



# The Commonwealth and Climate Change

November 2023



The Commonwealth





## Message from the Secretary - General

Global efforts to tackle climate change offer both opportunity and challenge. As the Commonwealth continues to work tirelessly to ensure that the promise of the Paris Agreement is fulfilled, an honest assessment of how far the international community has come since 2015, and how far we still have left to go, is essential.

The evidence so far shows that the world is failing to meet essential targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions and keep the global temperature rise under 1.5 degrees. Yet we know the solutions exist to get us on track. Delivering them will require unflinching commitment to accelerate efforts in every country and across every sector.

Across the 56 nations of the Commonwealth, our 2.5 billion citizens – especially the 1.5 billion people under the age of 30 – deserve our highest ambition. They look to us for bold, far-reaching action which will secure a resilient, sustainable future for them, and for generations to come.

The Commonwealth's 33 Small States, including our 25 Small Island Developing States, face an existential threat. For them, and for the tens of millions of people

exposed to the full force of intensifying storms, rising sea levels, raging forest fires and longer, harsher droughts, business as usual is not an option.

Honouring the legacy of the 1989 Langkawi Declaration on the Environment, the Commonwealth will continue to lead with energy and purpose. Our flagship programmes – presented in the following pages – on climate finance, the clean energy transition, common action for the ocean, sustainable land management, sustainable trade, gender mainstreaming and youth action, are principled, practical and inclusive.

The resolve, unity and co-operation that bind Commonwealth governments and citizens together will be essential in overcoming the challenges we face. By working together as one Commonwealth, we can shape a comprehensive, ambitious Commonwealth plan for accelerated climate action. The future of our Commonwealth – indeed, the future of our world – depends on it.

The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC  
Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

## The Commonwealth and Climate Change

The Commonwealth has a long history of commitment to addressing climate change and supporting member countries in dealing with its adverse impacts. Collective political will to protect the planet for future generations has been explicit and robust, ever since the Langkawi Declaration on the Environment of 1989, when Commonwealth leaders resolved to act both individually and collectively on a programme of action on the environment and climate change.



In 2015, just before the UN Climate Conference in Paris (COP21) Commonwealth heads of government made a commitment to limit global temperature rise below 2°C, while aiming for 1.5°C from pre-industrial levels. This undertaking was reaffirmed at COP21 and captured in the global agreement known as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

At the 2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), leaders reiterated their call for urgent action to mitigate climate change, reduce vulnerability and increase resilience, including enhanced participation of young people in climate action. They announced that 2023 would mark the beginning of a 'Year of Youth', dedicated to promoting youth-led efforts for sustainable and inclusive development, including climate action.



### Real problems, real solutions

The Commonwealth's multidisciplinary work to support member countries on climate change includes programmes on climate finance, youth, climate law, energy transition, land-based solutions, climate-resilient agriculture, human rights

and ocean governance. The Commonwealth also contributes to the global climate change discussion by sharing experiences and highlighting key issues related to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), least developed countries, and other small and vulnerable countries.

## Unlocking Climate Finance

In many Commonwealth countries, the devastating impacts of climate change are clear, sea levels are rising, storms, droughts and heatwaves are increasing in both intensity and frequency, and arable land is turning into desert. Although the international community has pledged billions to address climate change, countries find it extremely difficult to draw from financing mechanisms – such as the Green Climate Fund – for projects to help people adapt to and mitigate against climate change and its impacts.

A pioneering Commonwealth initiative proposed by a Commonwealth Expert Group in 2013 and mandated by CHOGM 2015 with its central hub in Mauritius, the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub

(CCFAH) helps Commonwealth small and other vulnerable states access funding for climate projects by embedding highly skilled long term expertise in the form of Commonwealth National and Regional Climate Finance Advisers in relevant government departments.

CCFAH through its unique Hub and Spokes model supports member states to build human and institutional capacity to plan for and access all sources of climate finance required to convert national climate change priorities and targets into action. In this regard CCFAH has assisted 17 countries across the Commonwealth and has expanded its support through Commonwealth Regional Climate Finance Advisers for Africa and Indo-Pacific Regions, with the Caribbean to follow shortly.

