

The Commonwealth NDC Webinar Series

February - April 2022



Summary Report - The Commonwealth NDC Webinar Series

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Background

The Commonwealth Secretariat through the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) supports Commonwealth member countries in accessing climate finance to support their climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience efforts, thereby contributing towards the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The support provided by CCFAH, through the deployment of long-term Commonwealth Regional and National Climate Finance Advisers to member countries and partner organisations, is demand driven and based on specific requests received from member countries. The support provided cuts across the development of grant applications and implementation of climate change projects, capacity building - both human and institutional strengthening, as well as Pan-Commonwealth cooperation and sharing of knowledge.

Under the NDC Partnership's Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) initiative, the Commonwealth Secretariat delivered targeted support for the enhancement and implementation of NDCs through the provision of in-country technical expertise in four member countries in 2021 namely Belize, Eswatini, Jamaica and Zambia. The CAEP is a demand-driven and impact focused initiative to deliver targeted support to countries for the enhancement and implementation of their NDCs, including the provision of in-country technical expertise and capacity building. Climate finance being a crucial aspect in achieving the ambitious NDC targets, the CCFAH delivered a number of climate finance related deliverables under the CAEP working together with member countries, the NDC Partnership and other partners. These include the following¹:

Belize

- Climate Finance Landscape of Belize 2015 - 2019
- Climate Finance Strategy of Belize 2021 - 2026

In Belize the Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser carried out a climate finance landscape assessment and built on the findings to develop a Climate Finance Strategy for Belize.

Jamaica

- Socio-economic and Financial Implications Assessment of Climate Change for the Government of Jamaica

In Jamaica the CCFAH supported the assessment of the socio-economic consequences of climate change on the country's national budget and spending, and this supports the country's long term strategy and investment plans for achieving climate targets.

Kingdom of Eswatini

- Government of Eswatini Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR)
- Strategy to Enhance Private Sector Engagement in Eswatini NDC Actions

In Eswatini the Adviser supported the Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR) to ascertain how climate-related spending is included in the national budgeting process. The findings are helping the government with evidence-based decision-making on budgeting for climate action. A strategy to enhance private sector engagement in Eswatini NDC actions was also developed.

Zambia

- Climate Finance Mapping for NDC Implementation in Zambia
- Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of Climate Finance for Zambia

¹ 1 All the final reports are available on the Commonwealth Secretariat website and accessible via the following link <https://thecommonwealth.org/our-work/Commonwealth-Climate-Change-Programme>

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, the Commonwealth Secretariat also recently conducted the following gender and NDCs assessment: [Gender Integration for Climate Action: A Review of Commonwealth Member Country Nationally Determined Contributions](#). The report provides an in-depth understanding of how and to what extent Commonwealth member countries are integrating gender and social inclusion concerns into their NDCs, with the identification of prevailing gaps, entry points and opportunities for the integration of gender into NDCs including a set of best practice recommendations.

This Commonwealth NDC Webinar series in collaboration with the NDC Partnership delivers on the CCFAH knowledge management strategy to spur the accumulation and transfer of critical knowledge across countries and regions for the replication and scaling up of innovative and successful climate action projects and initiatives. The exciting topics slated to capture experiences and lessons learned across countries and institutions' NDC work include:

- Climate finance: from landscape to strategy implementation;
- Integrating gender equality into NDC Implementation;
- Developing climate financing frameworks for improved alignment of public and private sector investments to support NDC Implementation.

Webinar 1: Climate Finance: From Landscape to Strategy Implementation

17 February 2022 (13:30 -15:00 GMT)

Discussion Summary

This Session brought forward the experiences and lessons learned from the Commonwealth Secretariat's NDC CAEP work in Belize and Zambia, which looked at how these interventions across the various stages of accessing and deploying climate finance support the achievement of NDC commitments.

This included presentations from the respective member countries alongside other development partners including Islamic Development Bank, Climate Policy Initiative, African Development Bank and NDC Partnership. See Annex 1 for Agenda.

