

Enhancing Coordination on Sustainable Land Management and Scaling-up Best Practices for Increased Climate Resilience in Africa

9 September 2021



The Commonwealth



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**CLIMATE
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE

Enhancing Coordination on Sustainable Land
Management and Scaling-up Best Practices for
Increased Climate Resilience in Africa

Virtual Event

9 September 2021; 10:00 - 12:00hrs BST



The Commonwealth



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Executive Summary

The Commonwealth Secretariat hosted this webinar to enhance coordinated action towards sustainable land management (SLM) in Africa by increasing awareness and advocating for country-driven climate finance access for Commonwealth member countries. The event brought together government officials, technical experts, researchers, international financial institutions, private sector and civil society stakeholders to discuss best practices in SLM for increased climate resilience in Africa.

The session provided an opportunity to maximise the understanding and potential of SLM practices in achieving climate, land and biodiversity targets by developing partnerships to drive ambitious and accelerated action along with the sharing of knowledge, scientific information, expertise and experience between public sector actors and civil society.

The webinar aimed to:

1. Recognise the importance of SLM, and wider nature-based solutions (NbS) , as an ecosystem-based approach to addressing climate change and the many co-benefits that can improve social, environmental and economic conditions;
2. Understand the gaps and challenges hindering SLM in the region, particularly in the context of institutional structure, policy backing, monitoring and evaluation measures and allocation of land across sectors, whilst capturing what has worked well for replication and scaling up of best practices;
3. Highlight the social challenges faced by vulnerable groups in the region that affect SLM and incorporate traditional knowledge and perspectives, along with gender and youth considerations in policy measures and project development;
4. Explore finance instruments and mechanisms which can simplify access to finance to address climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss by maximising partnerships between the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) and partner development organisations, financial institutions, and government agencies.

The key reflections and take away messages generated throughout the webinar included:

- Increased focus on decentralised community centred models for reducing vulnerabilities
- Incorporation of nature-based solutions (NbS) for scaling up of impact
- Institutional preparedness to coordinate action and the agenda on land desertification, climate change and biodiversity in country
- Improved capacity building to support member countries
- Urgent need for increase in availability and accessibility to finance for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects and readiness financing

Background

The Commonwealth Secretariat has launched its programme on **A Call to Action on Living Lands** in support of the proposed **Commonwealth Living Lands Charter** which supports member countries to integrate, mainstream and implement actions against biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation in line with the commitments agreed to under the three Rio Conventions. The Living Lands Charter will serve as an agreement among the 54 member countries to work towards climate resilient and sustainable land management by integrating the targets of the three Rio Conventions.

Sustainable Land Management (SLM) entails the use of land resources to produce goods to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental functions¹. Combatting the loss and damage to the quality of environment resulting from land degradation requires sound and integrated management of forests, water resources crop and grazing lands, and restoration of organic soil content. These promote co-benefits such as improvements to the health and well-being of dependent communities by addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, and desertification.

Land represents one of Africa's most vital natural resources, particularly one on which livelihoods are critically dependent to provide food and water security, fuel, transportation, employment, shelter and cultural identity. It also supports animal and plant life forming the basis for biological diversity. The [2020 IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land](#) found that climate change and land degradation are interlinked and exponentially exacerbated by extreme and more intense weather events, compounded by sea-level rise. Declining soil, water and air quality hinders agricultural yield, thus increasing food insecurity and vulnerabilities which trigger social conflicts among land users.

The [UNEP 2020 Adaptation Gap Report](#) recognised drought and water scarcity as the most significant hazard in the region. In 2017/18, it was found that globally only 24% or US\$7 billion of public funding was dedicated to climate adaptation, primarily for agriculture, forestry, land use (AFOLU), and natural resource management. Of this, a small portion goes towards nature-based solutions (NbS) with 73% NbS initiatives in the region undertaken in rural areas. Land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change must be combatted to enhance sustainability, resilience and ensure inclusive growth through NbS.

SLM requires tackling complex issues such as addressing water, food and energy nexus, as well as sensitive issues regarding rights over and accesses to lands and other natural resources. Climate change is affecting food and water security across Africa with impacts particularly exacerbated in dryland ecosystems productivity. The effects also adversely impact vulnerable groups with women and girls disproportionately affected due to their societal roles and responsibilities. Therefore, a system for resource planning and management needs to integrate perspectives of vulnerable groups including youth and women.