## CCFAH beneficiary countries

Africa	Asia	Caribbean	Indo-Pacific
Eswatini	<b>Maldives</b>	Antigua and Barbuda	<b>Fiji</b>
<b>Mauritius (Central Hub)</b>		Barbados	<b>Nauru</b>
		Belize	<b>Solomon Islands</b>
Namibia		Grenada	<b>Tonga</b>
<b>Seychelles</b>		Guyana	<b>Tuvalu</b>
Zambia		Jamaica	<b>Vanuatu</b>
		Saint Lucia	
<b>Regional Technical Assistance: Commonwealth Regional Climate Finance Adviser, Africa</b>		<i>Incoming Regional Technical Assistance: Commonwealth Regional Climate Finance Adviser, Caribbean</i>	<b>Regional Technical Assistance: Commonwealth Regional Climate Finance Adviser, Indo-Pacific</b>

\* Countries and regions in bold are those with an active Commonwealth National or Regional Climate Finance Adviser in place. In those not in bold, Advisers have completed their tenures.

As at 30 September 2023 CCFHAH has helped secure approximately US\$310 million worth of climate finance for adaptation, mitigation and cross-cutting projects in beneficiary countries. The Hub has also delivered approximately 123 training initiatives, with approximately

2,500 government officials trained on various aspects of climate finance. In addition to funds from the Commonwealth Secretariat, CCFHAH has received support from member countries including Australia, the United Kingdom and Mauritius, as well as from institutional partners

including the UK Space Agency, the NDC Partnership, and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad).

Contact Unnikrishnan Nair, Head of Climate Change ([u.nair@commonwealth.int](mailto:u.nair@commonwealth.int)) for more information.

## Small States and Vulnerability

Thirty-three of the 56 Commonwealth countries are classified as small states. Often, climate change puts their economies at risk. The Commonwealth is helping small states build their resilience and adapt to climate change. To strengthen disaster risk management, the Commonwealth has developed a Commonwealth Disaster Risk Finance Portal, which is an online tool to help countries navigate an increasingly complex disaster finance landscape. Small states will enjoy quicker and simpler access to financing as a result, helping them understand and manage natural disaster risks, including those linked to climate change.

Preliminary Commonwealth research shows that small states are losing out on an estimated \$4.1 billion of aid opportunities because their governments do not have the capacity to deal with the complex process of negotiating, receiving and managing development assistance. The Commonwealth is also mobilising international support for a universal definition and common measurement of economic vulnerability, which would include climate shocks. This Universal Vulnerability Index provides clarity on the exposure of countries to climate change using an index focused on physical vulnerability to climate change as part of its vulnerability framework, making it easier to mobilise support for aid opportunities.



The Commonwealth has also now focused its work on the circular economy, helping small states to rethink their consumption patterns and providing a framework through which governments and the private

sector can act as accelerators for the circular economy in Commonwealth countries.

Contact Richard Ough, Adviser and Head, Economic Policy and Small States ([r.ough@commonwealth.int](mailto:r.ough@commonwealth.int)) for more information.

## Ocean and Climate Change

Commonwealth countries are stewards of more than one-third of the ocean under national jurisdiction, including nearly half the world's coral reefs and a third of mangroves. Twenty-five member countries are SIDS, and 49 have a coastline. This puts Commonwealth countries on the front-line of ocean-related climate impacts such as sea-level rise and inundation, extreme weather events, coral-reef bleaching and ocean acidification.

It also means that they support many 'blue carbon' ecosystems that can provide nature-based solutions to climate mitigation and adaptation, and can greatly benefit from ocean-based renewable energy technologies. Ensuring that ocean and climate policies and actions are joined up is critical, particularly in small states with limited capacity to implement new policies.

