From Access to Impact: Advancing Sustainable Climate Finance for Small and Vulnerable Commonwealth Countries

The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub: Achievements, Lessons and the Road Ahead

The Commonwealth
Climate Finance Access Hub

From Access to Impact: Advancing Sustainable Climate Finance for Small and Vulnerable Commonwealth Countries

The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub: Achievements, Lessons and the Road Ahead



The Commonwealth
Climate Finance Access Hub

Suggested citation: Commonwealth Secretariat (2026), *From Access to Impact: Advancing Sustainable Climate Finance for Small and Vulnerable Commonwealth Countries*. https://doi.org/10.14217/frsj1422

© Commonwealth Secretariat 2026

All rights reserved. This publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or otherwise provided it is used only for educational purposes and is not for resale, and provided full acknowledgement is given to the Commonwealth Secretariat as the original publisher.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication are the responsibility of the author and should in no way be attributed to the institutions to which they are affiliated or to the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Wherever possible, the Commonwealth Secretariat uses paper sourced from responsible forests or from sources that minimise a destructive impact on the environment.

Published by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Contents

Foreword v

Commonwealth Secretariat v

Foreword vii

Government of the Republic of Mauritius vii

CCFAH at a Glance 1

What makes the CCFAH model distinctive? 2

Development Partners 3

Countries 3

Strategic partners 3

What our Beneficiary Countries and Partners are Saying 4

Why Climate Finance Matters 6

How CCFAH works: responsive, participatory and hands-on assistance 6

CCFAH adviser deployment 8

The CCFAH Theory of Change 8

A Decade of Results 11

Institutional strengthening (including accreditation and readiness support) 11

Capacity building and climate finance writeshops 13

Policy and strategy support 15

Gender and youth integration for climate action 20

Climate change and health 21

Independent Evaluation: Learning from the First Decade 22

Operational Sustainability 23

Knowledge Management, Learning and Visibility 24

Scaling what works 24

Knowledge products 24

Technical sessions and outreach events 26

Emerging Areas, Innovations and Global Engagement 27

Climate change negotiations 27

The Enhanced Transparency Framework 28

Private sector engagement 29

10 lessons from 10 years of CCFAH 31

Meet the Team 32

Spotlight on approved projects 34



The CCFAH team pictured at Marlborough House, London, UK, during the CCFAH Strategy Workshop, April 2026.

Foreword

Commonwealth Secretariat

Climate change is no longer a distant threat. For many Commonwealth countries, particularly small island developing states and other vulnerable nations, it is a lived reality shaping economies, communities and futures. Rising seas, stronger storms, droughts, ecosystem loss, food insecurity and mounting pressure on public health systems are testing resilience at every level. Yet access to climate finance remains one of the greatest barriers preventing vulnerable countries from translating climate ambition into meaningful action.

In recognition of this challenge, Commonwealth leaders mandated the establishment of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) in 2015 as a practical, country-driven response grounded in solidarity, partnership and shared purpose. Over the past decade, the Hub has supported member countries to strengthen institutions, build technical capacity, develop bankable projects and access the finance needed to protect lives, livelihoods and ecosystems.

This publication tells the story of that progress: of countries working to turn vulnerability into resilience; of public servants, technical experts, communities, women and young people helping to unlock opportunities for sustainable development; and of partnerships transforming ideas and commitments into investment and action.

Through its embedded advisory model and hands-on technical support, CCFAH has contributed to the mobilisation of hundreds of millions of dollars in climate finance, strengthened national systems, trained thousands of officials and supported a growing pipeline of projects across the Commonwealth. Beyond the figures lies an equally important achievement: stronger ownership, confidence and national capacity to lead climate action.

CCFAH demonstrates the value of targeted, long-term and locally anchored support. When countries have access to the right partnerships, expertise and tools, they are better able to navigate the complex climate finance landscape and advance solutions that are inclusive, resilient and transformative.