The Commonwealth Secretariat continues to support collaborative partnerships with national, regional and international organisations to unite in taking multi-level adaptation and mitigation actions, including sustainable land management and wider nature-based solutions.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/land-water/land/sustainable-land-management/en/>

Welcome Message

Dr Ruth Kattumuri, Senior Director of Economic, Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat, in her welcoming remarks, highlighted the importance of multilateral and multi-stakeholder support to champion national priorities on identified land issues and recognised the involvement and engagement of stakeholders as crucial to catalysing work on sustainable land management (SLM). The event engages diverse areas of expertise to highlight challenges hindering SLM in Africa in order to understand the associated social challenges facing vulnerable groups in the region and explore instruments which can increase access to finance for SLM.

She underlined that the Commonwealth Climate Change Programme remains committed to strengthening the resilience of Commonwealth countries by facilitating capacity development and access to public and private finance in response to the development needs of countries, particularly through the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) which mobilises resources and accelerates efforts to address climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation in Africa.

Dr Kattumuri concluded by noting the importance of continued partnership and engagement, and she established that the Secretariat will continue to work with member countries and partners to propel the implementation of the proposed Living Lands Charter ahead of the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), COP26 and onwards.

Introduction to the Commonwealth Call to Action on Living Lands

Mr Unnikrishnan Nair, Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat provided an overview of the Commonwealth Climate Change programme which aims to strengthen the resilience of member countries to respond to climate change by facilitating capacity development to access finance for climate change adaptation and mitigation. He introduced the Call to Action on Living Lands and the proposed Living Lands Charter as an agreement among the Commonwealth membership to drive climate resilient and sustainable land management in close coordination with the three Rio Conventions focussed on desertification (UNCCD), biodiversity conservation (UNCBD) and climate change (UNFCCC).

The Secretariat, with the support of the CCFAH, intends to collaborate with multilateral support mechanisms to enhance readiness, mitigation and adaptation projects, and knowledge management in taking the initiative forward. The 5x5 approach towards implementing the Living Lands Charter encompasses five cross-cutting thematic areas identified as having strong impact on climate change and livelihood dependence, and five implementation strategies. Furthermore, CALL supports the implementation of NDCs, NAPs, LDN targets and Biodiversity targets.

Mr Nair shed light on the bilateral consultations with the membership on the Living Lands programme with key aim to build partnership and substantiate input to member countries who will champion the Action Groups behind the thematic areas to effectively deliver key indicators under the Rio Conventions. Regional consultations recognise key institutions that would provide strategic support to the Action Groups during implementation.

Country Experiences on Achieving and Enhancing Coordination on Sustainable Land Management

Mauritius

Mr Poojanraj Khurun, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mauritius, listed the key challenges in achieving coordination as siloed action, limited resources, and lack of engagement with partners. He urged the need for coordination in resource mobilisation and the monitoring of project implementation. He underscored that efforts need to be continuous for long term effect which can be facilitated by government incentives and legislation, targeted awareness raising, and support for alternative livelihoods, such as guaranteed supply chain for farmers in climate smart agriculture. Mauritius encourages agroforestry and climate-smart agriculture through the development of joint forest management principles with NGOs and the private sector as well as strategic plans integrating the Rio Conventions and mandatory minimum sustainable land practices in activities. Mr Khurun concluded by underlining the necessity for awareness raising on land degradation and proposed the re-engineering of sectoral activities and capacity building towards a paradigm shift for SLM.

Eswatini

Ms Lynn Kota, National Project Director, SMLP, Eswatini Water & Agricultural Development Enterprise, Eswatini pinpointed rural communities as the core contributors to SLM and added that SLM requires political will from authorities and must hold and livelihood enhancement as a necessary factor. In the local example provided, nature-based solutions (NbS) were a successful approach to integrating the targets of the Rio Conventions with SLM whereby degraded lands were restored. She underscored the importance of being custodians of natural vegetation in order to conserve forest resources and actively engaging local communities in adaptation and mitigation projects.

