

Dennis Bours

Curriculum Vitae

Summary Statement

Senior climate finance, evaluation, and knowledge professional with over 20 years of international experience across multilateral development institutions, global funds, and foundations. Expert in integrating climate and environmental dimensions (adaptation, mitigation, nature finance, biodiversity, and environmental health) alongside gender equality and intersectional considerations into impact measurement, evaluation, and learning systems. Brings strategic insight and hands-on experience operationalizing climate- and nature-focused investment frameworks across the World Bank, IFC, GEF, IDB, ADB, Clean Air Fund, Rockefeller, among others. Demonstrated leadership in designing evaluation and learning architectures that strengthen climate resilience, mobilize climate and nature finance, and assess differentiated impacts across gender and vulnerability groups, linking evidence to investment decision-making. Recognized for advancing tools on climate outcomes, adaptation effectiveness, gender-responsive resilience, and biodiversity co-benefits, and for translating evaluative insights into policy, strategy, and corporate reporting. Strong record of fostering collaboration across multi-country and cross-sectoral teams, embedding adaptive learning loops, and integrating equity-focused evidence into systems change, including data-driven learning, market assessments, and evidence-based guidance on climate, environment, and development impact. Earlier experience includes operational leadership in fragile and post-crisis contexts.

Education

Carleton University, Ottawa (Canada), 2015

IPDET Certificates in RBM&E and Innovation in M&E

Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen Business School, Aberdeen (UK), 2011 - 2014

MSc Supply Chain Management, Climate Risk Indicators and Risk Management

Cornell University, Johnson Graduate School of Management and the School of

Industrial and Labor Relations, New York (USA), 2011

Certificate in Business Leadership Skills (BLSHRPC1)

Certificate in Executive Leadership (LSMC04)

Certificate Managing for Execution (MEC1)

Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e), Eindhoven (NL), 1998 - 2003

Certification in Technology for Sustainable Development

MSc Technology and Society, International Technology Development Studies (ITDS),

International Knowledge Transfer and Technology Policy in Renewable Energy

Fontys University of Applied Sciences, Eindhoven (NL), 1994 – 1998.

BSc Commercial Engineering

Languages

Dutch *Mother tongue*

French *Intermediate*

English *Fluent*

Spanish *Basic working knowledge*

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Personal Info

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Social Media

www.linkedin.com/in/dennisbours/

bsky.app/profile/dennisbours.bsky.social

sciences.social/@Dennisbours

www.threads.net/@dpbours

Skills

- Multifaceted assessments, reviews, evaluations, and validations
- Knowledge management, organizational learning, and evaluative communication
- Facilitation of collective and reflective learning processes
- Strategic communication
- Gender and inclusion in climate policy and evaluation
- Analyzing sustainable and green development pathways
- Reviewing nature co-benefits
- Stakeholder engagement and partnership management
- Staff leadership, management, and coaching.

Country Experience

Longer-term missions

Angola, Brazil, Cambodia, Congo Dem. Rep., Indonesia, Kenya, Libya, Sudan, Thailand, and the United States.

Short-term missions

Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Jordan, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Uganda.

Key Publications & Reports

(Either as author, co-author, editor, or co-editor)

4-Tier Green Building Market Maturity Assessment Framework, IFC (2026)

Assessing Nature-related Project Outcome in AIMM, IFC (2025)

Valuing Impact Materiality, VBA (2025)

Assessing Climate-related Project Outcome in AIMM, IFC (2024)

Adaptation Gap Report 2024, UNEP (2024)

Samoa Ex Post Evaluation Pilot Report, AF-TERG (2022)

Ecuador Ex Post Evaluation Pilot Report, AF-TERG (2022)

Op-ed: What should evaluation learn from COP26? Views of evaluation practitioners, Evaluation (2022)

Enabling Systems Innovation in Climate Change Adaptation: The Role for MEL, Springer (2022)

Assessing the Evaluability of Adaptation-Focused Interventions: Lessons from the Adaptation Fund, Springer (2022)

Synthesis of Adaptation Fund Final Evaluations, AF-TERG (2021)

Evaluating Adaptation: Common Challenges Identified Across Three Studies, AF-TERG (2021)

Study on Approaches to Ex Post Evaluation of Climate Change Adaptation Action, AF-TERG (2020)

Strategy and Work Program of the AF-TERG (2020)

Work History

Member of the Policy and Practice Committee, GroundProgress

02/2026 - Current

Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

- GroundProgress is a four-year research project led by the Stockholm Environment Institute and funded by the Swedish research council Formas, with the aim to enhance understanding of collective progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation. By combining generative AI and evidence-synthesis methods the project aims to address the current adaptation gap in adaptation progress from project implementation.