As the Commonwealth moves into the next decade of climate action, the focus must increasingly shift from access alone to impact at scale. This means strengthening institutions, expanding innovation, deepening knowledge exchange, mobilising public and private investment and ensuring that climate finance reaches the communities that need it most. It also means recognising the close links between climate resilience, equity, gender equality, youth empowerment, health security and sustainable economic development.

CCFAH reflects the best of what the Commonwealth represents: practical co-operation, shared learning and collective action. I commend this publication to partners, policymakers, practitioners and stakeholders working to advance climate resilience and sustainable development, and hope it inspires renewed commitment, stronger collaboration and greater ambition towards a safer, fairer and more resilient future for all..

Suresh Yadav
Senior Director, Climate Change and Oceans Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat
Co-chair, CCFAH Steering Committee

Foreword

Government of the Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius is honoured to host the Central Hub of CCFAH, a flagship Commonwealth initiative that has become an important platform for supporting small and vulnerable countries to strengthen resilience, access climate finance and advance sustainable development.

As a small island developing state, Mauritius understands first-hand the profound and disproportionate impacts of climate change. Rising sea levels, coastal erosion, biodiversity loss, extreme weather events and increasing socio-economic vulnerabilities continue to threaten the sustainability of island and coastal nations across the Commonwealth. These challenges demand not only global ambition, but practical solutions, stronger partnerships and accessible financing mechanisms that respond to the realities faced by vulnerable countries.

It is within this context that the establishment of CCFAH in Mauritius in 2016 represented a significant milestone. Through its innovative hub-and-spokes model, the Hub has provided embedded, country-led technical assistance that has helped Commonwealth member countries strengthen institutional systems, develop bankable projects and mobilise critical climate finance for adaptation and mitigation action. Over the years, CCFAH has evolved into a trusted and impactful mechanism for practical co-operation across the Commonwealth.

Mauritius is proud that the Central Hub, based in Port Louis, has served as a centre for co-ordination, knowledge-sharing, innovation and collaboration across Africa, the Caribbean and the Indo-Pacific. The achievements reflected in this publication demonstrate the value of sustained technical support, peer learning and collective action in helping countries move from climate vulnerability to climate resilience.

We are particularly encouraged by the growing emphasis on inclusive climate action through the integration of gender, youth, health and nature-based solutions into climate finance processes. Equally important is the increasing focus on strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing investment readiness and supporting evidence-based decision-making through innovation and geospatial technologies.

The Government of Mauritius highly values the enduring partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat, development partners and all beneficiary member countries that continue to contribute to the success of CCFAH. We also commend the dedication of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Advisers and the Central Hub team, whose expertise and commitment have been instrumental in advancing this important work.

As the Hub enters its second decade, the need for accelerated climate action and scaled-up finance has never been greater. Mauritius remains fully committed to supporting the continued growth and sustainability of CCFAH so that it can continue empowering Commonwealth countries to access the resources, partnerships and knowledge required to build resilient and prosperous futures.

We commend this publication as a valuable reflection of the Commonwealth's collective commitment to climate resilience, solidarity and sustainable development, and we look forward to strengthening this shared journey in the years ahead.

Gyaneswaree Callychurn
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
Republic of Mauritius

CCFAH at a Glance

The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub supports small and other vulnerable Commonwealth countries to access climate finance, strengthen institutions and develop bankable climate projects.

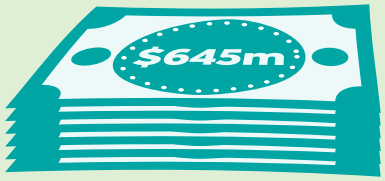
Launched in 2015 and headquartered in Mauritius, CCFAH operates through a hub-and-spokes model that embeds national, regional and thematic climate finance advisers in government ministries and partner institutions. This model enables sustained, country-led support that responds directly to national priorities and strengthens long-term capacity.

