

GCF Observer Network of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities

Intervention on

Multilingualism**Access the document:** <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b43-inf12>

We are disappointed to see how a mandate standing since the B.36 meeting in mid 2023 comes together in under-developed documentation on how the organization has taken on multilingualism, instead of an approach or a strategy that offers new and meaningful commitments and guidance on how shortcomings could be addressed across institutional practices.

Fundamentally, the document fails to recognize the real value and significance of multilingual approaches across GCF practices and processes. It is not only policy and operational documents that should be made available in multiple languages. The role of language affects not only relationships and interactions between Secretariat staff, NDAs, and AEs, but also the critical interactions for proposal design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, which involve executing entities, local intermediaries, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, affected communities, academia, and so on. Multilingualism is in fact key to the Fund operating in a transparent and accountable manner in accordance with its governing instrument.

With this understanding, it should be clear that documents such as funding proposals should be made available in the languages spoken in the countries of implementation, as is the case of the ESIA and the ESS. This includes translation to Indigenous languages when the project is expected to have direct or indirect impacts on Indigenous Peoples. Beyond the availability of full project documentation in all relevant country languages and languages of affected peoples, which could be aided by machine-translation, accessibility is also a key concern. Right now, the GCF website features only two to three paragraphs of project or programme description on individual webpages - with the website being only available in English.

There is extensive evidence on the pressing need for a robust approach to multilingualism, with just at this Board Meeting, evidence from the IEU evaluation on country-ownership pointing to how the wide participation from stakeholders, key to country ownership, is limited in those countries in which English is not a widely spoken language. Previous regional-focused IEU evaluations have also pointed this out.

Again, the translation of all remaining policy and operational documents is the minimum expectation, and we are disappointed to see little detail on expected timelines for this simple next step, alongside progressive timelines for these other necessary elements to begin operationalizing multilingualism as the scale needed to deliver impact. The document should enhance one of the key tools to drive country ownership of the developing country



43rd Board Meeting of the Green Climate Fund

October 27-30, 2025, Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea

beneficiaries to this Fund, a subject that deserved to be meaningfully addressed by the document.

Clearly, the currently proposed approach requires additional work with a more granular and exhaustive diagnosis on the challenges of multilingualism, including consultations with civil society and Indigenous Peoples among other relevant stakeholders, and based on those, providing guidance based on clear deliverables and timelines.