



The Commonwealth



# Concept Note

## The Commonwealth Secretariat Publication Launch Discussion Paper on the Potential for Earth Observation Technologies to Improve Access to Climate Finance Monday 7 June 2021; 08:30 - 10:30 (GMT + 1)

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### Background

Climate-vulnerable commonwealth member countries face challenges accessing climate finance to implement climate action. Some of the barriers in drawing down funding include constrained human resources, demanding application processes and a lack of data to support a robust investment case. Therefore, accurate, reliable and timely data is critical in justifying the type of climate action needed, when and why.

In light of this, the Commonwealth Secretariat is implementing the CommonSensing Project, an innovative project based on a partnership between Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and a consortium of international partners<sup>1</sup>; to provide actionable satellite-based information services and data around disaster and climate risks to inform planning, climate action and increased access to climate finance. The Commonwealth Secretariat through its flagship programme, the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) is spearheading the climate finance component of the CommonSensing Project. Our Commonwealth National Climate Finance Advisers for Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are providing technical assistance to the three countries in utilising the geospatial based CommonSensing platform for enhanced access to climate finance.

The Commonwealth is driving and calling for the increased use of satellite derived technologies and data to enhance access of climate finance and thus under the CommonSensing Project is launching a new Discussion Paper entitled, ***'Earth observation technologies for improved access to climate finance: The role of data and information in designing bankable projects and decision making'***.

The paper showcases how earth observation technologies and data has a role to play in strengthening the evidence base and rational for climate investments. The data generated can be used to provide rigorous, scientific evidence that can help decision makers with climate action. For instance, to identify the right communities to participate in projects as well as the ideal locations for project installations, particularly in the case of renewable energy, identify boundaries of protected areas, and help in pre- and post-disaster management. Hence, with more evidence based on earth observation data, national governments can build stronger climate finance applications. In the run up to process of revising and implementing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) also provides a

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<sup>1</sup> The UK Space Agency, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR - UNOSAT), Catapult Satellite Applications, Devex, Met Office, Sensonomic, Spatial Days and the University of Portsmouth.

crucial window for improving and making more use of these types of technologies and tools to fast-track climate action.

It is against this background that the Commonwealth Secretariat hopes to further contribute to the global discussion on how these digital tools can potentially increase access to climate finance by hosting this launch event.

### **Event objectives:**

The objectives of this event are to:

- Launch the Discussion Paper to relevant Government representatives, peer organisations, and Commonwealth partners.
- Facilitate discussion on the innovative use of earth observation data as a tool to increase access to climate finance.
- Demonstrate how the CommonSensing Platform and DSS tools can be practically applied to add value to Climate Finance Proposals.
- Stimulate conversation and best practice around increased use, replicability and scaling up the use of earth observation data for practical application around access to climate finance, within government institutions outside Pacific region.

### **Timing and Format**

The event is scheduled to begin at 8.30am GMT+1 to facilitate participation in the Pacific (GMT+11, GMT+12).

The launch event will take place online using the Blue Jeans Events platform. The meeting joining details and instructions will be shared in due course.

### **Agenda**

The proposed agenda has been set out to discuss the question:

***How can earth observation data and satellite technology, specifically the CommonSensing Platform, be practically applied to support climate vulnerable countries increase their access to climate finance for fast-tracking climate action?***

## Expected Participation

Attendance at this webinar is expected from and not limited to the following organisations and institutions:

### The Commonwealth

- Commonwealth Member States
- Commonwealth Secretariat Staff

### CommonSensing Project Partners and Funders

- UK Space Agency
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR - UNOSAT)
- Catapult Satellite Applications
- Met Office
- University of Portsmouth
- Devex
- Sensonomic
- Spatial Days

### Climate Funds

- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Adaptation Fund
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- The International Climate Initiative (IKI)

### Development Partners and Agencies

- Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO)
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)
- Global Center on Adaptation (GCA)
- African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
- International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- World Agroforestry (ICRAF)
- AgriBORA
- African Development Bank
- Asian Development Bank
- Inter-American Development Bank
- World Bank