Namibia

Mr Paulus Ashili, Chief Conservation Scientist, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Namibia, set the tone by first contextualising Namibia as arid, semi-arid and hyper arid where 35% of the environment is degraded and two-thirds of the population practice rangeland farming and agriculture over 70% of the land. Namibia strives to implement the Rio Conventions through synergistic action plans leveraging shared human and financial resources at institutional, programming and policy level. He expressed that Namibia has put in place sectoral policies at various levels related to water security, agriculture and forestry management, such as the national action programme to implement six LDN targets. Mr Ashili concluded by providing examples of resource mobilisation and project implementation in Namibia, namely a GEF-funded project aimed to reduce poverty through nature-based livelihood strategies promoting biodiversity and forest conservations; and a GCF-funded project aimed at increasing climate resilience of productive degraded landscapes through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) actions to strengthen social and ecological systems.

Seychelles

Dr Kai Kim Chiang, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser for Seychelles provided clear examples of the country's efforts towards implementing SLM. Firstly, institutional changes have been made to incorporate the department of agriculture to establish the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment for enhanced coordination between the three Rio Conventions. Secondly, the Government of Seychelles,

in collaboration with UNDP, has undertaken a six-year NbS project funded by the Adaptation Fund focussed on tackling water scarcity and flooding by restoring and restoring upland and coastal wetlands through water storage facilities. Dr Chiang ended by listing opportunities for scaling up NbS in Seychelles, such as restoration of additional wetlands and forests, facilitation of technical training on best practices in EbA, and feasibility studies to explore potential water storage areas.

Panel Discussion 1: Scaling up Best Nature-based Solutions (NbS) or Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Practices for Increased Climate Resilience in Africa

In this panel discussion, panellists **Gareth Phillips, AfDB**; and **Petteri Vuorinen, GCF**, discussed instruments and mechanisms to access climate finance for SLM implementation.

Mr Phillips called attention to the opportunity to address the targets of the Rio Conventions and land use in countries' long term strategies for low-carbon, climate resilient pathways which can then cascade down into NDCs for climate adaptation. Countries must identify clear national targets so that appropriate support can be administered. Mr Vuorinen echoed this sentiment whilst summarising the GCF funding available to support country readiness and project preparation, adding that national and regional GCF focal points are deployed in countries to guide NDAs on accessing the funding and projects in the pipeline.

Mr Phillips continued to discuss the *Adaptation Benefits Mechanism (ABM)* that AfDB is in the process of developing – a non-market approach to mobilising finance for climate change adaptation. AfDB also offers the *African Climate Change Fund* which provides grants for climate resilience and mitigation projects and co-finances GEF and GCF funded projects. Mr Vuorinen shed light on characteristics of a strong funding proposals, including country driven approach, climate impact focused, scalable and replicable projects, private sector involvement, inclusion of local stakeholders, and knowledge generation and sharing.

Regarding involving the private sector in climate finance, Mr Vuorinen identified access to credit for small enterprises as a challenge and stated that GCF is developing modalities to facilitate delivering funds at the grassroots level. Mr Phillips added that AfDB has shifted focus on renewable energy opportunities, foregoing coal entirely. AfDB continues to raise awareness with private sector investors in the Africa through its *African Financial Alliance on Climate Change (AFAC)* programme to shift investment away from fossil fuel towards renewables as well as in adaptation and mitigation spaces.

Panel Discussion 2: Sustainable Land Management as an Integrated Approach in Addressing Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Land Degradation

In this moderated discussion, panellists **Dr Manyewu Mutamba, AUDA-NEPAD**; **Dr Birhanu Zemadim Birhanu, ICRISAT**; and **Dr Cécile Ndjebet, REFACOF**, discussed how policy changes and access to finance can help scale up SLM in Africa.

Dr Mutamba set the tone of the session by underscoring that more needs to be done in the region regarding policy changes to bring about synergies in forestry, climate change and sustainable management. From a scientific research angle, Dr Birhanu established that land degradation, climate change and biodiversity conservation are core to ICRISAT's research topics. He recognised partnership as one of the most important components of ICRISAT's strategy. By collaborating at the local level and promoting alliances at the national level, demand-driven agenda are discussed at the community level platforms leading to targeted sectoral interventions. In this methodology, decentralised mechanisms and stratifications aids in addressing more issues.