Participants exchanged ideas, tools, and methods related to climate finance mapping and tracking in order to better understand practitioners' needs and priorities to support the implementation of national climate strategies and updated NDC. Over 160 participants joined the webinar from more than 24 countries. During opening remarks, the clear need for tracking climate finance investments was emphasized:

This report summarizes key insights from the discussions

Key Points and Main Outcomes

- Finance is a key ingredient of the global response to climate change. The success of low-carbon and climate-resilient development depends on the quantity and type of finance made available to support these efforts.
- As countries embark to work on implementing their updated and enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2022, climate finance mapping can play a key role to identify new ways governments can step up their climate actions, as well as finance these bold new goals.
- Greater mapping of financial sources by all key stakeholders will support and ramp up efforts in this direction. In this context, we need a more effective national policy response and credible roadmaps for sectors and countries; we need more details on how NDCs will be achieved and better metrics on progress, also tracking the implementation of green recovery commitments.
- Achieving the NDC target is highly contingent with the access and utilizing climate finance. The process of accessing climate finance is in a continuum, in which understanding the landscape by mapping climate finance, strategic approach in accessing climate finance and tracking climate finance utilisation are important steps.
- Assessing progress under the Paris Agreement will be impossible without proper systems to map and track climate expenditures and investments being made by the full range of public and private actors. If countries are to achieve their NDCs and reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, clear roadmaps and comparable criteria need to be designed and implemented starting now. Mapping and tracking climate finance is the basis for monitoring action and understanding which capacities and incentives need to be built to mobilize greater investments.

- In many developing countries climate finance information is available with various entities in the country but there is no systematic collection, collation and archiving of this information. Hence, limited access to climate finance data for national projects and limited participation of line ministries in data analysis and reporting of finance data
- There is a need, more than ever in light of the COVID-19 crisis, to support resource mobilization. Even prior to COVID-19, we were already falling short of the trillions required to avoid and adapt to climate change. And now, with such an altered monetary and fiscal space, it is more crucial to ensure that public and concessional finance are efficiently utilized; and adequate private capital is mobilized to shift and remain on a path to net-zero
- A single source of finance is insufficient to meet the climate finance requirements of the developing countries. It is important to have a strategic approach to access and mobilise climate finance from multiple sources and blending different instruments. Therefore, country level locally appropriate and integrated climate finance strategies can boost the overall effectiveness and efficiency in accessing climate finance.
- The current climate finance mapping and landscapes clearly indicate that partnerships play a crucial role in accessing and utilising climate finance. Therefore, the climate finance strategies must account for partnerships without limiting to sources and instruments.
- The Paris Agreement is built on a transformational agenda and therefore, the financing strategies must be transformational. Medium to long-term vision must be embedded into the climate finance strategies along with human and institutional capacity building for the transformation.
- Strong development planning and mainstreaming climate change into development is required in accessing finance from Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). MDBs are being a significant finance provider for climate actions, especially resilience building, while blending with finances from other sources.

Webinar 2: Integrating Gender Equality into NDC Implementation

8 March 2022 (14:00 - 15:30 GMT)

Discussion Summary

The 2nd webinar of the series, *Integrating Gender Equality into NDC Implementation*, was hosted on International Women's Day and aimed at sharing the experiences and lessons learned by countries and stakeholders in designing and implementing more gender responsive NDCs.

The webinar brought together representatives from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Africa Development Bank (AfDB), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Commonwealth Secretariat and the NDC Partnership (agenda provided in Annex 2).