## Agenda

Timing (GMT + 1)	Topic and Speakers
08:30 - 08:35	<b>Welcome and Introductory Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Ruth Kattumuri, Senior Director, Economic Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat</li> </ul>
	<b>Session 1 - Context Setting</b>
08:35 - 8:50	<b>Opening Remarks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary General of the Commonwealth</li> <li>Mr. Nikhil Seth, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)</li> <li>H.E, Mr. Jitoko Tikolevu, High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Fiji High Commission</li> <li>H.E Mr Moses Kouni Mose, Solomon Islands Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union, Vanuatu</li> <li>Mr. Mike Waiwai, Director, Department Climate Change, Vanuatu</li> </ul>
	<b>Session 2 - Discussion Paper Presentation</b>
08:50 - 09:00	<b>Presentation of Discussion Paper</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Sharon Ng'etich, Climate Change Officer, Commonwealth Secretariat</li> </ul>
	<b>Session 3 - Panel Discussion</b> <b>Open Plenary and Q&amp;A Moderated by:</b> <b>Mr. Unnikrishnan Nair, Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat</b>
09:00 - 09:20	<b>Discussants: Panel 1</b> <b>Importance of Data and Evidence for Strengthened Bankable Climate Finance Projects and Proposals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Tshewang Dorji, Climate Change Specialist, Programs Unit, Global Environment Facility (GEF)</li> <li>Mr. Archi Rastogi, Evaluation Specialist, Evaluation Unit (IEU) of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)</li> <li>Dr. Xianfu Lu, Senior Strategy and Outreach Specialist, Climate Investment Funds (CIF)</li> <li>Ms. Saliha Dobardzic, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Adaptation Fund</li> </ul>
09:20 - 09:45	<b>Moderated Open Plenary and Q&amp;A</b>
09:45 -10:00	<b>Discussants: Panel 2</b> <b>Practical Application of Earth Observation and Geospatial Data Solutions in Climate Finance Proposals and Projects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Richard Oates, Technical Architect, Satellite Applications Catapult</li> <li>Ms. Katherine Cooke, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser to Fiji</li> <li>Ms. Lebaiatelaite Gaunavinaka, In-country Representative for UNITAR-UNOSAT</li> </ul>
10:00 - 10:20	<b>Moderated Open Plenary and Q&amp;A</b>
10:20 - 10:25	<b>Session 4 - Short Film on CommonSensing</b>
10:25 - 10:30	<b>Closing Remarks and Way Forward</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Einar Bjørgo, Director, Division for Satellite Analysis and Applied Research, UNITAR</li> <li>Dr Ruth Kattumuri, Senior Director, Economic, Youth &amp; Sustainable Development Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat</li> </ul>
<b>Event Moderator: Ms. Uzoamaka Nwamarah, Adviser Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat</b>	

## Speakers' Profiles

### The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth



Patricia Scotland was born in the Commonwealth of Dominica. She is the tenth of twelve children and grew up in London. She completed her LLB (Hons) at London University at the age of twenty and was called to the Bar at Middle Temple at the age of twenty-one.

Her career has been marked by achieving a number of extraordinary firsts, not least of which was to be the first woman in the more than 700-year history of the office to serve as Her Majesty's Attorney-General for England and Wales and for Northern Ireland.

While holding these and other senior ministerial office she was given responsibility, inter alia, for gender equality, domestic violence, forced marriage, and international child abduction, and from these positions promoted diversity and equality of opportunity, particularly for women and girls.

As the only woman to have been appointed Secretary-General of Commonwealth she is placing special emphasis on mobilising the 54 nations of the Commonwealth to tackle climate change - including its disproportionate impact on women - and, through women's enterprise, to build the resilience of smaller or more vulnerable countries. Eliminating domestic violence and violence against women and girls is another area of focus.

