I. Project Background

Numerous studies have indicated that African States, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and other vulnerable countries are already suffering the impacts of climate change in a disproportional way. Their vulnerability is further exacerbated by the lack of critical capacity to address those impacts. Although climate finance is being made available to developing countries through several international initiatives, these countries do not usually have the requisite capacity to access these funds. This was the finding of the 2013 Commonwealth Expert Group on Climate Finance. In response, the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Malta on 29 November, approved the establishment of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH). The CCFAH is hosted by the Government of Mauritius, with regional and national nodes across the developing regions of the Commonwealth. The specific objectives of the CCFAH are to help unlock climate finance for adaptation and mitigation actions in the most vulnerable states; enhance the capacity LDCs and other vulnerable states to access and manage public and private climate finance flows; and facilitate inter- and intra-regional sharing of skills, knowledge and expertise.

The interdependence of climate change, sustainability and development is particularly evident for Africa. The region is the least responsible for climate change but yet the most susceptible to its impacts. From droughts in the Gambia to cyclones in Mozambique, long-term changes in temperature and rainfall patterns are a huge threat to Africa’s food security and poverty eradication efforts as agriculture forms the economic backbone for these development priorities. The 2019 Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Index has African countries at the bottom rank illustrating they are the most vulnerable to climate change and the least prepared to tackle this challenge.

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The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report states that global warming will reach 1.5 degrees Celsius at some point during 2030 and 2050 if action is not taken. All 54 African countries are signatories to the Paris Agreement and with the stakes becoming increasingly higher, they are making concerted efforts to develop sustainably while coping with the impacts of climate change. African countries are adapting to changing weather patterns, rising seas levels and diminishing water supplies, as well as investing in resilience building of people, infrastructure and economies. In this regard, climate finance plays a pivotal role to support countries decarbonise their economies and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

There are several actors engaged in climate finance in Africa. Amongst the international financing mechanisms, the three largest multilateral funds contributing to the region are the Green Climate Fund (GCF), followed by the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) operated by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and then the Clean Technology Fund (CTF). Although considerable progress is being made to channel climate finance flows to the region, at only 3% of global volumes amounting to around USD 19 billion, the current levels being directed to Africa are insufficient to meet the region’s demonstrated need, particularly for adaptation finance. Meeting this need is estimated to reach around USD 50 billion per year by 2050 under an optimistic two-degree centigrade warming scenario.

Barriers to investment include the transaction costs of the small-scale projects that are often required in the underprivileged areas; the need for dedicated expert knowledge to understand the complex climate finance landscape required for accessing climate finance funds; low provision of climate funding in national budget lines; lack of or inadequate implementation of climate change policies and regulatory frameworks; and limited engagement from the private sector.

Nevertheless, actors such as the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the African Development Bank amongst others are working to improve access to climate finance and spur on climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives in the Sub-Saharan Region. AUDA-NEPAD aims to implement a mechanism to help African Union (AU) member states build their capacity to attract funding for their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) including the provision of direct funding to test early project concepts.

With CCFAH’s strong footprint in the region having deployed advisers thus far in five member countries and supporting the mobilisation of approximately US$3.5million of climate finance in these African member countries (Eswatini, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, Zambia) as of May 2021. This Commonwealth-AUDA-NEPAD partnership is an ideal platform to further scale-up such delivery of technical assistance towards enhancing climate finance access in Africa.

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2 IPCC, 2018: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty

II. Duties and Responsibilities

The Commonwealth Regional Climate Finance Adviser (CRCFA) for the African region will be hosted by the AUDA-NEPAD’s Technical Cooperation and Programme Funding Directorate to support member countries in enhancing their capacities to access green finance, particularly climate finance. The Adviser will support in building human and institutional capacities for enhanced climate action, policy support and development of a pipeline of projects focused on low-carbon and climate-resilient development of member countries. The Adviser will work on regional green and climate finance issues including the provision of support to the Commonwealth National Climate Finance Advisers (CNCFAs) in the region, facilitation of knowledge sharing within and across regions, as well as the promotion of the CCFAH and its work in Africa.

The CRCFA must be familiar with the African context and have in-depth understanding of climate finance readiness, accreditation, proposal development and capacity building aspects. Furthermore, through his/her knowledge and expertise of the three Rio Conventions on climate change, biodiversity, and desertification the CRCFA will lead on how synergies can be made across these for maximising benefits, including enhancing access to climate finance for the region.

Amongst others, the CRCFA will assume the following main responsibilities and activities:

1. **Capacity Building & Project/Programme Development Support**

   - Support Commonwealth member countries in coordination with AUDA-NEPAD to build human and institutional capacities, support the establishment of partnerships, project preparation and mobilising finance, particularly climate and green finance as part of the broader AUDA NEPAD’s Technical Cooperation and Programme Funding’s resource mobilisation strategy.
   - Support eligible African institutions in expediting their applications for accreditation to relevant climate finance sources such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF)
   - Assist in preparing, finalising and accessing climate / green financing mechanisms/facilities for project and programme implementation in commonwealth member countries and regional or multi-country projects which include commonwealth member countries.
   - Undertake a comprehensive assessment of regional needs and priorities, considering broad regional developmental goals, objectives and commitments, and identify priority areas of action stemming out of national priorities of the member states to strengthen regional institutional capacities.
• Develop and implement a plan of action for enhancing skills and expertise of staff in relevant regional organisations including host organisation along with relevant line ministries within the region, with the aim of institutional strengthening of relevant systems and processes required for the formulation, application and submission of climate finance projects to climate focused funding agencies and other donors.