The discussion encompassed perspectives and learnings on various elements of integrating gender equality into in climate commitments, policies, strategies and action plans with a focus on NDC implementation including:

- Gender equality under, the main global governance framework for climate change, the UNFCCC and enabling mechanisms. In this regard, the importance of integrating gender for achievement of Paris Agreement goals, entry points for integration of gender in the NDCs, the Lima Work Programme and Gender Action Plan and its five priority areas were discussed amongst others.
- Examples and experiences were drawn from the Commonwealth Secretariat's CCFAH support to develop gender responsive climate finance projects and policies; NDC Partnership's CAEP in supporting the enhancement and implementation NDCs; AfDB's gender related projects and targeted funding envelopes; IUCN's approach that encourages solutions driven by local women and communities, and the GCFs commitment to integration of gender equality in all its investments.
- The importance of gender analysis and enhanced gender disaggregated data, information and monitoring and application of these to the climate context and to different sectors. In particular, AfDB emphasised the need to overlay such gender statistics with climate hotspots and risks and shared information on a pilot project it was embarking on that would create an interactive map and methodology for doing so.
- The main challenges that remain in the integration of gender equality in climate action and opportunities for addressing these to push forward progress and momentum.

Key Points and Main Outcomes

- Women must be positioned as positive agents of change across all spheres of climate action from decision making, policy formulation, project implementation, monitoring and reporting.
- Positive progress has been made in integrating gender equality in climate action and in particular in NDCs. There remains gaps and challenges with regards to a more in depth look at gender equality along specific categories and in key sectors but also opportunities to address these.
- Identification and detailed articulation of gender issues and requirements in different sectors is critical and must be enhanced, as this influences formulation, design and implementation of subsequent climate action interventions.
- Financing of gender responsive climate action is vital to advance gender equality outcomes. Financial instruments employed must be wide ranging, customised and innovative.
- It is essential for gender responsive climate action to bring together, gender and climate experts respectively and facilitate continuous cross-pollination and better alignment between the two sectors.
- Sharing of knowledge and experiences on both successes and challenges of integrating gender equality in climate action is essential to enhance action and replicate and scale up best practices.

Webinar 3: Developing Climate Financing Frameworks for Improved Alignment of Public and Private Sector Investments

12 April 2022 - (14:00 - 15:30 BST)

Discussion Summary

This Session brought forward the experiences and lessons learned from the Commonwealth Secretariat's NDC CAEP work in Jamaica and Eswatini, as well as from other international partners around mobilising, utilising and development of frameworks for aligning the public and private investments that contribute to the effective implementation of NDCs under the Paris Agreement.

This included presentations from the respective member countries alongside other development partners including NDC Partnership, Vivid Economics, NAP Global Network and Asian Development Bank. See Annex 3 for Agenda.

The discussion encompassed various areas including:

- The Development of NDC Investment plans to support in bringing together private sector alongside public sector financing. Challenges and best practices to be employed around the three associated pillars namely - Implementation, Identification of Investment needs and Mobilising Investment
- Elements around ensuring NDC investment plans clearly communicate investment needs and sources, with actionable implementation components as well as clear signalling for investment partners were also discussed.
- In light of the NDCs and NAP processes being mutually supportive, best practices for enabling private sector engagement in adaptation planning and action was also discussed. This includes around financing, institutional arrangements, information sharing and capacity development.
- The potential policy implications of aligning public and private sector investments for climate action were also assessed.
- Elements around how the Kingdom of Eswatini looks to enhance their NDC implementation utilising the recently developed Private Sector Engagement alongside the Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR) was also discussed.
- In the Jamaican context, the discussion was centered around how the assessment of socio-economic and financial impacts of climate change on Jamaica report and newly developed macroeconomic models provides a forward view which will enhance climate action efforts especially in relation to mobilising climate finance for NDC implementation.