### H.E, Mr. Jitoko Tikolevu, High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Fiji High Commission



Dr Jitoko Tikolevu was the Chief Executive Officer of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA), a position he has held since 2007 until he resigned in December 2015. With his extensive experience in taxation and corporate management, Mr Tikolevu had been able to guide and lead FRCA to major reforms in recent years. Under his leadership, FRCA has reformed its policies and processes to align itself with global practices and trends. Mr Tikolevu is a graduate of Business Studies from the University of the South Pacific and attained his Masters of Taxation (Hons) from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. He previously held directorship on the Boards of the Fiji Development Bank and Investment Fiji - 2007 to December 2015. He was the Deputy Chairman on both Boards

## **H.E Mr Moses Kouni Mose, Solomon Islands Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union**



HE Mr Moses K. Mosé took up his appointment as Solomon Islands Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union in July 2014. Mr Mosé is also accredited as Solomon Islands Ambassador to the Netherlands, France, and Germany.

Before this appointment, he was the Solomon Islands Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office, World Trade Organisation and other International Organisations at the Solomon Islands Permanent Mission in Geneva, Switzerland.

Prior to his Geneva appointment, Mr. Mose served as Solomon Islands High Commissioner to Fiji and Solomon Islands Representative to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and Secretariat for the Pacific Community and other Regional Organisations based in Suva, Fiji from May 2010 to October 2011.

Before he was appointed High Commissioner to Fiji, Mr. Mose was employed by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat for five and half years from August 2004 to March 2010 as Trade Policy Adviser (Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations with EU) and Programme Manager for EU funded project at the Forum Secretariat, respectively.

Before joining the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Mr. Mose also worked for the EU and UNDP programmes respectively in Solomon Islands holding various senior positions from November 2001 to June 2004.

Mr Mosé also served in the Solomon Islands Public Service, in the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Employment from 1986 to 2001 holding various senior positions, including as Director of Trade (1994 - 1997) and Permanent Secretary (1998 - 2001).

He also served as Commercial Attaché at the Solomon Islands Consulate General in Brisbane, Australia from August 1990 to December 1992.

Mr Mosé did his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Public Administration at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji (1982 - 1985) and a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Management from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom in 2001/2002.

Mr Mosé is married to Faye Mose and has six children.

## **Dr Ruth Kattumuri, Senior Director of Economic, Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat**



Dr Ruth Kattumuri is Senior Director of Economic, Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate at the Commonwealth Secretariat. She has extensive experience working with premier international institutions in senior management, sustainable development, public policy impact and public-private partnerships.

At the London School of Economics (LSE), Kattumuri founded and has been Co-Director of the India Observatory, an Associate of the Grantham Research Centre for Climate Change, and a Distinguished Policy Fellow. She has engaged with Climate Change policy with the highest ministerial level in India and China for over fifteen years. She has also been a Director of Asia Research Centre at the LSE and has been a Visiting Professor at various Universities in Asia including in China and India.

Formerly, as professor of Computer Science and Statistics at the University of Madras, India, Ruth Kattumuri has pioneered efforts toward innovation and advancement of information technology for the country during the early years of its development. Kattumuri leads trans-disciplinary evidence-based research, policy impact and private sector leadership on various aspects of sustainable and inclusive development including climate change; entrepreneurship; technology and innovation.

**Mr. Nikhil Seth, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director, UNITAR**



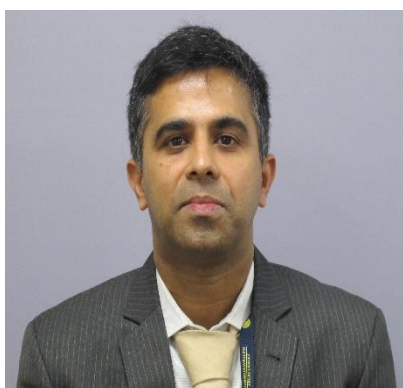
Mr. Nikhil Seth joined UNITAR as its Executive Director on Oct 1, 2015. During his term UNITAR has grown significantly in the number of beneficiaries of its services and its work has been aligned to the pillars of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Before assuming the post of the UNITAR Executive Director, Nikhil Seth was the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. In this role he served as head of the Rio+20 secretariat and of the secretariat for the Third International Conference

on Small Island Developing States, spearheading the preparations for these conferences in Rio, Brazil, and Apia, Samoa. He was also closely engaged in coordinating and advancing their follow-up.