Dr Birhanu highlighted the relevance of evidence generation for knowledge creation and sharing through local telecommunications for information to reach beneficiaries and actors on the ground. Impact on the ground requires learning agendas through sites whereby actors can implement practices to create a wide-reaching learning environment. Identification of technologies at learning action sites can scale up these technologies and application to different geographical location. Monitoring and evaluation efforts. Documentation and outreach activities help in scaling up activities.

Dr Ndjebet, what role do communities play to bridge the gaps in policy & financing for SLM Access to funding is necessary for CSO operations to improve and scale up good practices. REFACOF operates in 20 countries. Financing from MDBs such as GCF and AfDB need to be made readily available for grassroots CSOs considering the complicated accreditation and application processes. Political will is needed to recognise civil society as part of the solution.

With respect to how civil society organisations (CSOs) can access financing on the ground, Mr Phillips shed light on how the AfDB mobilises grants to African CSOs through the *Africa Climate Change Fund*. In addition, the *Adaptation Benefits Mechanism* is specifically designed to accommodate small scale transactions whereby the transaction cost of the project is included in the price for the adaptation benefit to support small scale activities.

Dr Mutamba concluded the session by advocating for a change in the way resources are mobilised for African institutions. Better governance and deployment of policies and engagement with the private sector are needed to drive change. Dr Birhanu advocated for an integration of institutions and policies at the country level to achieve SLM. Dr Ndjebet advocated for mechanisms to be developed to make funding more accessible to civil society.

Closing Remarks

H.E. Yamina Karitanyi, High Commissioner for the Republic of Rwanda to the United Kingdom delivered the closing remarks where she reiterated the urgent need to strengthen coordination for SLM for climate resilience, quoting the detrimental consequences extreme weather events have had on Rwanda. Rwanda has developed green growth and climate resilience strategies to foster a low carbon and climate resilient economy by 2050. Rwanda is committed to ambitious climate action and encourages country commitment and collaboration to exchange best practices within the region. As the next host of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Rwanda is prepared to carry forward the work on sustainable land management (SLM) not forgetting the importance of good governance, technology and the inclusion of youth.

Participant Engagement: Questions and Answer

Country Experiences on Achieving and Enhancing Coordination on SLM

1. **Q:** How can the pollinators be made to avoid deforestation?

A: Lynn Kota, Eswatini - pollinators, particularly bees, assist in avoiding deforestation in the following ways:

When the population of honeybees increases in the forests, the pollination process also increases, thus the forests become denser and richer in terms of biodiversity. Crops, such as maize, become more productive if there are honeybees in the locality. In order to increase honey production, communities are aware that bees make honey from the nectar they get from flowering trees. People avoid cutting down live trees for fuelwood sales. Rather, they only collect dead wood for their household usage. Natural resource management committees in each community are given the responsibility, in collaboration with community police, of protecting their forests diligently by making sure that outsiders do not fell trees. Communities become the custodians of their own forests and forest resources.

2. **Q:** Share reflections of most effective approaches used to elicit political support.

A:

Poojanraj Khurun, Mauritius -: As technicians, we must be able to convince decision makers by making them part and parcel of the activities.

Lynn Kota, Eswatini: Engaging Traditional Authorities with the view of making them understand the nature of development is critical. In Eswatini, each community develops a Chiefdom Development Plan, facilitated by project staff, where they document their development aspirations, informed by technical experts on the possibilities of the aspirations in the different contexts. The Traditional Authority publicly agrees to and signs the Chiefdom Development Plan. In communal areas, where rehabilitation is required for re-use of land, the households close to that area, that would benefit from its rehabilitation, acquire a Chief's Letter of Consent, which gives them indefinite user rights of that land. The area is geo- referenced, with the households' particulars also registered. In this way they have the inspiration to develop the land to its full capacity, knowing that no one can claim it at any stage.

3. **Q:** If government institutions alone can't stop land degradation, what are the other parties/entities they should work with?

A:

Poojanraj Khurun, Mauritius: Private sectors that have CSR funds accessible by NGOs is one easy, demonstrable model and also creates a perfect synergy.

Ms Lynn Kota, Eswatini: Government institutions cannot stop land degradation; it is the people that use the land that can stop land degradation. What they need is knowledge on the connection between land degradation and food and nutrition security and then make informed decisions on their land use practices. This can be achieved through government institutions, NGOs and other institutions in the community development space. Communities also need to know how they can

rehabilitate already degraded lands whilst being supported with technical expertise and materials to do it. This is where Political Will from both Government (resources to carry out the work and technical expertise) and the Traditional Authorities (land Management and Administration) is necessary.