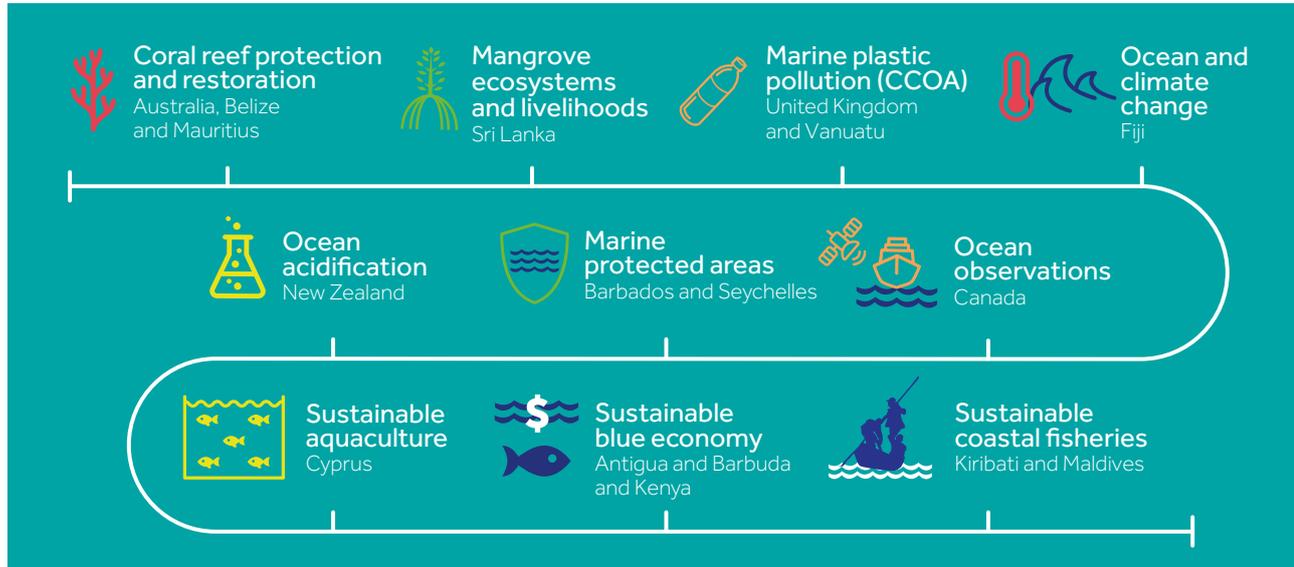
The Commonwealth Blue Charter is an agreement by all 56 member countries to co-operate on tackling our shared ocean-related challenges and meet commitments for sustainable ocean development and protection.

The Charter of the Commonwealth provides the underlying principles for the Blue Charter, ensuring that

the Commonwealth takes a fair, equitable, inclusive and sustainable approach to ocean governance.

Blue Charter Action Groups are led by 'champion' countries. Sixteen countries are champions on 10 priorities. Fiji champions the Action Group on Ocean and Climate Change, working co-operatively with existing networks to improve climate adaptation and coastal resilience by taking action on ocean health and sustainability. Blue Charter projects to support climate action include activities on nature finance; enabling frameworks for 'blue carbon' and nature-based solutions; the restoration of coastal ecosystems; and policy guidance for tackling ocean acidification. We have worked with partners to implement rapid assessment protocols to assess

## Blue Charter Action Groups



climate vulnerability in five island states. The Blue Charter Project Incubator supports government-led proof-of-concept and pilot projects for ocean action and climate adaptation and mitigation, as well as capacity-building through training,