Key Points and Main Outcomes

- It is critical to ensure effective monitoring and reporting is done on the need, progress, and impact of NDC investment. This supports in providing clear evidence-based information to investors on the country specific needs in a transparent and accountable manner
- Efforts should be made to identifying investment needs from existing national and sectoral strategies. Conducting a policy landscape assessment which assess related national climate policies and strategies, can be a useful exercise to support this process
- The NAP Global Network also shared a [Toolkit for Engaging Private Sector in National Adaptation Plans \(NAPS\)](#) to assist governments in developing strategies for effective engagement of private sector entities in the NAP process.
- Conducting a Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR) is a useful exercise to complement development of private sector engagement strategies in NDC implementation, as it helps ensures strong alignment between public and private sector financing in NDC efforts. Aligning public spending cycles with climate objectives is also a useful consideration.
- A well conducted CPEIR and developed Private Sector Engagement Strategy in one country like the case of eSwatini can become a good example for other countries. Other countries can learn from such best practices and experiences to be able to undertake such interventions in their respective countries.

ANNEX I: Agenda - Webinar 1

Timing (1 hr 30 mins)	Item
Event Moderator - Mr. Othniel Yila, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser, Zambia Introduction and overview of climate finance landscapes and strategies	
(10 mins)	Welcome and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Unnikrishnan Nair - Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat • Ms. Amanda McKee - Head of CAEP and Deputy Director for Knowledge and Learning
(5 mins)	Video on CCFAH with a Focus on NDC Implementation
(20 mins)	Presentation 1: Using Climate finance mapping to drive increased policy ambition, improved climate finance reporting and mobilisation of resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Beausic Chongo - Principal Climate Change Officer - Mitigation, Ministry of Green Economy, Zambia Presentation 2: Strategic approach in mobilising finance to implement ambitious NDC targets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Lennox Gladden - Chief Climate Change Officer, National Climate Change Office of Belize
(10 mins)	Participant Engagement - Q&A session
(25 mins)	Moderated Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Carlos Pol - Director Climate Finance Unit, Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment, Government of Belize • Mr. Daouda Ben Oumar Ndiaye - Lead Climate Change Specialist, Islamic Development Bank • Mr. David Chama Kaluba - NDC Partnership Country Facilitator, Zambia • Chavi Meattle - Senior Analyst, Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) • Ms. Davinah Milenge-Uwella - Principal Programme Coordinator, Climate Change and Green Growth Department, African Development Bank (AfDB)
15 mins	Participant Engagement - Q&A Session / Interventions from the floor
(5 mins)	Closing Remarks and Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Uzoamaka Nwamarah - Adviser, Climate Section, Commonwealth Secretariat

ANNEX II: Agenda - Webinar 2

Timing (1 hr 30 mins)	Item
Event Moderator - Jennifer Namgyal, Adviser, Gender, Commonwealth Secretariat	
(10 mins)	Welcome and Context Setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unnikrishnan Nair, Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat • Robert Bradley, Knowledge and Learning Director, NDC Partnership
(5 mins)	Video - Supporting gender integration in climate action across the Commonwealth
(10 mins)	Presentations: Integrating gender equality into climate action policies, strategies, and commitments (5-7mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fleur Newman, Action Empowerment Unit Lead - Gender, Youth and ACE, UNFCCC Gender Focal Point and Focal Point for Women, UNFCCC
(10 mins)	Participant Engagement - Q&A Session
(30 mins)	Moderated Panel Discussion: Experiences and lessons learned in integrating gender equality in NDC implementation (Each intervention to be 3 -5 mins max) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannah Girardeau, Gender and Youth Associate, NDC Partnership • Bertha Chiudza, Gender and Social Specialist, Green Climate Fund (GCF) • Sasha Jattansingh, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser, Antigua and Barbuda • Edith Ofwona Adera, Coordinator, Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP) and Regional Principal Officer, Africa Development Bank (AfDB) • Ana Rojas, Senior Gender and Climate Change Adviser, Representative from International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) • Unnikrishnan Nair, Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat
(20 mins)	Participant Engagement - Q&A Session / Interventions from the floor
(5 mins)	Closing Remarks and Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uzoamaka Nwamarah, Adviser, Climate Section, Commonwealth Secretariat

