

CIF Evaluation and Learning Initiative

The scale and urgency of the climate crisis demands rapid action to prevent a range of current and future consequences. However, there are major gaps in financing countries' ambitions for climate change action as reflected in the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Increased evidence-based learning is needed to inform how to make the best use of scarce public resources and help countries more rapidly transition towards low-carbon, climate-resilient development pathways.

The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) were founded with the mandate to serve as a learning laboratory for scaled-up climate finance. The CIF Evaluation and Learning (E&L) Initiative is helping to fulfill this mandate through a range of strategic and demand-driven evaluations covering some of the most important and pressing challenges facing climate finance funders and practitioners. Drawing on experience from across the CIF portfolio of investments in clean energy, forests and resilience in 72 developing countries, the E&L Initiative uses evaluation to enable learning that is relevant, timely and used to inform decisions and strategies, for both the CIF and the wider climate finance sector.

Guided by an expert Advisory Group that includes representatives from multi-lateral development banks, donors, recipient countries, CIF Observers, the CIF Administrative Unit (CIF AU) and external experts, evaluations are undertaken with high stakeholder engagement and a focus on applied learning opportunities.

Priority Learning Themes and Topics

The E&L Initiative prioritizes five core learning themes and related sub-topics, developed through wide consultation and dialogue. Evaluations address key issues relevant to CIF programs, sectors and stakeholder groups. Broadly, these include:

Transformational Change

Understanding CIF contributions to transformational change, and related lessons and concepts.

Local Stakeholder Engagement and Benefit

Exploring stakeholder engagement strategies and related topics.

Mobilizing Private Sector through Concessional Finance

Investigating financing models and experiences in CIF programs and sectors, and the role of concessional finance.

CIF Design and Approach

Evaluating the effectiveness of the CIF Programmatic Approach and other strategies or approaches.

Development Impacts of Climate Finance and Just Transitions

Understanding socio-economic development contributions and issues in CIF investments.

Sector/Program-specific

Assessing various priority program or sector-related topics and themes.

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List of E&L Evaluations and Activities

The following list of E&L activities, organized by learning theme and sub-topic, includes the name of the activity, implementing agency or evaluation firm, and (estimated) completion date.

TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE	
Transformational Change Learning Partnership (TCLP) → Climate Investment Funds (CIF)	Ongoing
Evaluation of Transformational Change in the Climate Investment Funds → Itad	Completed (Jan. 2019)
Evidence Synthesis of Transformational Change in the Climate Investment Funds → Overseas Development Institute (ODI)	Completed (Jan. 2019)
Reflections Report of the Transformational Change Learning Partnership → Consensus Building Institute (CBI)	Completed (Jun. 2019)
Signals of Transformational Change → CIF and Itad	Completed (Dec. 2019)
Country and Thematic Case Studies on Transformational Change → CIF and partners	Ongoing
Zambia: Building a Resilient Future → CIF	Completed (Jun. 2020)
Mexico: The Contribution of the Forest Investment Program to Forest and Climate Goals → ODI and CIF	Completed (Jul. 2021)
Transformational Change in Concentrated Solar Power → ATA Insights and Oxford Consulting	Completed (Aug. 2021)
Designing for Transformation - A Practice-Oriented Toolkit → Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	Completed (Nov. 2019)
Sector-based Evidence Gap Maps and Systematic Review on Transformational Change → Center for Evaluation and Development, with Green Climate Fund (GCF) Independent	Completed (Sep. 2021)
MOBILIZING PRIVATE SECTOR THROUGH CONCESSIONAL FINANCE	
Private Sector and Concessional Finance in Renewable Energy	
The Clean Technology Fund and Concessional Finance - Lessons Learned and Strategies Moving Forward → Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF)	Completed (Mar. 2019)
Scaling up of Rooftop Solar in the SME Sector in India → CIF AU and Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India, LLP	Completed (Apr. 2019)
Role of Public Sector in Mobilizing Commercial Finance for Grid-Connected Solar Projects → World Bank	Completed (Jul. 2019)
Private Sector in Forests	
Evaluation and Learning Partnership on Financing Forest-Related Enterprises → International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and LTS International	Completed (May 2019)
Towards Large-Scale Commercial Investment in African Forestry → African Development Bank (AfDB) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) for Nature - Kenya	Completed (Jun. 2019)
Fiscal Incentives for Decreasing Deforestation → World Bank	Completed (Mar. 2021)
Private Sector in Climate Resilience	
Saint Lucia's Experience: Private Sector Participation in Response to Climate Change → Government of St. Lucia and Environmental Governance Consulting	Completed (Oct. 2020)
DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS OF CLIMATE FINANCE AND JUST TRANSITIONS	
How Can Climate Finance Support COVID-19 Recoveries? Lessons from the CIF → CIF	Completed (Oct. 2020)
Case Studies of Just Transition Concepts and Experiences in CIF Programs and Projects → CIF	Ongoing
Supporting Just Transitions in South Africa → CIF	Completed (Sep. 2020)