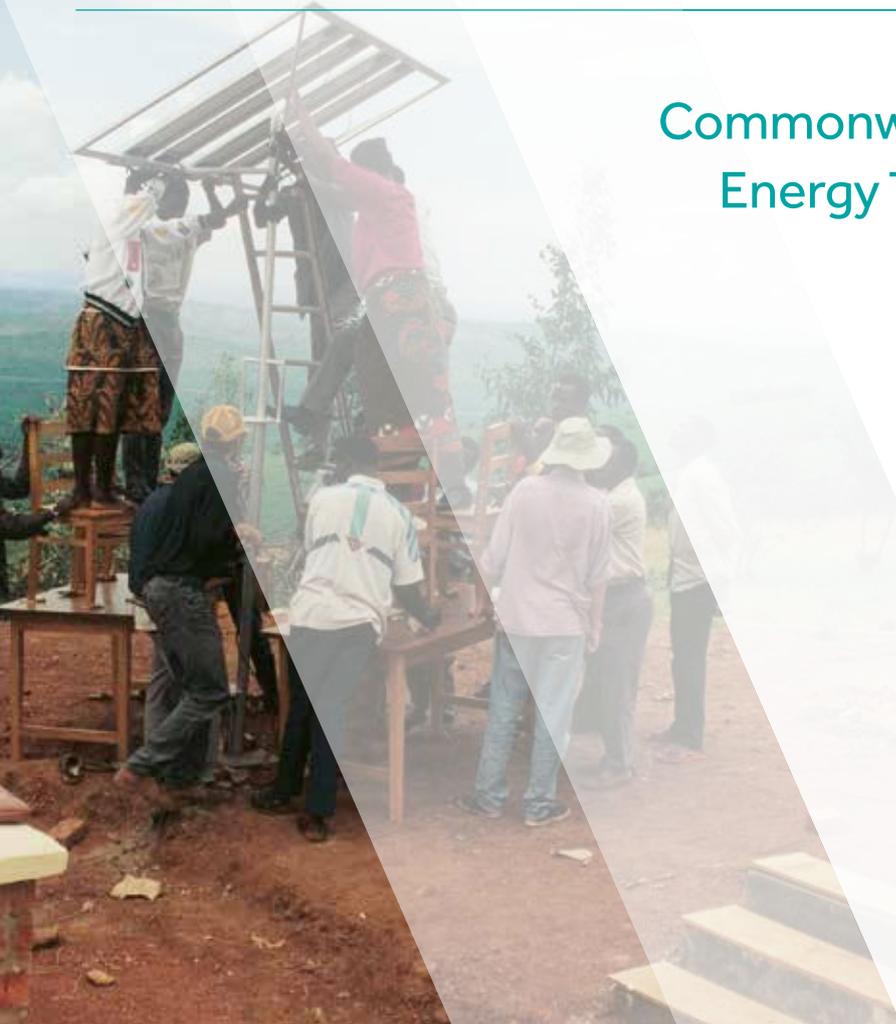
rapid assessments and the sharing of durable solutions.

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[commonwealth.int](mailto:commonwealth.int)) and Dr Jeff Ardron, Adviser, Ocean Governance ([j.ardron@commonwealth.int](mailto:j.ardron@commonwealth.int)) for more information.

## Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition (CSET) Agenda

Two thirds of greenhouse gas emissions emanate from the production and use of energy, and transitioning to sustainable energy systems is a priority for Commonwealth countries. Many developing member countries also have a significant energy access gap, and expanding the supply of and access to clean energy is a priority for sustainable development. Recognition continues to grow of the need for new levels of ambition in current efforts to decarbonise and transform the global energy system.



The Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition (CSET) Agenda is a platform for collaborative action among member countries towards acceleration of the transition to low carbon energy systems and the achievement of SDG7. It is anchored on three key pillars – Inclusive Transitions, Technology and Innovation and Enabling Frameworks, and advocates member-led action for accelerating inclusive and equitable energy transitions and achieving the goals of SDG7. Four new member-led action groups have been launched under the CSET Agenda on Energy Literacy, Geothermal Energy, Methane Reduction and a cross-cutting Youth Action Group.

Despite significant clean energy resource potential, SIDS are characterised by their heavy dependence on imported fossil fuels

that result in some of the highest electricity costs in the world and significant supply chain challenges. Together with partners Sustainable Energy for All, the Commonwealth Secretariat has developed a Toolkit to assist SIDS develop business cases and strategies to facilitate investment in clean energy projects in the power sector.

As part of its broader initiative around energy literacy, the Commonwealth Secretariat has published an exciting children's book series on the global transformation of energy systems. Developed and commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretariat and written by children's book author Allan Drummond, these books present the concepts of sustainable and inclusive energy in a digestible and engaging format and encourage young readers



to find out how they can be part of the change in the way the world produces and uses energy. Targeted at readers aged 7 – 12, the books are available for distribution and can also be downloaded from [thecommonwealth.org/oceans-and-natural-resources](https://thecommonwealth.org/oceans-and-natural-resources)

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## Natural Resources and Climate Change

Natural Resources are crucial for achieving climate and development goals.