Climate Action Specialist (Consultant), Independent Evaluation Department (IED),

12/2025 - current

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Serving on the evaluation advisory group for ADB's corporate evaluation of engagement in upper middle-income countries (UMICs), ensuring climate action evidence, analysis, and messaging are robust and aligned with evaluation objectives.
- Reviewing ADB corporate documents and relevant public literature; advising on climate action lines of inquiry and evidence generation.
- Drafting "emerging messages" on climate action and providing written inputs to the evaluation report; contributing to a one-week storyline workshop to structure key messages for the IED storyline process.

Team Leader of the CAF Global Learning Partnership, 08/2025 – current

ClearUp Consulting / Clean Air Fund (CAF)

- Leading the overall design and delivery of CAF's Evaluation and Learning Series on public demand for clean air and air quality policy change.
- Overseeing the co-creation of the evaluation framework, managing multi-country teams in Ghana, Poland, and the UK, and applying theory-based and systems-informed methodologies to test CAF's core Theory of Change assumptions.
- Facilitating cross-portfolio workshops, coordinating syntheses of findings, and producing actionable recommendations and tools
- Ensuring that evidence is being translated into strategic insights to shape CAF's post-2026 strategy and strengthen the global clean air movement.

Senior Consultant, Development Impact, 01/2024 - current

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Senior Advisor to the Sustainability and Impact Team 01/2024 - current

- Developing a new framework for green building market maturity assessments
- Reviewing IFC's impact assessment approach for climate, nature/biodiversity and environmental health focused investments and implement proposed changes to ensure relevant gaps and intensities are identified
- Providing guidance on how to operationalize the use of indicators under the Joint MDB Common Approach for Climate Results, based on a review of IFC's climate adaptation project portfolio, impact narratives and indicators
- Providing guidance on measurement and reporting of climate, nature and environmental health results as part of the World Bank Group Corporate Scorecard exercise
- Representing IFC's impact measurement team in the Value Balancing Alliance sprint group on Thresholds and Benchmarks under CSRD Impact Materiality.
- Developed methods for calculating the number of enhanced resilience direct beneficiaries by sector, for the climate business team.

Key Publications & Reports

(Either as author, co-author, editor, or co-editor)

Evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming in the GEF, GEF IEO (2017)

Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot Program Formative Review (2017)

Program Evaluation of the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), GEF IEO (2017)

Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (GEEW) Guidance for Evaluation Approach Papers [internal], GEF IEO (2016)

Program Evaluation of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), GEF IEO (2016)

Resilience Guidance for Evaluation Approach Papers [internal], GEF IEO (2015).

New Directions for Evaluation 147 - Monitoring and Evaluation of Climate Change Adaptation: A Review of the Landscape, NDE (2015)

Good Practice Study on Principles for Indicator Development, Selection, and Use in Climate Change Adaptation Monitoring and Evaluation (2015)

Monitoring and Evaluation for Climate Change Adaptation: A Synthesis of Tools, Frameworks and Approaches – 2nd Edition. SEA Change CoP, Phnom Penh and UKCIP, Oxford (2014)

Theory of Change Approach to Climate Change Adaptation Programming. Guidance Note, SEA Change CoP, Phnom Penh and UKCIP, Oxford (2014)

Twelve Reasons Why Climate Change Adaptation M&E is Challenging. Guidance Note, SEA Change CoP, Phnom Penh and UKCIP, Oxford (2014).