As of July 2026, CCFAH had helped mobilise US$594.34 million in climate finance, supported 125 projects, and trained 4,154 officials through 191 capacity-building initiatives across 19 countries and regional programmes. Its support includes project pipeline development, climate finance readiness, policy and institutional strengthening, knowledge-sharing, and the mainstreaming of health, gender and youth.

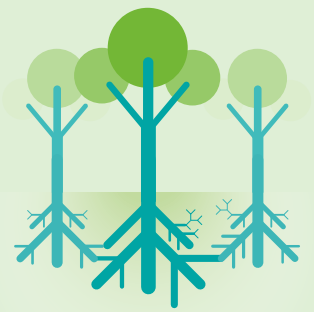
CCFAH helps countries overcome common barriers to climate finance, including limited technical capacity, weak data systems and complex funding requirements. Through practical support such as climate finance writeshops, cross-sector collaboration and specialised expertise in areas including gender, health and climate finance, the Hub helps turn climate ambition into stronger, more inclusive and investable action.

Figure 1: CCFAH in numbers

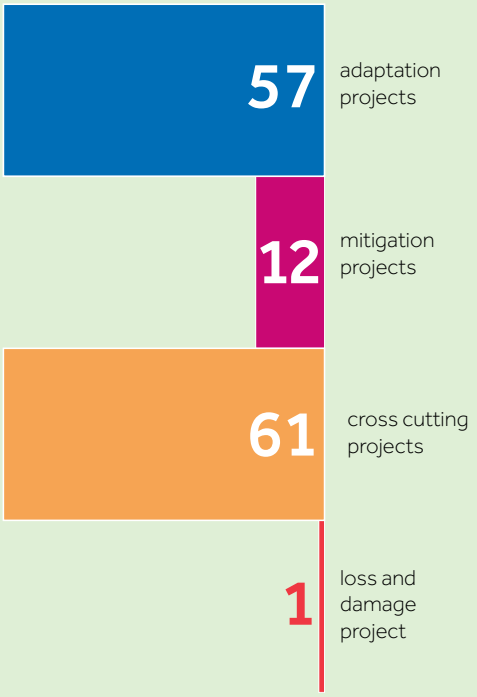
CCFAH has helped countries access US$644.69 in climate finance



CCFAH conducted 184 capacity-building initiatives that have trained more than 4,021 officials in member countries



CCFAH supported 125 projects:



Commonwealth National, Regional and Thematic Climate Finance Advisers focus on delivering four key outputs in an inclusive manner, taking into account, gender, youth and health considerations.

1. Increase the number of bankable mitigation and adaptation projects in the pipeline, in support of national and regional priorities on climate change.
2. Assist small and other vulnerable Commonwealth countries to strengthen institutional mechanisms to access international climate finance.
3. Strengthen the use of evidence, data and development, and the dissemination of knowledge, experiences and learning.
4. Provide technical assistance to ministries and national designated authorities to strengthen their capacity to access climate finance.

What makes the CCFAH model distinctive?



EMBEDDED

Working within national and regional institutions to provide sustained, context-specific technical support.



CONNECTED

Drawing on national, regional and thematic expertise to provide integrated and specialised support.



COUNTRY-LED

Responding to nationally identified priorities while strengthening ownership and long-term institutional capacity.



LEARNING-ORIENTED

Sharing knowledge, lessons and approaches across countries and regions to strengthen collective learning and practice.

Development Partners

Countries

The operations of CCFAH have been supported with funding from the governments of Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth Secretariat, as well as in-kind support from the Government of Mauritius, where the Central Hub is located.

Strategic partners

Strategic partnerships remain an important part of the work of CCFAH, with MOUs and partnerships established with regional and international entities.

What our Beneficiary Countries and Partners are Saying

CCFAH's impact is best reflected in the experiences of the countries and partners it supports. The following reflections highlight the value of sustained technical assistance, embedded advisory support, strategic partnerships and practical capacity-building in helping member countries strengthen climate finance access and advance resilient, low-carbon development.