Resource extraction is responsible for half of the world's carbon emissions, and collective efforts are needed to accelerate decarbonisation – particularly in the petroleum sector, in which a 70 per cent reduction in methane emissions can be achieved with existing technology.

The deployment of renewable energy technologies to enable the shift away from fossil-fuel-based economies will depend upon reliable supplies of a vast range of critical minerals such as lithium, copper and aluminium.

Under the Commonwealth Natural Resource Programme, the Secretariat is supporting resource-rich countries, particularly small states and least developed countries, in the following ways.

- **Strengthening national policies and regulatory frameworks for effective and transparent governance of emissions:** *Field Development Plans: A Handbook for Government Officials* is a valuable resource for policy-makers implementing net zero strategies and emissions management. Model greenhouse gas regulations (including for methane) are also being developed.
- **Building carbon and environmental competencies:** this is a new area for many countries, and support is required to build capacity in government institutions.
- **Decarbonisation and reducing methane emissions in the petroleum sector:** this is a key target of the CSET Methane Action Group.
- **Equitable and inclusive energy transition:** supporting petroleum-producing and mining countries to manage the energy transition. Among its other activities, the Secretariat has developed an *Oil and Gas Decommissioning Toolkit* that gives governments practical guidance on managing risks from stranded assets. The Secretariat has also published a report on 'green steel' to assist countries to decarbonise the steel industry while boosting economic development.



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## Engaging Youth

The Commonwealth works in partnership with young people to address climate change through the Commonwealth Youth Programme and the Youth Networks and Working Groups it has established and supports the Commonwealth Youth Climate Change (CYCN) and Commonwealth Youth for Sustainable Urbanisation (CYSU) Networks, which represents young people from all Commonwealth member states, builds the capacity of young people and professionals to tackle climate change and convene policy and advocacy spaces to mainstream youth-led solutions in climate and sustainable urbanisation policy and practice.

The impact of energy systems on future climate and economic development will be disproportionately borne by youth. With more than 60 per cent of the Commonwealth population under the age of 30, youth in the Commonwealth have vast and underutilised potential, and must play a critical role in shaping and accelerating an inclusive and sustainable energy transition to meet global targets, leveraging their skills, competencies, technical capabilities and strong networks.

CSET has formed a Youth Action Group ('CSET Youth'), a platform for collaborative action among member countries towards accelerating the transition to low carbon energy systems and the achievement of the SDGs. CSET Youth is part of a broader Commonwealth Youth for Sustainable Urbanisation (CYSU)

initiative, and specifically seeks to seize opportunities for young people in the Commonwealth to contribute to an inclusive and sustainable energy transition.

In addition, the Commonwealth has launched a policy toolkit to help governments boost green and blue growth through youth entrepreneurship. The first of its kind, the toolkit was developed by the Commonwealth in partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

At the 10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (10CYMM), convened in London from 11–15 September 2023, the environment was one of the four pivotal themes discussed by representatives from the Commonwealth's 56 member countries. Recognising

the critical link between youth and the environment, ministers pledged robust actions to counter environmental challenges.

The Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN) amplified the focus on the environment at 10CYMM by presenting the 'Commonwealth Youth Statement on Climate Change 2023', emphasising the need for united action and protection for vulnerable groups, including the young, women, the elderly and the disabled.

Collaborative youth-focused initiatives have seen the launch of the Ocean Youth Working Group under the Commonwealth Blue Charter, and a teach-in session on climate finance at the 2023 Global Youth Engagement Forum.

## Raising youth voices for climate action

Members of the Commonwealth Youth Network advocate within governments and international agencies to ensure that succeeding generations are spared from the harshest effects of climate change. The Network empowers young people to translate climate change programmes into effective policies that have a measurable impact on youth wellbeing.