In the United Nations Mr. Seth served as the Director for ECOSOC, Secretary of the Economic and Financial Committee (2nd Committee), Secretary of ECOSOC and with the USG of DESA. He was closely involved with many of the Summits and Conferences of the 1990's - as a delegate from India and as part of the support secretariat.

**Unnikrishnan Divakaran Nair, Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat**



Mr. Unnikrishnan Divakaran Nair, is the head of Climate Change at the Commonwealth Secretariat, looking after the climate change programme of the Secretariat. Before Commonwealth he was leading Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) India, responsible for facilitating the strategic delivery and execution of GGGI initiatives in country. Before that he has served the UN climate change secretariat (UNFCCC) at Bonn as officer responsible for the Climate Finance and National Adaptation Plans (NAP) process for the Least Developed Countries. Unnikrishnan also had a long stint with GIZ India, as Senior Adviser, managing the climate finance and natural resource

management vertical under Indo-German bilateral cooperation.

Unnikrishnan is a development professional with an educational background around agriculture and climate science, with over 20 years of experience in the areas of Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation, Project Development and Implementation, Policies on Climate Finance, International Accreditation to Climate Funds including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and expertise in climate vulnerability and livelihood issues in Agriculture, Water and Forestry in the Rural Development Context of India and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Worked with a range of organizations from the civil society to community-based organizations to private sector, bilateral and multilateral agencies.

### **Director Mike Waiwai - Vanuatu Department of Climate Change**



Mr. Mike Waiwai is the Director for the Department of Climate Change within the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy and Disaster Management in Vanuatu. He has a wealth of experience spanning 12 years in various positions within the Ministry. Director Waiwai graduated from the University of the South Pacific with a Post Graduate Diploma in Climate Change Science and Disaster Risk Management and a Post Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management and Governance. Director Waiwai has extensive knowledge and experience within the UNFCCC space and is currently the NDC focal point for Vanuatu.

### **Mr Tshewang DORJI, Climate Change Specialist, Global Environment Facility (GEF)**



Mr. Dorji is a Climate Change Specialist at the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Prior to joining the GEF, he was a Policy Analyst focused on Least Developed Countries issues with Climate Analytics, providing strategic advice to the Chair of Least Developed Country (LDCs) Group and managing operations of the Office of the LDC Chair at the UNFCCC process.

Tshewang was also a negotiator from LDC Group since 2014 at the UNFCCC process. He started his career with the Bhutanese Government in 2005 as an Environment Officer and has worked extensively in climate change and sustainable development in Bhutan and globally. Mr. Tshewang is a citizen of Bhutan and is fluent in Dzongkha and English.

### **Galyna Uvarova, Data and GIS Officer at Independent Evaluation Unit of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)**



Throughout the last eight years, Galyna has applied GIS and data skillset across various domains: climate finance, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian emergency, information technology, and analytical resource exploration. Galyna has an extensive background in community-driven NGO work. She holds MSc in Environmental and Economic Monitoring, MSc in Geographic Information Technology, and BSc in Cartography and Land Cadastre  
Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/guvarova/>



### **Dr. Archi Rastogi, Evaluation Specialist, Green Climate Fund**



Dr. Archi Rastogi is an Evaluation Specialist at the Green Climate Fund. He has over 13 years of experience in various sectors, ranging from grassroots NGO to media, academia, the UN, and management consulting. Archi has a PhD in natural sciences, MSc in Environmental Management, and BSc in Biological Sciences.