'Partnerships are essential for turning climate ambition into action. Eswatini has been a member of the Commonwealth since 1968. Membership has provided Eswatini with access to technical assistance, capacity-building and platforms for collaboration on issues such as climate finance, governance and sustainable development. The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub is one of the most recent examples of this support, embedding advisers and strengthening Eswatini's ability to mobilise resources for its Nationally Determined Contributions. With continued support, we can accelerate our transition to a resilient, low-carbon future that protects our citizens and sustains our environment.'

Hon. Minister Jane Mkhonta-Simelane
Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Eswatini



'We really appreciate the support from the Commonwealth Secretariat, through the Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser for Seychelles, as this has helped us to build the capacity of our staff through knowledge transfer, handholding and mentoring in climate change matters and the general understanding of the climate finance landscape.'

Elizabeth Agathine
Principal Secretary, Economic Planning, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Trade and Investment, Seychelles



'We welcome the approval of the GEF project, 'Strengthening Zambezi River Basin Management towards Climate Resilience and Ecosystem Health'. This achievement marks an important milestone for our collective efforts in strengthening climate resilience and ecosystem health in the Zambezi River Basin. On behalf of ZAMCOM, I sincerely appreciate the invaluable contributions and collaboration of UNCCD, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the African Development Bank, whose dedication and support were instrumental in bringing this project to fruition.'

Felix Ngamlagosi
Executive Secretary, Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM)



'The African Development Bank, through the Africa NDC Hub, values its collaboration with the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub in advancing climate action across Africa. Our partnership has strengthened countries' capacity to deliver transparency reports under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework, while advancing knowledge, policy dialogue and strategic engagement. As CCFAH marks a decade of impact, we commend its role in unlocking climate finance and remain committed to deepening collaboration to accelerate ambitious, country-driven climate action.'

Prof. Anthony Nyong
Director, Climate Change and Green Growth Department, African Development Bank



'The NDC Partnership highly values the close collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat in supporting member countries to turn national climate commitments into practical, investable action. Through initiatives such as the Climate Finance Access Hub, countries received tailored support to strengthen climate finance strategies, resource mobilisation, private sector engagement and transparency systems. As countries move from ambition to implementation, this kind of targeted technical support is essential to building capacity, unlocking finance and accelerating climate-resilient, low-carbon development.'

Joaquim Leite
Head of Climate Finance, NDC Partnership



'"Delivering the first-ever Centralized Group Review and Training of the Enhanced Transparency (ETF) reporting tools for Least Developed Countries in the African region, marks a significant milestone in advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Collaboration with Transparency partners, including the Commonwealth Secretariat, has clearly demonstrated how joint implementation can drive efficiencies, optimize the use of resources, enhance transparency of reporting while delivering meaningful, scalable capacity-building support to Parties.'

Alma Jean
Team Lead, Review Planning and Co-ordination Unit, Transparency Division, UNFCCC



'The technical assistance provided by the Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser in Mauritius, through the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, has been instrumental in the collaboration for Air Mauritius to develop its sustainability framework and advance work on bankable climate-related initiatives within the aviation sector. This partnership demonstrates the pragmatic contribution of CCFAH's embedded advisory model in helping sector institutions translate climate ambition into concrete, finance-ready action.'

Vishal Babajee
Sustainability Head, Air Mauritius

Why Climate Finance Matters

Climate finance is essential for countries seeking to adapt to climate impacts, reduce emissions and build resilient economies. Yet for many small and vulnerable Commonwealth countries, accessing finance remains difficult. Countries often face technical capacity constraints, weak data systems, limited project preparation resources, complex application requirements and fragmented institutional arrangements. In 2013 the Commonwealth Expert Group on Climate Finance identified the complex and crowded climate finance landscape as one of the main bottlenecks preventing the scaling up of climate finance for developing member countries.[1] Member countries often face capacity and resource constraints that mean they cannot secure and optimise access to climate funds.