CYCN has launched a SIDS and climate advocacy toolkit and convened climate advocacy workshops dubbed #Prep4COP in SIDS in Seychelles, Mauritius and Fiji, where over 100 young climate advocates have received training on:

- Effective Climate Communications
- Resource Mobilisation for Climate projects
- UNFCCC and COP Climate Processes
- Climate Advocacy and Campaigns

In previous COP meetings, our youth leaders have:

- **convened** an intergenerational climate dialogue between the Commonwealth Secretary-General

and young climate leaders that will focus on youth and the Paris Agreement implementation process

- **co-ordinated** policy advocacy workshops co-hosted by the CYCN and YOUNGO focusing on climate change education, training and action for climate empowerment
- **participated** in partner organisations' climate events including, at COP24, the UNDP-World Bank Invest4Climate platform that brought together philanthropists and business leaders to discuss innovative climate finance mechanisms.

CYSU also organised a strong delegation at CHOGM 2022 in Rwanda and WUF 2022 in Poland, as speakers and conveners of capacity building sessions to highlight the role of sustainable urbanisation and intersectionality in the global action against climate change.

Contact Sushil Ram, Adviser, Youth Development (s.ram@commonwealth.int) for more information.



## Human Rights and Climate Change

Human wellbeing and the full enjoyment of human rights depends upon a healthy environment. Equally, climate change, deterioration of biodiversity, habitat loss and desertification are immediate threats to the human rights of every individual in both present and future generations. These environmental harms jeopardise food security, weaken public health, exacerbate conflict and displacement, deepen inequalities, undermine development, threaten achievement of the SDGs and impede economic growth. Although the negative human rights impacts of environmental harm are felt by all, they are disproportionately borne by indigenous peoples, local communities, women and girls,

children and youth, the poor, and persons, groups and peoples in vulnerable situations.

Human rights are crucial to addressing environmental harm, as was acknowledged by the UN General Assembly in July 2022 when it formally recognised the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a fundamental human right, and called on states and international organisations to enhance international co-operation, strengthen capacity-building and continue to share good practices in order to scale up efforts to ensure a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all.

Building on normative developments in international human rights law and international environmental law, the Commonwealth Secretariat Human Rights Unit provides contextualised support to member countries to integrate human rights norms into domestic legal frameworks for environmental protection.

Human rights-based approaches to environmental policy have great potential to effectively and equitably address climate change and safeguard biodiversity. The Human Rights Unit can also provide technical assistance to member countries for the development and implementation of rights-based approaches in economic, social, legislative, political and technological actions relating to environmental protection. This includes, for example, assistance for the development and



implementation of due diligence standards for businesses in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and support to integrate traditional knowledge and practices into inclusive decision-making processes with the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous

peoples and the protection of cultural rights.

Please contact Dr Shavana Haythornthwaite, Head of the Human Rights Unit at [GPD-HRU@commonwealth.int](mailto:GPD-HRU@commonwealth.int) for more information.

## Gender Integration for Climate Action

The Commonwealth's fourth priority on gender equality is on gender and climate change. This Commonwealth consensus-building for action recognises the link between gender inequality and higher climate impacts, and advocates for women and girls to be positioned as agents of change for climate action.

To support member countries to mainstream gender into their climate change policies and implementation plans, the Commonwealth Secretariat produced a report on *Gender Integration for Climate Action: A Review of Commonwealth Member Country Nationally Determined Contributions*. Its purpose was to

better understand how and to what extent Commonwealth member countries are integrating gender and social inclusion concerns into their NDCs, with a view to identifying prevailing gaps, entry points and opportunities. The report provides useful best practice examples and recommendations for strengthening gender responsiveness in the implementation of NDCs, under the following topics: prioritising gender in context; policy integration of gender; institutional co-ordination across gender and climate change; capacity building in technology; MRV systems, sex-disaggregated data and information; and financial resources for gender inclusion.



Building on this analysis, the Secretariat has developed a *Best Practice Guide on Gender Integration in NDCs* to support Commonwealth member countries in their journey towards gender equality in climate action. The *Best Practice Guide* succinctly maps out a timeline of tangible actions that countries can take to enhance gender integration in the run-up to the 2025 NDC update cycle.