Work History - continued

International Finance Corporation (IFC) - Continued

Senior Consultant Green Building Market Maturity, 10/2025 – current

- Redeveloped the IFC Green Building Market Maturity Assessment Framework to improve analytical clarity and comparability.
- Retroactively applied the updated framework to baseline assessments across 13 countries, anchoring results to historical market conditions, producing standardized country profiles to support planning and portfolio decision-making.

Senior Advisor to the Nature Finance Team, 10/2025 – 01/2026

- Supported IFC's operationalization of the 2025 Nature Finance Tracking Methodology, including project screening, portfolio assessments, and database management for tracking nature finance volumes and performance
- Developed technical guidance to strengthen nature finance identification and assessment across industry teams.

(Senior) Evaluation Consultant & Evaluation Officer, 08/2014 - Current

Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility (GEF IEO)

Senior consultant on gender and transformative change, 01/2026 – current

- Support the gender evaluation synthesis for the Ninth Overall Performance Study of the GEF by assessing the importance of gender equality for achieving transformative change within GEF financed climate and environment interventions, with a focus on patterns, plausible mechanisms, trade-offs and unintended consequences, through a background review, evaluation synthesis, and key informant interviews.

Challenge Program for Adaptation Senior Consultant, 10/2025 – current

- Analyze GEF-7/8 adaptation strategies and evaluation materials
- Develop and implement portfolio review and interview protocols. Conduct data analysis and synthesize findings
- Draft finalized narrative inputs on the Challenge Program for Adaptation, for the LDCF/SCCF program evaluation report.

LDCF / SCCF Program Evaluation Senior Consultant, 07/2024 – 06/2025

- Assessed terminal evaluations of completed Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) projects, focused on outcomes and sustainability, providing a performance narrative for the funds
- Benchmarked the LDCF and SCCF performance against the Adaptation Fund.

LDCF / SCCF AER 2024 Senior Consultant, 01/2024 - 06/2024

- Assessed findings, conclusions, and recommendations of five recent GEF IEO evaluations, providing adaptation nuances in the context of the LDCF / SCCF
- Produced a synthesis, focusing on themes, levers of transformation and cross-cutting considerations, for the LDCF / SCCF Annual Evaluation Report (AER) 2024.

Partnership and Networks Consultant, 11/2023 – 05/2024

- Produced a mapping on evaluation partnerships, networks, communities of practice overlap and collaborative opportunities, presented at the 4th Conference on Evaluating Environment and Development in March 2024
- Guided the process of rewriting the Prague Declaration on Evaluation for Transformational Change through public consultations.

Work History - continued

Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility (GEF IEO) - Continued

Evaluation Officer, 08/2014 – 04/2019

- Led the strategic country cluster evaluation of small island developing states, a portfolio valued at \$1,366MM, with a focus on agriculture, agroforestry, and fisheries as primary sectors, with links to waste management, land degradation, environmental health, environmental legal and regulatory frameworks, and the water-energy-food nexus
- Led the sustainable cities integrated approach pilot (\$138MM) formative evaluation, focused on providing evidence-based guidance on sustainable urban development, in order to foster resilient, low-carbon, and resource-efficient cities
- Evaluation team member for the thematic evaluations of the LDCF (\$1,074MM) and SCCF (\$347.5MM), covering NAPAs, NAPs, related projects, and annual adaptation portfolio reporting
- Developed guidance on case study research, on adaptation indicators selection, development and use, and on data mining
- Developed tools for measuring project alignment with GEF gender policy and supported gender-focused evaluations, including the Evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming in the GEF and internal guidance on GEEW integration into evaluations.

Senior Peer Reviewer at the Office of Evaluation and Oversight, 12/2024 - 07/2025

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

- Senior advisor, peer reviewer of the Evaluation of IDB Group's Work on Climate Change Adaptation and Transformational Change.

Lead Consultant Climate Monitoring and Evaluation, 05/2024 - 06/2025

Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI) – World Bank Group

- Produced a background paper on climate and environmental health monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) systems in GEI partner countries, identifying capacity-building needs and opportunities, integrating insights from diagnostics like the Country Climate and Development Reports, with a focus on climate change mitigation, adaptation, just transition, transformational change, loss and damage, biodiversity and environmental health
- Reviewed and improved the Monitoring and Evaluation Systems Analysis (MESA) tool's climate and environmental health section, addressing gaps and refining methodologies
- Assisted GEI partners in mini-Climate / Nature MESA diagnostics, providing methodological advice, drafting sections, and recommending climate MEL system improvements.