These barriers can prevent national climate priorities from becoming fundable projects. CCFAH was established to help close this gap by providing embedded, practical and sustained technical assistance that strengthens countries' ability to access, manage and use climate finance effectively. With at least US$6.3 trillion in climate finance needed annually by 2030 to avoid the worst impacts of climate change,[2] CCFAH is a direct response to the 56-member Commonwealth family's need for support if we are to overcome these challenges together.

In doing so, CCFAH supports countries not only to secure finance, but to build the systems, skills and partnerships needed for long-term climate resilience.

The climate finance landscape is complex and challenging. Funds are available to support climate change mitigation and adaptation, but small and vulnerable Commonwealth countries, which often face the most serious impacts of climate change, have limited capacities and experience significant barriers to accessing these funds.

How CCFAH works: responsive, participatory and hands-on assistance

The demand-driven nature of CCFAH enables it to be responsive to Commonwealth countries' need for capacity building, institutional strengthening and improving access to climate finance and, therefore, their ability to deal with the long-term adverse impacts of climate change while maximising existing opportunities.

CCFAH's value lies in its embedded advisory model. Operating through a hub-and-spokes approach, with a Central Hub in Mauritius and national, regional and thematic advisers serving as the 'spokes', CCFAH provides sustained, country-led technical support within government ministries, regional institutions and partner structures.

1 Commonwealth Expert Group on Climate Finance (2013), Improving Access to Climate Finance for Small and Vulnerable States, Commonwealth Secretariat. https://comsec-web-static.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/documents/Report%20of%20the%20Commonwealth%20Expert%20Group%20on%20Climate%20Finance.pdf

2 Bhattacharya, A., Songwe, V., Soubeyran, E. and Stern, N. (2024, November), *Raising Ambition and Accelerating Delivery of Climate Finance*. Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, London School of Economics and Political Science. Raising ambition and accelerating delivery of climate finance - Grantham Research Institute on climate change and the environment

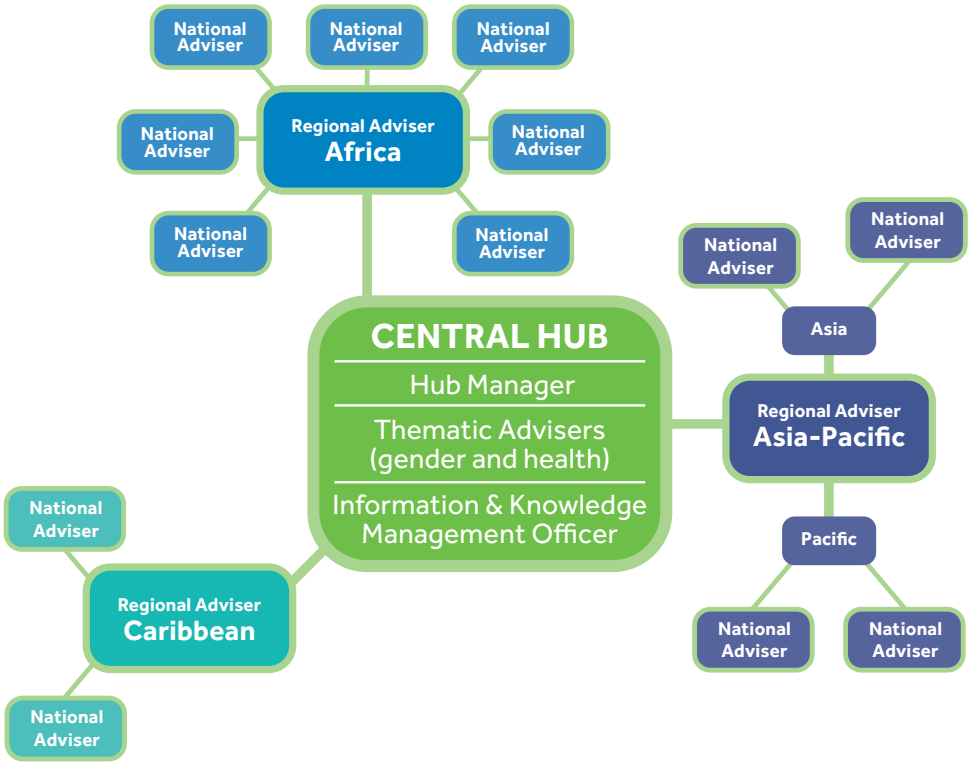
This model enables advisers to work closely with national and regional counterparts, respond to context-specific priorities, and support the development of bankable projects, stronger institutions and improved climate finance readiness. Widely commended by stakeholders, the model has proven effective in delivering practical technical assistance and has informed similar approaches by other international development agencies.