Social media - Twitter: @archirastogi and LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/archirastogi](https://www.linkedin.com/in/archirastogi)

### **Dr. Xianfu Lu, Senior Strategy and Outreach Specialist, Climate Investment Funds (CIF)**



Dr Xianfu Lu is the Senior Strategy and Outreach Specialist (consultant) at the Climate Investment Funds. Trained as an applied meteorologist, Xianfu has been working on climate risk assessment and management for over 20 years. Her work spans climate science, climate resilience practices and international policy on adaptation. Xianfu has worked across the wide spectrum of institutional contexts, from academia, UN agencies, multilateral development banks and the private sector. These have all contributed to Xianfu's unique ability to fully appreciate the needs of climate vulnerable communities, and to effectively "translate" such needs into requirement for policy, analytics as well as financial support and practical interventions

### **Loreta Rufo Climate Change Specialist, PPCR**



Lorie Rufo is a Climate Change Specialist for the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR). She works with the Senior Program Coordinator of the PPCR in the overall management and coordination of the program and contributing to its knowledge management agenda.

Before she joined the CIF, Lorie worked as Senior Climate Change Officer at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) providing support to operations departments mainstream climate change in ADB operations and scale-up investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation. She has co-authored a number of ADB publications on climate change adaptation providing insights and lessons

on how to integrate adaptation and climate risk management in planning and investments.

Lorie was engaged by ADB also as a long-term consultant from 2003-2010 to administer the implementation of ADB's Poverty and Environment Program which promotes institutional learning within ADB on how to address poverty through environmental management. She has over 15 years of experience in project development and management, and research. She has served as Project Manager of the World Bank-funded Local Government Finance and Development Project for the Philippines aiming to improve the capacity of the local government units to build creditworthiness and access financing sources for local

development projects. She has a Master’s Degree in Economics from the University of the Philippines.

**Saliha Dobardzic, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Adaptation Fund**



Saliha Dobardzic is Senior Climate Change Specialist with the Adaptation Fund. Prior to this position, she was a Senior Climate Change Specialist with the Global Environment Facility’s climate change adaptation program, namely the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund.

Previously, Saliha worked on environmental, international waters, and integrated coastal zone management issues with the World Bank’s MENA region. She has also supported the World Bank’s MENA climate change team in devising and implementing the first corporate climate change strategy for the region, and the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction in support of mainstreaming climate change considerations in *ex-ante* disaster risk management. Her experience also includes stints with the UN-Habitat in Nairobi, The Smithsonian Conservation and Research Center, and a number of prominent NGOs, in the private sector, as well as the World Bank’s country office in post-conflict Bosnia, of which she is a national.

She is a co-author of a number of books, studies, and reports on climate change adaptation and other environmental issues, including “Time to Adapt: Insights from the Global Environment Facility’s Experience on Adaptation to Climate Change.” She is a recipient of several awards and distinctions, and was recognized as one of “100 Women Leaders in Energy and Climate Change” by the U.S. White House in 2013.

Email: [sdobardzic@adaptation-fund.org](mailto:sdobardzic@adaptation-fund.org)

**Richard Oates, Director of [Spatial Days Ltd](#), Solution Architect and Technical Manager for the IPP CommonSensing Project**



Richard Oates is a director of [Spatial Days Ltd](#), a GIS mapping services, software development and consulting company based in the UK. Richard is the Solution Architect and Technical Manager for the CommonSensing Project. He provides solution architecture input and day-to-day technical management. As a CommonSensing Project Partner, Spatial Days also provides technical input, consultancy and support services as needed.

**Katherine Cooke, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser, Fiji**



Katherine Cooke is the Commonwealth National Climate Finance Advisor for Fiji. As part of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH), she is embedded within the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division of the MoE. With more than 15 years' experience, specialising in international climate change policy with experience in mitigation, adaptation and M&E, she has a detailed understanding of the international climate finance landscape, in particular public climate finance flows, and the access requirements and accreditation to climate funds. Specifically, she will be working on the commonsensing platform, using satellite remote