4. **Q:** What communication strategies do you use to support your engagement of communities particularly of young people?

Poojanraj Khurun, Mauritius: Through active outreach activities, meeting group after group, NGO after NGO, private sector after private sector to encourage them to provide support. Mauritius, being small, has its advantages such as easy communication directly with the press.

Lynn Kota, Eswatini: We developed a communication strategy whereby all the structures in the community were consulted to determine the best communication media for each of them. The elderly prefer meetings and workshops, radio and television podcasts in the morning hours, while the youth prefer social media, television podcasts, newspapers, as well as meetings and workshops. We are then implementing the communication strategy after we developed an action plan.

Access to Finance for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Implementation

5. **Q:** Against the backdrop of the fast-approaching 2023 Paris global Stocktake and 2025 Ratchet, what should investors do in re-assessing investment beliefs and portfolios against growing climate-related impacts, risks and opportunities?

A:

Gareth Phillips, AfDB: Subscribing to TCFD (Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosure) would be a great step to take. This requires the development of climate change scenarios and an evaluation of the impacts from both a mitigation and an adaptation perspective. Companies can look at their supply chains and make them more climate resilient.

Petteri Vuorinen, GCF: As countries are increasing their commitments to respond to ongoing changes in climate, this opens up opportunities for companies developing solutions (e.g. related to clean energy, clean transport, energy efficient buildings and cities, etc) for countries and, consequently, for institutional investors investing in these companies developing solutions. One can have a good idea of climate related impacts, risks and opportunities in different countries by reviewing already approved GCF projects (<https://www.greenclimate.fund/countries>). Entities implementing projects have done assessments on these issues and a lot more as part of the project development process.

6. **Q:** What can be done to ease access to the funds from the GCF?

A: Petteri Vuorinen, GCF: I recommend you contact our focal point/NDA or the accredited entities in the country in concern. Contact info can be found on the GCF website.

7. **Q:** How challenging is it to make a good business case in SLM for private sector investors and what support can you plan to provide states to make present a good business case?

A: Petteri Vuorinen, GCF: I recommend you have a look at the project in Ghana (FP 137). We provide up to 1 million USD/year/country to develop concept notes, including sustainable business cases.

8. **Q:** Can the AfDB promote the production of indigenous fruits and vegetable by providing finance for their re-introduction in alignment with the drive towards reduction in the use of processed foods and in turn market increase in the demand for these foods.

A:

Gareth Phillips, AfDB: Food security and agricultural value chains are significant elements of the AfDB's "Feed Africa" strategy, but I can predict that getting funds to these kinds of small scale projects that operate at a community level could be challenging. The *Adaptation Benefits Mechanism* could be used to support the continued cultivation of these kinds of "traditional" produce; this could be presented as a biodiversity conservation activity and/or as part of a land restoration/land degradation neutrality concept, e.g. we see interest in protecting and promoting Shea butter and gum Arabic so these products could be supported. Check the website of the *Africa Climate Change Fund*. Although they just completed their 3rd call for proposals, this kind of activity would be relevant in future.

Lynn Kota, Eswatini: Re-introduction of indigenous fruits and vegetables requires that it be done in areas where they occurred before the degradation of the environment leading to their disappearance and in turn the "out of sight, out of mind" syndrome that they are now suffering from. Re-introduction occurs easily in their original habitats, but unfortunately this is at a small scale and amid other forest resources. Commercialisation of the forgotten fruits and vegetables would need some research on biodiversity requirements for their survival, if there are any. They cannot be treated like all other crops, like exotic fruits and vegetables. Possibly, the AfDB could consider their large scale production if that is informed by research.

Capacity Building: Technical Assistance, Evidence-based Analysis and Knowledge Sharing

9. **Q:** What (communication) strategies do you use to support your engagement of communities, particularly of women and young people?

A: Cécile Ndjebet, REFACOF:

- We have a young women chapter and community-based women leaders. These are channels through which information is shared from the ground to the entire network and vice versa.
- We organize meetings, information campaigns, trainings that also serve very effectively to communicate with all members, especially with young women in villages.
- We produce some communication materials, such as guides, brochures, and posters, to facilitate communication with our communities. In addition, we organize field activities with women, and the group of young women remain one of the key communication channels.