The model enables advisers to work alongside national teams, understand country priorities, support institutional processes and help develop climate finance proposals that are technically sound, country-owned and aligned with national development priorities.

The Central Hub in Mauritius provides co-ordination, technical backstopping, knowledge management and operational support. Together, the Hub and its Advisers help countries move from climate priorities to fundable projects, while strengthening national capacity for future climate finance access.

The Central Hub comprises the CCFAH Manager, an Information and Knowledge Management Officer, a Senior Administrative Officer and an Administrative Officer. Also stationed at the Central Hub are the Climate Finance Health Adviser and Climate Finance Gender Adviser.

Figure 2: The CCFAH 'hub and spokes' model, July 2026



CCFAH adviser deployment

In line with the CCFAH Operational Manual, adviser deployment follows a demand-driven process, beginning with an official request from a member country or regional institution and progressing through review, scoping, terms of reference development, and selection in accordance with Commonwealth Secretariat procedures. This ensures that each adviser is deployed in response to identified needs and aligned with national or regional climate finance priorities. As of July 2026, 30 requests had been received from member countries, of which 20 had so far been fulfilled.

Figure 3. CCFAH adviser deployment process



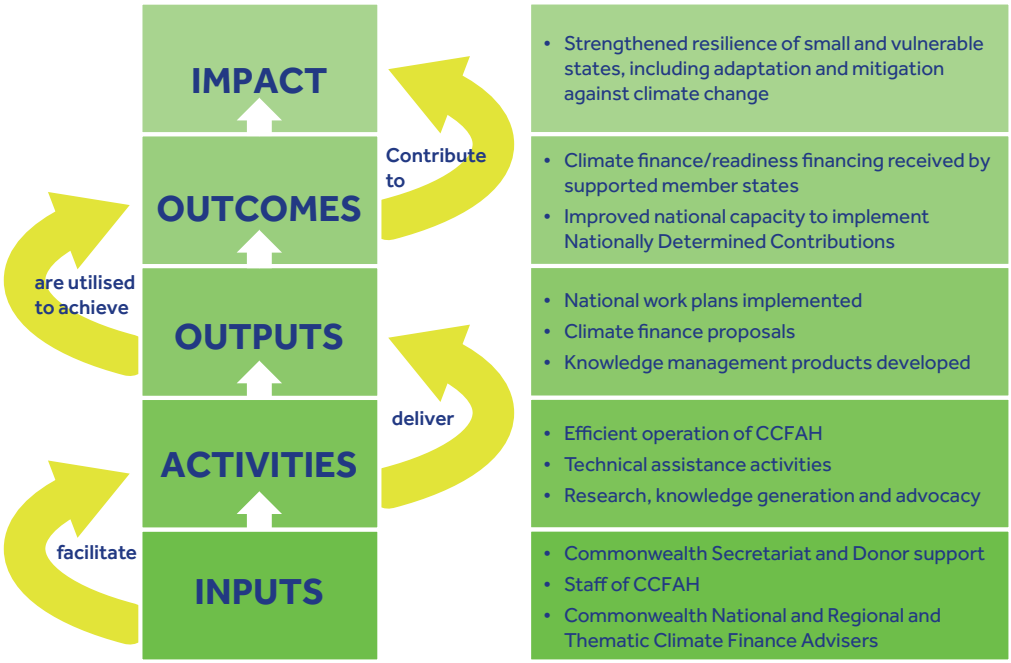
The CCFAH Theory of Change

The CCFAH programme's expected results can be summarised through a simple results chain.