Lead author and Peer Reviewer of Adaptation Gap Reports

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Lead Author of UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2024, 01/2024 – 09/2024

- Spearheaded a thorough analysis of evaluative evidence on global progress and effectiveness in climate adaptation action
- Coordinating with a diverse team of international experts, synthesizing research and evaluation findings, providing actionable insights to bridge the adaptation gap.

Peer Reviewer UNEP Adaptation Gap Reports, 05/2016 – 05/2023

- Reviewed a series of UNEP Adaptation Gap Reports, an annual science-based assessment of global progress on adaptation planning, financing, and implementation, focused on frameworks, concepts, methodologies and data.

Reviewer of Implementation Completion and Results Reports, 01/2024 – 06/2024

Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank Group (IEG)

- Critically reviewed the evidence, its quality, the attribution of results to the activities or actions supported by World Bank investments, and ratings of the Implementation Completion and Results Report (ICR), as independent validation to contribute to both learning and accountability in the World Bank Group.

Climate Advisor to the Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI), 01/2024 – 06/2024

Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice, World Bank Group (WBG)

- Advised on climate-resilient economic inclusion for PEI's flagship State of Economic Inclusion 2024 Report, with a focus on
- Advised on PEI's Theory of Change for economic inclusion and climate resilience
- Provided advisory inputs to the Third Call for Proposals (CFP3) on Climate Resilience and Gender, including reviewing alignment with gender equity goals.

Work History - continued

Evaluation Focal Point and Secretariat Coordinator, 05/2019 – 06/2023

Technical Evaluation Reference Group of the Adaptation Fund (AF-TERG)

- Focal point for studies on MEL innovation, evaluability assessments, and the development of a new ex post evaluation method
- Led the AF-TERG's first final evaluation synthesis, a \$104MM portfolio, as well as the work on ex post pilots in Samoa and Ecuador
- Managed the AF-TERG Secretariat, hiring, contracting, execution of annual budgets, and facilitating work program implementation
- Supported the Chair in the development of strategies, policies and work plans
- Coordinated development of the first multi-year strategy, work program and budget, and facilitated its institutional uptake
- Coordinated the AF-TERG in reporting and contributing to the work of the Board and its Committees, guaranteeing quality and consistency of work presented.

Scientific Reviewer to the CoastalAdapt Project, 10/2016

Australian National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF)

- Reviewed NCCARF's coastal climate change risk management framework, addressing nature co-benefits, scientific excellence, usability and policy making relevance of the tool.

Advisor to the Kresge/ND-GAIN Urban Adaptation Assessment Project, 01/2015 – 10/2016

Kresge Foundation and the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index (ND-GAIN)

- Collaboratively developed a framework for adaptation measurement and sector-specific urban vulnerability indicators
- Provided recommendations on addressing indicator sensitivity and identifying target values in urban settings.

Co-editor New Directions for Evaluation (NDE) special journal edition on “Climate Change Adaptation/Resilience Monitoring and Evaluation”, 11/2013 – 09/2015

Wiley Periodicals

- Guided the abstract submission and selection process, ensuring rigor, originality, timeliness, and detail in the chapter development
- Supported the development of final chapters on climate change adaptation and resilience monitoring and evaluation, meeting with the NDE editorial board, going through an iterative process of peer-reviewing, final approval, and publication.

Team Leader SEA Change Community of Practice, 12/2011 – 07/2014

Pact / Rockefeller Foundation

- Provided leadership and momentum to the community of practice for MEL of climate and resilience focused interventions globally
- Developed MEL tools through strategic knowledge generation, e-discussions, advisory committees, and focus groups
- Developed and published guidance notes on the challenges of adaptation monitoring and evaluation, climate-relevant indicator selection, and theory of change development. Co-developed three evaluation reviews; on food security, agriculture and climate change adaptation, on adaptation thinking among major donors, and on adaptation in low-lying coastal areas.