Supporting Just Transitions in India → CIF	Completed
	(Mar. 2021)
Pathways for Just Transitions: Gender-Responsive Policies and Place-Based Investment → CIF and CSIS	Completed (Feb. 2021)
A Just Green Recovery from COVID-19	Completed
→ CIF and CSIS	(May 2021)
Just Transition Concepts and Relevance for Climate Action	Completed
→ CIF and CSIS	(Jun. 2020)
Socio-economic Development Impacts of Climate Finance - Mixed Method Evaluation	Ongoing
→ CIF	(Apr. 2022)
Socio-economic Development Impacts of Climate Finance - Portfolio Analysis and Economic Modeling → CIF	Ongoing
Initial Findings from CIF's Clean Technology Fund (CTF) → CIF	Completed (Jun. 2020)
Initial Findings from CIF's Scaling Up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries Program (SREP) → CIF	Completed (Mar. 2021)
Welfare and Forests: Lessons from Assessments of the FIP Co-funded Projects in Lao PDR and Mexico → World Bank	Completed (Mar.2021)
Lessons Learned from Noor Ouarzazate Solar Complex in Morocco → World Bank Energy Sector Management Program (ESMAP)	Ongoing (Nov. 2021)
Measuring Household Climate Resilience in Vulnerable Countries and Communities in Zambia → World Bank	Ongoing (Dec. 2021)
LOCAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & BENEFIT	
Participation and Impact	
Evaluation of Local Stakeholder Engagement (LSE) in the CIF	Completed
→ CBI	(Feb. 2020)
Just-in-time report to support the Climate Investment Funds' Stakeholder Engagement to Uptake Lessons and Recommendations from Local Stakeholder Engagement Evaluation → CIF	Completed (Nov. 2020)
Local Stakeholder Engagement in the Programs of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) in Cambodia → Live and Learn Cambodia	Completed (Nov. 2019)
Indigenous Peoples	
Review of the Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM) for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in FIP	Completed
	(Jan. 2019)
Assessing the Potential to Expand the Dedicated Grant Mechanism Through an Indigenous Lens → Maori and Indigenous Governance Centre and University of Waikato	Completed (Jul. 2020)
Gender	
Evidence on Private Sector Investments for Gender-Sensitive Climate Resilient Development in	
Tajikistan	Completed
→ European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	(Feb. 2021)
Social Identity Framing for Women's Participation in Natural Resource Management Programs in	On main -
Mexico → World Bank and CONAFOR	Ongoing (Nov. 2021)
Engagement of Women and Gender-Related Groups in the Climate Investment Funds: An Assessment	Completed
→ Women and Environment Development Organization (WEDO)	(May 2020)
Climate Change and Health	
Climate Change and Health in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Case of Uganda → Government of Uganda and Climate Change Adaptation and Innovation	Completed (Jun. 2020)
CIF DESIGN AND APPROACH	(2.2. 10.2.)
CIF Programmatic Approach	
Evaluation of the CIF Programmatic Approach	Completed
→ ICF International	(Oct. 2018)
SECTOR/PROGRAM-SPECIFIC	

Study on CIF-Supported Technical Assistance and Capacity Building → CIF	Ongoing (Jan. 2022)
Key E&L Lessons Synthesis: with lessons and insights from E&L and other studies as relevant to the new CIF programming areas → CIF	Ongoing (Feb. 2022)
Scaling Up Renewable Energy Approaches	
Evaluation of early implementation, outcomes and lessons in SREP → ICF International	Ongoing (Feb. 2022)
Forest Investment Approaches	
Early Lessons from the Design and Implementation of the Forest Investment Program (FIP) → World Bank	Completed (May 2020)
Climate Resilience Approaches	
PPCR Knowledge Briefs on Resilience Microfinance and Water Resources Management → Oxford Policy Management and OneWorld	Completed (Nov. 2018)
Building Transformative Institutional Adaptive Capacity for Climate-Resilient Water Governance in Bolivia → Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	Completed (Feb. 2020)
Understanding Leadership for Optimal Project Planning and Performance: A Case Study → LEAD Pakistan	Completed (Mar. 2020)
Evaluation of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Innovative Financing in Bhutan → Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation	Completed (Oct. 2019)
Evaluating Operational Pathways for Modernizing National Hydro-met and Climate Services **World Bank**	Ongoing (Dec. 2021)
Learning Review of CIF-supported Hydromet and Climate Services Projects in PPCR → WS Atkins International	Ongoing (Oct. 2021)
Country-level Synergies of Climate Funds	
Maximizing Synergy and Complementarity Among International Climate Funds at the Country Level → CIF, Green Climate Fund (GCF), and Arepo Consult	Completed (Apr. 2020)