The programme's inputs, such as funding from donors and the efforts of CCFAH staff and advisers, generate activities such as the provision of capacity building, and contribute to tangible outputs such as national work plans, climate finance proposals and knowledge management products.

These outputs are then utilised to achieve beneficiary countries' set outcomes, ultimately having an impact by strengthening the resilience of small and vulnerable states, in line with the Commonwealth Secretariat's Strategic Plan.

Figure 4: the CCFAH results chain



Governance, accountability and strategic oversight

CCFAH is governed by a steering committee comprising beneficiary countries, development partners, regional organisations, the host country, the Commonwealth Secretariat and observers. Members are appointed on a rotational basis and provide strategic guidance, policy oversight and accountability for the Hub's work. The steering committee helps ensure that CCFAH remains country-responsive, transparent, accountable and aligned with Commonwealth priorities, while supporting robust controls, risk management and strategic direction.

An operational manual guides the Hub's work, helping maintain consistency in adviser deployment, country support, operational processes and programme delivery.

Table 1: Members of the CCFAH steering committee (as of July 2026)

Category	Member	Assumption of office
Regional members	Belize	2026
	Maldives	
	Eswatini	
	Kiribati	
Donor community/partners	United Kingdom	2016
	Australia	2024
	Canada	2025
Regional organisations	The Pacific Community (SPC), Fiji	2024
Host country for CCFAH	Mauritius	2016
Secretariat	Commonwealth Secretariat	2016
Observers	Climate Investment Fund	2026
	African Development Bank	2026
	Macquarie Bank	2026



8th Steering Committee Meeting, Colombo, Sri Lanka, May 2026

A Decade of Results

Since becoming operational, CCFAH has helped small and other vulnerable Commonwealth countries to strengthen their access to climate finance, build institutional capacity and develop a growing pipeline of adaptation, mitigation and cross-cutting projects.

Its results reflect the value of long-term, embedded support. Across Africa, the Caribbean and the Indo-Pacific, CCFAH advisers have worked with governments and regional institutions to develop project concepts and proposals, strengthen readiness systems, support accreditation processes, improve policy alignment and build the technical skills required to engage with climate finance mechanisms.

CCFAH's contribution is visible not only in the finance mobilised, but in the institutional systems strengthened, officials trained, partnerships built and knowledge generated across the Commonwealth.

As of April 2026, CCFAH had helped mobilise US$590.71 million in climate finance, supported 119 projects, and trained 4,021 officials through 184 capacity-building initiatives across 19 countries and regional programmes.

Institutional strengthening (including accreditation and readiness support)

Beyond individual project approvals, CCFAH supports the institutional systems that enable countries to access and use climate finance over time. This includes climate finance readiness, accreditation support, national climate finance strategies, project development units, climate budget tagging, resource mobilisation strategies and improved co-ordination between ministries and stakeholders.

By strengthening these systems, CCFAH helps countries build durable capacity to identify priorities, prepare bankable proposals, engage funders and manage climate finance more effectively. CCFAH's support has included assistance to national entities to become accredited to various funds, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Figure 5: CCFAH national and regional presence, August 2026



Note: **bold** indicates active positions; ***italics*** indicates ongoing recruitment; roman text indicates completion of tenure.

Assistance provided by CCFAH to Commonwealth member countries has included the following.