Mediation Leadership Summit Operations Manager / Co-owner, 03/2010 - 12/2011

Asia Pacific Mediation Leadership Summit, Asia Pacific Mediation Forum (APMF)

- Developed an online collaborative platform on mediation and other conflict transformation and peacebuilding processes
- Managed virtual collaborators, actors, delegates, donors and members to develop action themes and cross-cutting topics
- Responsible for operations management of the three-day Asia Pacific Mediation Leadership Summit, Bangkok 2 - 4 December 2011.

Emergency Response Operations Manager Fragile States, 06/2010 - 07/2011

Save the Children UK

- Improved M&E, assessments and operational profiling to change the use of international procedures, policies, standards, and practices in procurement, operations and commodity management in Congo Dem. Rep., Eastern Libya, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan
- Implemented change management initiatives to come to operational improvements in the Congo Dem. Rep.-wide mission
- Trained commodity management staff Ethiopia on audit preparedness, and monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Project Manager Implementation National Staff Database, 08/2008 - 08/2009

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

- Evaluated of current human resource practices, payment structures and labor law in 22 field missions
- Managed the implementation of the 'Homère' national staff human resource database at head office and in 22 field missions
- Developed helpdesk and front-office support structure and created work procedures, policies, and manuals
- Trained trainers and staff at head office and in India, Jordan, Kenya, Myanmar, Nigeria Papua New Guinea, Uganda

Work History - continued

Emergency Operations and Supply Chain Coordinator, 10/2006 - 09/2007

Netherlands Red Cross / Palang Merah Indonesia Tsunami Intervention

- Coordinated Sumatra capital logistics and supply chain from Medan towards the Tsunami reconstruction efforts in Banda Aceh and on Nias Island, including managing the full logistics support in collaboration with the IFRC
- Coordinated (inter)national tenders for high value procurement. Managing performance of the building supply pipeline
- Provided direct emergency assistance towards affected communities.

Procurement Manager, Sudan Mission, 03/2006 – 09/2006

Goal Ireland

- Management and capacity building of Sudan national procurement, cargo and logistics systems and staff to improve the Sudan operational capacity to international standards and the monitoring of implemented improvements, with a focus on Malakal, Darfur and Abyei.

Operations and Security Manager, 07/2004 – 03/2006

War Child Netherlands

- Evaluated and improved country program operational practices, with a focus on logistics, ordering and procurement
- Assessed and improved security procedures and operational profiling in Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda missions
- Managed the development of international logistics standards with linkages towards operational security management
- Developed the security framework, security standard operating procedures and incident management guidelines for all missions
- Coordinated and evaluated security management trainings for War Child Netherlands / Center for Safety and Development.

Field Logistics and Procurement Manager Angola mission, 09/2003 – 05/2004

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

- Managed rehabilitation work to health centers in the M'Banza Congo province
- Supervised logistics of stocks, stores, pharmacy systems, cold chaining and ordering of pharmaceuticals
- Supervised maintenance of cars, energy and communication equipment and control of administration and finance.

Researcher Sustainable Market Development and Climate Change Benefits in the Brazilian Amazon region, 01/2002 – 06/2003

Free Energy Europe

- Researched the market potential of photovoltaic solar panels, with a focus on off-grid rural households, through evaluation of rural electricity needs, decentralized electricity generation and the electrical appliances market in the Central Amazon region.
- Calculated climate change benefits when using solar PV panels and developed company guidance on the applicability of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) certificates in small scale PV projects.

Various roles as researcher, course developer and instructor, 1999 - 2003

Eindhoven University of Technology

- Course developer and instructor, as teaching assistant, for courses “Planning and implementation of technological projects”, “Technology Assessments”, and “Industrialization policies for developing economies”
- Statistical analysis and updating of development economics datasets, preceding the publication of the second edition of Cambridge University Press book “The Dynamics of Socio-Economic Development” by Dr. Adam Szirmai.

Professional affiliations

Resilience Knowledge Coalition
Locally Led Adaptation Community of Practice
Community of Evaluators South Asia
International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS)

Gender and Evaluation Community
European Evaluation Society (EES)
Canadian Evaluation Society (CES / SCE)
Peer Support Community for Development Practitioners Building CoPs