
COP 26-Side Event:

The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub: Strengthening the Climate Finance Loop for Effective NDC Implementation

4th November 2021; 11:00 - 12:30

Commonwealth Pavilion, Blue Zone, Scottish Event Campus (SEC), Glasgow

Background

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) also known as national climate action plans, are central to the achievement of the Paris Agreement. Understanding and promoting the effectiveness of climate finance is crucial for the attainment of the mitigation and adaptation targets set out in these NDCs. To this end, it is important that the activities under the NDCs for which climate finance has been sourced achieve their intended objectives, whilst also contributing to national development goals and wider sustainable development objectives.

The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) mandated by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2015 and operational out of the central hub in Mauritius since 2016, helps Commonwealth countries access climate finance to support their climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience efforts. The CCFAH deploys long-term Commonwealth Regional and National Climate Finance Advisers to member countries and partner organisations to support grant applications and implementation of climate change projects, capacity building - both human and institutional strengthening, as well as cross-Commonwealth cooperation, and sharing of knowledge.

The support provided by CCFAH is demand driven and based on specific requests received from member countries with wide sectorial coverage including agriculture, water, energy, health, oceans and coastal management amongst others. The 'Hub and Spokes' approach applied by CCFAH builds on-the-ground capacity of member countries to access climate finance, and also spurs the accumulation and transfer of critical knowledge across countries and regions for the replication and scaling up of innovative and successful climate action projects.

As of August 2021, CCFAH has secured USD 44.1 million in climate finance for member countries, including USD 3 million of country co-financing, spread across 32 approved projects (12 adaptation, 3 mitigation and 17 cross-cutting projects). The Commonwealth National Climate Finance Advisers have provided approximately 57 training initiatives with approximately 1,171 number of government officials trained thereby contributing to both institutional and human capacity building.

The operations of the CCFAH are being supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat with assistance from Australia, Mauritius and the United Kingdom. Further support has also been received from the NDC Partnership which has allowed the CCFAH to expand its scope and support additional countries in implementing their NDCs under the Climate Action

Enhancement Package (CAEP) programme. The four Commonwealth member countries supported under the CAEP programme include Belize, Eswatini, Jamaica and Zambia.

Strategic and technical assistance provided by the Commonwealth National Climate Finance Advisers under the CAEP programme encompass activities across the ‘climate finance loop’, right from climate finance landscape assessments through to proposal development as well as monitoring, reporting and verification of climate finance:

- In Belize our Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser has carried out a climate finance landscape assessment and built on the findings to develop a Climate Finance Strategy for Belize.
- In Eswatini the Adviser has supported the Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR) to ascertain how climate-related spending is included in the national budgeting process. The findings will help the government with evidence-based decision-making on budgeting for climate action. A strategy to enhance private sector engagement in Eswatini NDC actions has also been developed by the Adviser.
- In Jamaica the CCFAH has supported the assessment of the socio-economic consequences of climate change on the country’s national budget and spending, and this will support the countries long term strategy and investment plans for achieving climate targets.
- In Zambia, work on strengthening the country’s institutional processes and structures to seek, receive, utilise and report on climate finance has been carried out through climate finance mapping along with the development of a baseline report on monitoring, reporting and verification of climate finance for NDC implementation for Zambia.

Beyond the CAEP programme, the technical assistance provided by all of our Commonwealth Regional and National Climate Finance Advisers are supporting the implementation of NDCs and climate action. To this end, the CCFAH is well positioned and being further strengthened to replicate and scaleup the existing support being provided to Commonwealth member countries alongside development partners.

Objectives

The main objectives of the event include to:

- Raise awareness of the Commonwealth Secretariat’s Climate Change Programme;
- Provide first-hand in-country experiences and lessons learned from Commonwealth members states from their NDC revision and implementation processes;
- Highlight the demonstrated experience of the CCFAH working together with member countries for enhanced access to climate finance;
- Familiarise participants with the structure of the CCFAH along with the opportunities it presents as a unique delivery platform for NDC implementation and wider sustainable development objectives across the Commonwealth;
- Establish a clear understanding of available support from partner countries and organisations towards advancing the implementation of NDCs and overall climate action for Commonwealth member countries.

Desired Outcomes

The desired outcomes of the event include:

- A clear understanding of various activities encompassing the climate finance loop which create the conditions and incentives required to facilitate increased access, deployment and the effective use of climate finance along with the tracking and reporting such that climate targets of the Paris Agreement are met;
- Strengthened engagement and renewed commitment between the Commonwealth Secretariat and partner organisations for increased climate action and wider sustainable development goals;
- Understanding the opportunities and available programmes along with climate financing for the continuous enhancement and implementation of member country NDCs.

Agenda and Potential Speakers

| Timing (1 hr 30 mins) | Item |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Moderator - Uzoamaka Nwamarah, Adviser, Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat | |
| 11:00 - 11:15 | Welcome and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Kavydass Ramano, Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Mauritius |
| 11:15 - 11:20 | Video Presentation on CCFAH |
| Session Moderator - Mr. Unnikrishnan Nair , Head of Climate Change Section, Commonwealth Secretariat | |
| 11:20 - 11:55 | Country Perspectives on Fast Tracking the Implementation of NDCs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Parnel Charles Jr. MP, Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, Jamaica • Hon. Orlando Habet, Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management, Belize • Hon. Cozier Frederick, Minister of Environment, Rural Modernisation and Kalinago Upliftment, Dominica • Hon. Collins Nzovu, MP, Minister of Green Economy and Environment, Zambia (tbc) • Hon. Khadeeja Naseem, Minister of State for Environment, Maldives • Hon. Beatrice Anywar Atim, Minister of State for Environment, Uganda • Hon. Sharon Ikeazor, Minister of State for Environment, Nigeria (tbc) |
| 11:55 - 12:20 | Opportunities and Support for Increased Access to Climate Finance for NDC Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jahan Chowdhury, Director of Country Engagement, NDC Partnership • Mr. Stig Traavik, Director of Climate, Energy & Environment Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) Moderated Q&A Session |
| 12:20 - 12:25 | Closing Remarks and Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ruth Kattumuri - Senior Director, Economic Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate, The Commonwealth Secretariat |
| 12:25 - 12:30 | Photo and Interview Session |