• Identify the potential sectors and coordinate the development of pipeline of programme and project proposals that align with the regional priorities and investment framework and regulatory requirements of regional and international funding institutions such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund and support their submission to potential funders; as well as support in the identification of diverse and new funding sources including the mobilisation of private sector financing.

• Support the CCFAH General Manager in mobilising extra budgetary resources for CCFAH operations

• Provide technical support to the African CNCFAs in specific technical aspects of their national climate action priorities and guide in preparation and implementing regional initiatives through effective national level participation with the goal to streamlining the submission and approval of projects and programmes.

• Collaborate with national, regional, and international organisations to facilitate and leverage the capacity building activities in the region through establishing partnerships and knowledge transfer.

• Establish and/or strengthen regional institutional mechanisms for disseminating knowledge to counterparts within the region and across regions amongst relevant stakeholders.

2. **Knowledge Management**

• In line with the CCFAH knowledge management strategy promote and facilitate replication of successful projects, programmes and capacity building activities from one country to other countries of the region through collaboration and active engagement of the wider CNCFAs and other counterpart CRCFAs.

• Develop mechanisms for facilitating the sharing of knowledge, experiences and lessons between the central Hub in Mauritius, member countries and regional institutions such as AUDA-NEPAD, Regional Economic Communities (RECS), AU Member States for enhancing the replication and upscaling of regional good practice.

• Collect information and develop knowledge and best practice products (handbook, guidelines, manual) for use by counterparts and for dissemination to the CCFAH partners.
• Support information sharing and knowledge exchange with regional and national government, civil society, and private sector stakeholders.
• Establish, strengthen, and maintain strong feedback loops and links for sharing knowledge and experience including at regional level, including being the focal point for the Hub in the region and feeding lessons learned back into the central Hub’s knowledge management function.

3. **Stakeholder Engagement and Communication**

• Develop and refresh on a periodic basis a stakeholder map of key regional organisations actively working on climate change and green finance.
• Provide technical support and coordinate CNCFAs to engage with regional, national and sub-national government, civil society and private sector stakeholders to support national engagement with international and bilateral climate finance agencies.
• Facilitate coherent interventions by member states on climate finance issues at the regional level, including through collaboration with National Climate Finance Advisers deployed to national government bodies, and other regional counterparts.
• Contribute to the governance of the Hub programme and its strategic development.

4. **Other**

• Manage planning and reporting functions in support of the broader programme, with ownership of the results-based management in the region.
• Work with national government bodies to identify and develop suitable opportunities to deploy CNCFAs, and collaboratively produce results-oriented work plans including delivery support and monitoring.
• Perform timely administrative functions such as completing various activity reports such as monthly/quarterly reports, expense reports, and mission reports.
• Undertake any other duties and activities as may be mutually agreed from time to time among the host institution and the CCFAH General Manager.

III. **Competencies**

• Demonstrated integrity, accountability and respect for diversity.
• Understanding of the circumstances of developing countries on climate change.
• Ability to document success case studies and package knowledge.
• Knowledge of platforms for facilitating exchange of knowledge and experiences.
• Technical skills for assessing climate change impacts along with the identification of requisite adaptation measures.
• Ability to formulate climate change adaptation and mitigation project proposals and budgets in compliance with climate finance principles, regulatory requirements and project financial analysis.
• Developing and implementing resource mobilisation plans and strategies.
• Managing high performing teams of technical experts.
• Keeps abreast of new developments in climate change and climate/green finance.
• Computer literacy in Microsoft packages (MS Word, MS PowerPoint, MS Excel, and Outlook).
• Demonstrate strong interpersonal and motivational skills and the ability to work effectively within and across teams and.
• Able to work independently with minimal supervision and under pressure.

IV Required Skills and Experience

Academic qualifications:

• A post graduate qualification (master’s degree essential) in any of the following: Climate Change, Environmental Studies, Environmental Engineering, Natural sciences; Energy; Environmental Economics; Project Management; and Business Studies or any other related subject.

Experience:

• At least 10 years of work experience in the development and management of projects in the area of climate change, energy, forestry, biodiversity, agriculture and technical assistance initiatives.
• Previous experience in resource mobilisation, stakeholder relationship building and collaborating with government agencies, donors and/international development partners, and non-government organisation.
• Demonstrated experience in climate finance readiness, grant proposal writing and/or climate change capacity building or technology transfer.
• Experience managing technical assistance and teams of experts.
• Experience in developing countries in general and demonstrated experience in the African region.

Language

• Fluency in both written and spoken English is essential.
- Knowledge of a relevant additional language is desirable.

**NOTE:**

- The compensation benefits for positions will be internationally competitive and reflect the importance of the role.
- Please indicate your earliest availability to take up assignment, and required notice-period, if employed.
- Only shortlisted or selected candidates will be contacted.