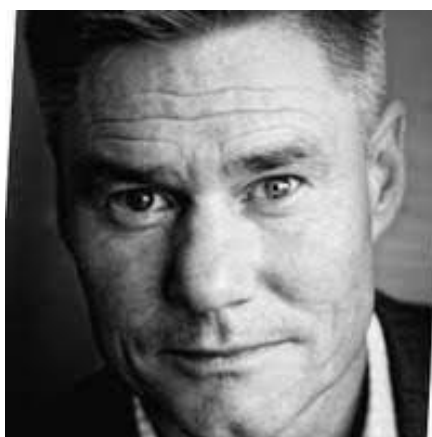
sensing technology and EO data to feed into climate finance proposals and make them more evidence based and robust (enhance climate resilience and decision making). She is also working with the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division and key collaborating partners UNDP and WRI, to establish a Project Development Unit (PDU) for enhanced access to and effective use of climate finance under the broader ambit of SDGs.

**Leba Gaunavinaka, UNITAR's in-county expert for the IPP CommonSensing Project**



Leba Gaunavinaka is UNITAR's in-county expert for the CommonSensing Project embedded with the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division within Fiji's Ministry of Economy. She provides GIS and Remote Sensing support and trainings to governmental sectors and local counterparts in conjunction with the CommonSensing consortium, working across the DRR and Climate Resilience space ensuring end-users and sectoral processes leverage the capabilities of the CommonSensing Platforms.

**Dr. Einar Bjørge, Director, Division for Satellite Analysis and Applied Research, UNITAR**



Einar Bjørge is Director of the Division for Satellite Analysis and Applied Research at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). In that capacity he oversees the Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) and Strategic Implementation of the 2030 Agenda Unit.

Since 1999 he holds a PhD in Geophysics from the University of Bergen, Norway, with focus on humanitarian applications of very high resolution satellite imagery. He

has a Master of Science in Meteorology (Climate Science) and a Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California San Diego.

Einar Bjørge joined the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1999 working on integrating new technological solutions into its operations, with special focus on use of satellite imagery. In 2002 he joined UNOSAT, and has in this capacity ensured satellite image analysis is made timely available in support to humanitarian relief, sustainable development, environment, climate services, peace & security, human rights and international law, all key components of the Sustainable Development Goals. Through UNOSAT knowledge-transfer mechanisms he also supports beneficiaries from UN Member States, regional organizations, sister agencies and NGOs with training and capacity development on geo-spatial technologies. As of January 2018, he also oversees UNITAR's Strategic Implementation of the 2030 Agenda Unit with a focus on integrated policy development, data and innovation in support of strengthening capacities of UN member states. He is part of the Scientific Advisory Board at the Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court.

### **Uzoamaka Nwamarah**



Uzoamaka Nwamarah is the Adviser on Climate Change at the Commonwealth Secretariat and supports the coordination and implementation of the Secretariat's Climate Change Programme, including its flagship Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub. She is the Secretariat's lead on the Global Nationally Determined Contributions Climate Action Enhancement Programme and is providing technical advisory services to support member countries implement their national climate plans under the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Her international experience spans across the globe where she has worked with national governments, regional bodies and international financial institutions, advising and supporting them in designing and implementing low carbon and climate resilient policies, strategies, programmes and projects, together with climate finance resource mobilisation.

Prior to joining the Commonwealth Secretariat, Uzoamaka was a Principal Climate Finance Consultant with Atkins UK, Senior Climate Change Specialist with the African Development Bank in Tunisia and Ivory Coast, Energy Policy Consultant with Camco UK and Sustainable Energy Officer with the East Midlands Regional Assembly UK.

### **Sharon Ngetich, Climate Change Officer, Commonwealth Secretariat**



Sharon Ngetich is the Climate Change Officer at the Commonwealth Secretariat and provides technical and policy support to all the Climate Change Section's programmes. She holds an MSc in Environment and Development and a BSc in Environmental Conservation and Natural Resource Management.

Sharon has been leading the Secretariat's implementation of the CommonSensing Project, focusing on facilitating technical assistance to strengthen improved access to climate finance. Prior to joining the Commonwealth Secretariat, Sharon worked in as an environmental and social impact assessment expert focusing on development projects funded by the World Bank and IMF. Sharon also has experience

capacity building and mobilising youth for climate action.