The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH), through the Commonwealth Regional and National Climate Finance Advisers, supports member countries to advance and mainstream gender equality across all areas of operational support provided, including policy and strategy development, project development, capacity building and knowledge management



and advocacy. In addition to important mainstreaming efforts, the Commonwealth Regional and National Climate Finance Advisers are supporting targeted gender-specific climate change proposals to attract higher funding for gender and climate change initiatives.

Furthermore, the Commonwealth Blue Charter has engaged a Gender Outreach Assistant to work alongside the 16 champion countries and the Action Group members to identify and highlight

key challenges faced by women in ocean conservation and management, and to ensure youth and gender inclusivity in ocean science and policy sectors across the Commonwealth.

Contact Uzoamaka Nwamarah, Adviser, Climate Change ([u.nwamarah@commonwealth.int](mailto:u.nwamarah@commonwealth.int)) for more information.

# The Commonwealth Living Lands Charter

The Commonwealth Living Lands Charter – A Call to Action on Living Lands (CALL) – was adopted by the leaders of the Commonwealth at the Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda in June 2022. The Charter seeks to support the Commonwealth's 56 member countries to work, in integrated and co-ordinated ways, on critical land issues of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.

These three issues are covered under three separate conventions: the United Nations conventions on Conservation of Biological Diversity (CBD), on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The conventions are derived from the

1992 Rio Earth Summit and are historically and intrinsically linked, addressing interdependent issues and often operating in the same natural ecosystems. Evidence from the 2019 IPCC Special Report on *Climate Change and Land* emphasised the need for countries to implement their commitments together, harnessing co-benefits in pursuit of a shared vision of living in harmony with nature.

The Commonwealth Living Lands Charter is underpinned by the implementation framework and plan. The Charter supports member countries through innovative partnerships, established platforms, mechanisms and initiatives of the Commonwealth Secretariat to address a number of themes common to the three conventions. These include climate-resilient agriculture, soil and water



conservation, green cover and biodiversity, livestock and animal husbandry, indigenous people and resilient development. Across these themes, the Secretariat supports countries with the delivery of evidence-based analysis for policy, closing the funding gap, capacity

building and technical support related to governance, institutions, data and monitoring, equity and justice.

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# Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda

## Agriculture and food systems

With the increasing impacts of more frequent extreme weather events, adaptation and resilience are of crucial importance, especially to the food system. In this time of increased food insecurity, it is necessary but not sufficient to engage in global dialogues. Rather, these dialogues need to be complemented by policy actions to enhance the resilience and livelihoods of smallholder farmers, increase agriculture productivity, reduce losses in food production, and eventually deal with the food insecurity challenge. Digitalisation is enabling climate adaptation approaches that can enhance the resilience of agriculture and food systems against adverse climate impacts.

## The Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda

The Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda (CCA) is enabling the policy environment for member countries to leverage digitalisation for agriculture and fisheries transformation. The Connectivity Agenda supports capacity-constrained members through policy dialogues, knowledge products and advisory support to position them to:

- better deploy digitally-enabled advisory services on drought resistance and short season seed varieties
- engage in precision farming to reduce the negative impact of agro-chemicals on soils and land



- benefit from index-based insurance services to cushion farmers against flood, drought, pest and diseases
  - utilise alternative credit scoring solutions based on big data and analytics to facilitate access to financial services
  - deploy smart tools to enable fisherfolks to respond to SOS alerts at sea when traditional storm models fail.
- Contact Benjamin Addom, Adviser, Agriculture and Fisheries Trade Policy, Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda (b.addom@commonwealth.int) for more information.

## Trade Policy and Climate Change

Trade and trade-related policies have an important role to play within the broader spectrum of policy solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Commonwealth Secretariat's International Trade Policy Section (ITPS) undertakes research and analysis on the nexus between trade and climate change; participates in policy dialogues; and can support members to develop climate-smart trade and investment policies.