ANNEX I: Agenda

Timing	Item
10:00–10:05 (5 mins)	Welcome and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Ruth Kattumuri - Senior Director, Economic, Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat
10:05–10:10 (5 mins)	Video: Context Setting on the Need for Coordinated Action on Land Ministerial High-Level Event Summary Video including Key Messages from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary General of the Commonwealth • Ms Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary UNFCC • Mr Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UNCCD • Ms Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary, UNCBD
10:10–10:20 (10 mins)	Overview Presentation on A Commonwealth Call to Action on Living Lands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Unnikrishnan Nair, Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat
10:20–10:45 (25 mins)	Country Experiences on Achieving and Enhancing Coordination on Sustainable Land Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Poojanraj Khurun - Deputy Conservator of Forests, Government of Mauritius • Ms Lynn Kota - National Project Director - SMLP, Eswatini Water & Agricultural Development Enterprise, Government of Eswatini • Mr Paulus Ashili - Chief Conservation Scientist, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Government of Namibia • Dr kai Kim Chiang - Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser, Seychelles
10:45–11:20 (35 mins)	Panel Discussion and Q&A Session 1: Scaling-up Best Nature-based Solutions/Sustainable Land Management Practices for Increased Climate Resilience in Africa Moderator: Dr kai Kim Chiang - Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser, Seychelles Access to Finance for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Gareth Phillips - Manager, Climate & Environmental Finance, African Development Bank • Mr Petteri Vuorinen - Senior Forest and Land Use Specialist, Division of Mitigation and Adaptation, Green Climate Fund
11:20–11:55 (35 mins)	Panel Discussion and Q&A Session 2: Sustainable Land Management as an Integrated Approach in Addressing Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Land Degradation Moderator: Ms Cathrine Mutambirwa - Programme Coordinator, LDN and Land Restoration at Global Mechanism of the UNCCD Capacity Building: Technical Assistance, Evidence-based Analysis & Knowledge Sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Manyewu Mutamba - Head (Ag.), Food Systems and Rural Resources Unit, African Union Development Agency New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) • Dr Birhanu Zemadim Birhanu - Senior Scientist - Landscapes, Soil Fertility and Water Management, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) • Dr Cécile Ndjebet - President, African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)
11:55–12:00 (5 mins)	Closing Remarks and Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Yamina Karitanyi, High Commissioner for the Republic of Rwanda to the United Kingdom
Event Moderator: Ms Uzoamaka Nwamarah - Adviser, Climate Section, Commonwealth Secretariat	

ANNEX II: Event Photo Collage



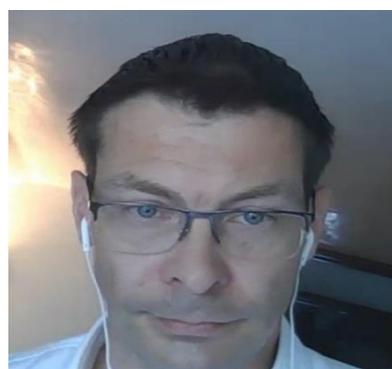
Dr Ruth Kattumuri - Senior Director, Economic, Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat providing the welcome address



Mr Unnikrishnan Nair - Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat presenting on a Commonwealth Call to Action on Living Lands



Senior government officials presenting on country experiences (L-R): **Mr Poojanraj Khurun**, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mauritius; **Ms Lynn Kota**, National Project Director, SMLP, Eswatini Water & Agricultural Development Enterprise; and **Mr Paulus Ashili**, Chief Conservation Scientist, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Namibia.



Experts discussing access to finance for sustainable land management implementation (L-R): **Mr Gareth Phillips**, Manager, Climate & Environmental Finance, African Development Bank; and **Mr Petteri Vuorinen**, Senior Forest and Land Use Specialist, Green Climate Fund.



Panellists speaking on capacity building (L-R): **Dr Manyewu Mutamba**, Head (Ag.), Food Systems and Rural Resources Unit, AUDA-NEPAD; **Dr Birhanu Zemadim Birhanu**, Senior Scientist, Landscapes, Soil Fertility and Water Management, ICRISAT; and **Dr Cécile Ndjebet**, President, African Women’s Network for Community Management of Forests.



