts, etc. Paco has undertaken post-graduate studies in the fields of conflict resolution at the University of Barcelona, political analysis at the Mexican University CIDE and community-company mediation at the University of Cape Town.



PREKSHA KRISHNA KUMAR
REGISTRAR AND CASE OFFICER

Preksha Krishna Kumar is a researcher and communications specialist, with wide-ranging experience relating to accountability and redress mechanisms. She previously worked for an international human rights advocacy organization based in New York, supporting dozens of frontline communities in their efforts to access information and redress. Over the course of her career, Preksha has been immersed in the policies, practices and impacts of development finance institutions – working with diverse stakeholders in countries such as India, Colombia, Malawi and Kenya. A data nerd, Preksha supported the design and creation of a civil society-led database of 19000+ development projects, breaking down complex financial flows and investments and facilitating access to early, verifiable and actionable data. Preksha comes to the IRM with enthusiasm and a commitment to building and maintaining fair, effective and transparent processes for accessing remedy and reconsideration. Preksha holds a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College, New York, with a focus on Development Economics and Spanish Literature.



PETER CARLSON
COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

Peter is IRM's Communication Associate with significant communications experience in education and international development. Prior to joining the IRM, Peter was part of the communications team at the Global Partnership for Education, focusing on digital campaigns and media and the OECD, managing communications for the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and the Environment Directorate. He has also worked at HEC Paris business school, UNESCO and African Artists for Development. Peter holds Bachelor's degrees in Marketing and French from Ohio State University and a Master's degree in International Affairs from Sciences Po Paris.



SUE KYUNG HWANG
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Observing a sudden transition of her countryside hometown in Ulsan, South Korea, to a highly industrialized one, Sue Kyung grew up wanting to study the environmental consequences of rapidly sprawling cities in developing countries. After studying International Affairs and Environmental Studies at the George Washington University, she pursued her master's degree in Water Cooperation and Diplomacy, a joint programme held at University for Peace (Costa Rica), IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (Netherlands), and Oregon State University (U.S.), to learn how countries manage water resources that are not naturally bound by artificial borders. Her past work experiences involve preparing a database of livestock carbon emissions and using it to educate the public for climate action in a local community in Costa Rica. Sue Kyung served as the IRM's intern in 2020 and rejoined the team as the IRM's Team Assistant in April 2021.



CHARLENE ANGELA SARDOMA

INTERN (AUGUST – DECEMBER)

Charlene joined the IRM team as an intern after earning her master's degree in Global Affairs and Policy from Yonsei University. As a national of the Philippines, a country often struck by typhoons and other natural disasters, Charlene developed an interest in climate change adaptation. This has motivated her career shift from working in the advertising industry as a digital analyst, to the development sector. Before entering graduate school, Charlene gained experience liaising between international funding agencies and project affected people regarding social and environmental safeguards. She looks forward to working at the nexus of grievance redress, sustainable development, and international cooperation through her internship with the IRM. Charlene is also passionate about research on economic and environmental migration, voluntary or involuntary.



NOÉMIE FANKHAUSER

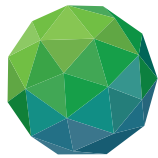
INTERN (MARCH – SEPTEMBER)

Noémie Fankhauser joined the IRM team as an intern in March 2022. She is a Master's student at the University of Geneva and is currently writing her thesis on the development of environmental policies in South Korea and the evolution of ecological awareness. After studying abroad in Hong Kong and South Korea, Noémie grew interested in international studies, with a particular interest in the East Asian region. She did a Bachelor's in History and Anthropology of Religion and Japanese civilization and is currently pursuing her Master's in Asian studies. Having interned for a Civil Society Organisation on arms transfer regulation, Noémie has joined the IRM with the ambition to play a role in overcoming social and environmental issues and comprehend the essential role of independent accountability mechanisms.



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