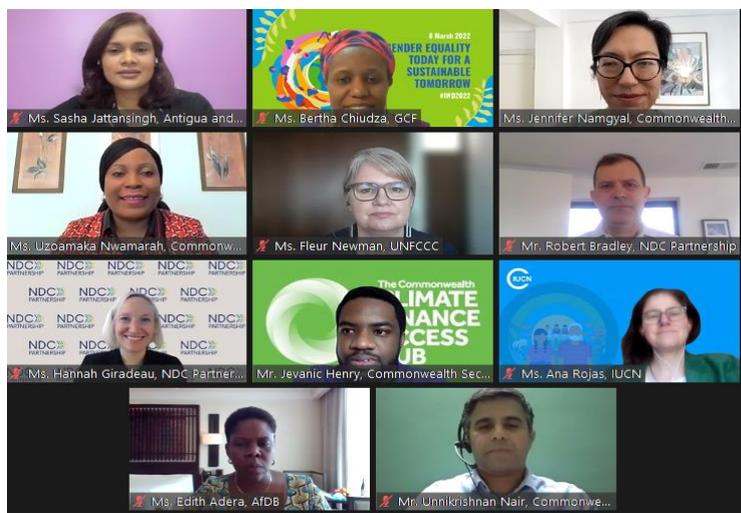
ANNEX III: Agenda - Webinar 3

Timing (1 hr 30 mins)	Item
Event Moderator - Mr. Ranga Pallawala, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser, Belize	
14:00 - 14:05	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Unnikrishnan Nair, Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat • Mr. Pablo Viera, Global Director, NDC Partnership Support Unit
14:05 - 14:10	Video on CCFAH with a Focus on NDC Implementation
14:10 - 14:30	Presentation: Developing Climate Financing Frameworks for Improved Alignment of Public and Private Sector Investments for NDC Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Dan Aylward-Mills, Head of Economic Development, Vivid Economics • Mr. Christian Ledwell, Policy Advisor and Manager, NAP Global Network
14:30 - 14:45	Participant Engagement - Q&A Session
14:45 - 15:10	Moderated Panel Discussion and Q&A Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Khetsiwe Khumalo, Climate Change Coordinator, Eswatini Meteorological Services, Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs • Mr. Omar Alcock, Senior Technical Officer (Mitigation), Climate Change Division, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Jamaica • Dr. Sam Ogallah, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser for Eswatini • Mr. Christian Ellerman, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
15:10 - 15:25	Participant Engagement - Q&A Session /interventions from the floor
15:25 - 15:30	Closing Remarks and Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Uzoamaka Nwamarah - Adviser, Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat

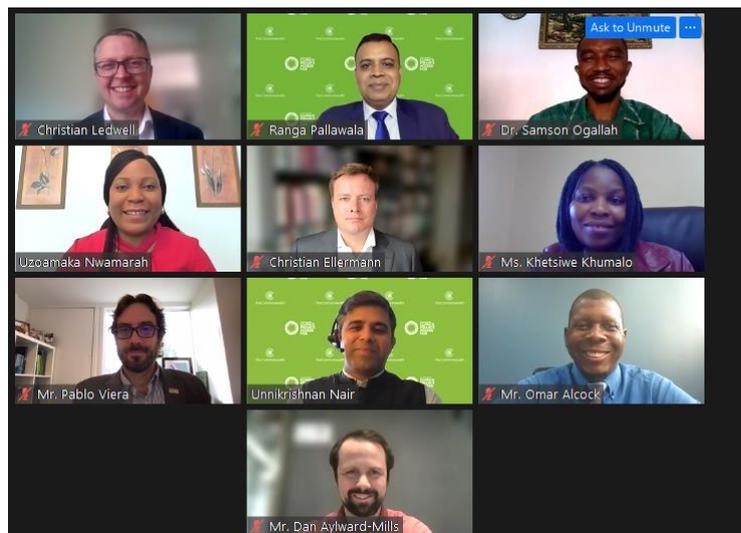
ANNEX IV: Event Photo Collage



Snapshot of Panelists at Webinar 1



Snapshot of Panelists at Webinar 2



Snapshot of Panelists at Webinar 3

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