H.E. Yamina Karitanyi, High Commissioner for the Republic of Rwanda to the United Kingdom providing the closing remarks and way forward.



Moderators (L-R): **Ms Uzoamaka Nwamarah**, Adviser, Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat; **Dr kai Kim Chiang**, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser for Seychelles; and **Ms Catherine Mutambirwa**, Programme Coordinator, LDN and Land Restoration at Global Mechanism of the UNCCD.

ANNEX III: List of Participants

Speakers:

- Dr Ruth Kattumuri - Senior Director, Economic Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat
- Unnikrishnan Nair - Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat
- Poojanraj Khurun - Deputy Conservator of Forests, Government of Mauritius
- Lynn Kota - National Project Director, Eswatini Water & Agricultural Development Enterprise
- Paulus Ashili - Chief Conservation Scientist, Min of Environment, Forestry & Tourism, Namibia
- Gareth Phillips - Manager, Climate & Environmental Finance, African Development Bank
- Petteri Vuorinen - Senior Forest and Land Use Specialist, Green Climate Fund
- Dr kai Kim Chiang - Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser, Seychelles
- Dr Manyewu Mutamba - Head (Ag.), Food Systems and Rural Resources Unit, AUDA-NEPAD
- Dr Birhanu Zemadim Birhanu - Senior Scientist, Landscapes, Soil Fertility & Water Management, ICRISAT
- Dr Cécile Ndjebet - African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests
- Cathrine Mutambirwa - Programme Coordinator, LDN and Land Restoration at Global Mechanism of the UNCCD
- Uzoamaka Nwamarah - Adviser, Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat

Attendees:

- Abubakar Muhammad Moki
- Abuh Monday - Climate and Sustainable Development Network of Nigeria
- Amb Emmanuel Gabari - Executive Director, African Focus for Youth Development AFFYD,
- Annette Nadine Mouasso Epse Obama Biyadamistry Of External Relations, Cameroon
- Anny Darlene Ndorimana - CEO, Rc Retraining
- Aruna Wanasinghe, Free Lance Consultant
- H.E. Dr Asha-Rose Migiro - High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Kingdom & Republic of Ireland.
- Atayi Opaluwah
- Blessed Egbuchulam - Young Digital Activist, Csdevnet
- Carlos Tungadza - Director Nacional, Ministerio Da Terra E Ambiente, Mozambique
- Chadwick Henry
- Chukwuemeka Onochie - Csdevnet
- Collins Otieno - Project Officer, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
- Danielle Ramiaramanana - National Focal Point, REFACOF
- Denis Matatiken
- Derek Oakley - Consultant, Agora Global
- Dickson Kithinji
- Dismas Minja - Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Tanzania
- Edward Okot Omoya - Consultant-Environmental and Social Management Specialist, EADB
- Edwina Quist - Assistant Agriculture Officer, Ministry of Food And Agriculture
- Emmanuel Montesquieu Kangpete - Ministry of External Relations, Cameroon
- Erick Omollo
- Esperanza Karaho
- Evelyn Drawec - Technical Advisor Agroforestry/Agriculture, GOS-UNDP-GEF PCU
- Fabrice Mugabo - Consultant
- Faith Choga - Environmental & Social Safeguards and Gender Associate, Green Climate Fund
- Ghalib Galant - Chief Catalyst, Synergy WORKS
- Hadijah Nansamba
- Hlamalani Nelly MANZINI - High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa
- Hyun Ko - Programme Officer, IRENA
- Joaquim Langa - National Directorate, Ministry of Land & Environment, Mozambique
- Julia Azambuja - Technician, Ministry of Land and Territorial Development, Mozambique
- Julius Mbatia - Climate Change Manager, ACT Alliance

- Jummai Yila - Senior Scientist/Gender, ICRISAT
- Karamoko Sanogo - Scientific Officer, ICRISAT
- Kingsley Amoako - Deputy Director, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana
- Linda Obiero
- MARTIN OWUOR - Counsellor I, Kenya High Commission in London
- Muhammad Shamsuddin Ibrahim
- N Kota - The Clinic Group
- Nancy Rapando - Food Practice Lead (Africa), WWF Kenya
- Natalia Nakashona - WINDHOEK
- Nweze Emmanuel
- oluwafemi olonibua - Researcher, SeeFar
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