ITPS has prepared knowledge products on:

- sustainable production and trade, focusing on the fisheries, forestry, cocoa, and textiles and garments sectors
- trade in environmental goods and services
- fossil fuel subsidy reform at the World Trade Organization
- plastics alternatives and their production value chains
- trade and technology transfer for renewable energy
- the implications of carbon schemes like the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

Contact Dr Brendan Vickers (b.vickers@commonwealth.int), Head of ITPS, for more information.

## Trade, Gender and Climate

The Trade Competitiveness Section (TCS's) report *Trade, Gender, Climate* addresses trade issues in the context of efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change on women in Commonwealth countries.

The publication offers new analysis to inform the development of gender-responsive, cross-sectoral trade and climate strategies. It demonstrates how national governments can make strategic interventions to integrate gender and women's empowerment issues into trade and climate dialogues through a variety of public institutions at different levels.

The publication highlights the fact that women in business suffer significant – possibly disproportionate – losses from

adverse climate events. They also face a 'triple differential vulnerability' to climate change: they operate primarily in the agricultural sector; they continue to face persistent gendered barriers to trade, including access to finance and technologies; and they have limited knowledge of climate change threats and mitigation policies.

The TCS assists women-owned businesses to mitigate against these losses, as advancing women's economic empowerment is crucial to upscaling climate resilience and adaptation. Some interventions include:

- capacity-building for women entrepreneurs and women-led businesses on e-commerce as an alternative

to brick-and-mortar shops, which are susceptible to climate change disasters

- providing platforms for advocacy for women's economic empowerment, in partnership with like-minded organisations such as the International Trade Centre and the Islamic Trade Finance Corporation
- advocacy for gender disaggregated data as the foundation for more gender inclusive policies.

Contact Opeyemi Abebe, Adviser and Head, Trade Competitiveness Section (o.abebe@commonwealth.int) for more information.

## Law and Climate Change

Countries need effective legal frameworks to implement the Paris Agreement. The Law and Climate Change Toolkit supports them with a global resource on climate change law.

Developed by the Commonwealth in partnership with the UN (UNEP and UNFCCC), the Toolkit provides policymakers and legislators worldwide with an online and open global resource on climate change law in order to help countries put in place the legal frameworks necessary for effective domestic implementation of the Paris Agreement and their nationally determined contributions. The Toolkit is organised by thematic modules, including overall climate change frameworks, urban development, energy, and agriculture and forestry.

Potential users of the Toolkit are encouraged to register at [climatelawtoolkit.org](http://climatelawtoolkit.org).

Contact Dr. Oldman Koboto, CCFAH Adviser and Manager ([o.koboto@commonwealthconnect.org](mailto:o.koboto@commonwealthconnect.org)) for more information

## Commonwealth Carbon Tax Model Law

Implementing policies and legislation to support decarbonisation is critical to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. The Commonwealth Secretariat has developed the Commonwealth Carbon Tax Model Law to assist Commonwealth member countries that wish to introduce a carbon tax.

Three key elements of the carbon tax provided for in this model law are:

- it covers the majority of greenhouse gas emissions, with emissions from burning fossil fuels, industrial processes and venting all taxed;

- the tax is principally levied upstream, on producers, refiners and importers of fossil fuels, and on large industrial emitters
- the model law has detailed provisions for measuring the impact of the carbon tax.

The Commonwealth Carbon Tax Model Law is a voluntary initiative which recognises that some Commonwealth member countries may wish to achieve their nationally determined contributions through policies other than carbon taxation. For those that do decide to implement a carbon tax, some may wish to use this model law as a starting point to guide the development of their legislation, while others may wish to select certain provisions

from it, or to draft their legislation from scratch and implement a different form of carbon taxation. The Commonwealth Secretariat supports all these approaches, and we stand ready to assist any Commonwealth member country that wishes to introduce a carbon tax or other public policies aimed at limiting climate change.

The Commonwealth Carbon Tax Model Law is the most recent of an array of model laws and other legal resources published by the Commonwealth Secretariat – see [thecommonwealth.org/commonwealth-model-laws](http://thecommonwealth.org/commonwealth-model-laws)

Contact Dr Daniel Wilde Economic Adviser Natural Resources ([d.wilde@commonwealth.int](mailto:d.wilde@commonwealth.int)) for more information.

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