- **Antigua and Barbuda: development of national trust funds**
  CCFAH supported the development of operational manuals, procedures and training to mobilise climate finance resources, particularly the operationalisation of the Sustainable Island Resource Framework (SIRF) Fund which channels funding for environmental and climate mitigation and adaptation actions from international and domestic sources. These experiences are also being used to support the advancement of the Tonga Climate Change Trust Fund.
- **Eswatini: climate budget tagging**
  A climate public expenditure and institutional review exercise was conducted by the Commonwealth Secretariat through CCFAH, creating a framework to review how climate-related spending is included in the national budgeting process. A similar exercise was conducted in Jamaica, aimed at understanding the socio-economic consequences of climate change for the country's national budget and spending, as well as developing models to support the introduction of climate change budgeting.
- **Maldives: adaptation investment pipeline and project implementation capacity**
  Through the NDC Partnership Action Fund, the Commonwealth Secretariat is supporting the Maldives Ministry of Tourism and Environment to prepare an **adaptation investment pipeline** and strengthen human and institutional capacity for implementing adaptation projects aligned with the country's nationally determined contributions (NDC). This is a strong recent example of moving from climate planning to investment readiness.
- **Mauritius: integrating health and gender into NDC 3.0**
  CCFAH has supported Mauritius to strengthen inclusive climate planning through technical assistance on the integration of **health and gender considerations into NDC 3.0**. This included stakeholder engagement and practical guidance to strengthen national planning processes and ensure that climate commitments respond to differentiated needs.
- **Grenada: Health National Adaptation Plan financing analysis**
  CCFAH supported analytical work to assess the financing requirements for implementing Grenada's **Health National Adaptation Plan 2025–2030**, which is one of the programmes of activity under the country's National Adaptation Plan. This strengthens institutional readiness by helping link health adaptation priorities to finance needs and project development.
- **Namibia: health sector climate finance concept note**
  CCFAH provided technical support to revise Namibia's health sector concept note submitted to the Green Climate Fund, titled **Building a Resilient Health System in Namibia**, valued at **US$15 million**. This demonstrates CCFAH's emerging role in helping countries prepare sector-specific, finance-ready climate proposals.
- **Sri Lanka: health sector capacity needs assessment**
  CCFAH conducted a capacity needs assessment with Sri Lanka's Ministry of Health to identify priority areas for support, resulting in a roadmap of actions now under implementation. This is a useful institutional readiness example because it shows how CCFAH helps countries identify capacity gaps and build a structured pathway for climate-health planning.

- **Nigeria: National Data Hub for Gender and Climate Information**
  CCFAH has supported work towards the design of a framework for a **National Data Hub for Gender and Climate Information in Nigeria**. This is a good example of institutional readiness linked to data systems, gender-responsive climate action and evidence-based planning.
- **Seychelles and Eswatini: Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) support**
  Through work on the Enhanced Transparency Framework, the Commonwealth Secretariat supported member countries to strengthen transparency systems, including through technical workshops and BTR-related support. This helps countries improve reporting, accountability and the evidence base needed for climate finance mobilisation.
- **Naoero: climate finance proposal development training**
  In December 2024, training in Naoero strengthened stakeholders' capacity in project identification and proposal development for international climate finance. It also helped establish linkages among relevant stakeholders, supporting more co-ordinated project development aligned with climate finance opportunities.
- **Seychelles: strengthening coordination between climate and finance institutions**
  In Seychelles, CCFAH's embedded adviser model helped strengthen collaboration between the Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade and the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment. This supported climate integration into national development planning, public financial management and public investment processes, including Climate Budget Tagging, a Climate Budget Statement and a Climate Finance Resource Mobilisation Strategy. The support also helped ensure that climate and fiscal reforms met the requirements of the IMF Resilience and Sustainability Facility, enabling access to US$17.5 million in disbursed financing, while strengthening national capacity and institutional ownership beyond the adviser role.

Capacity building and climate finance writeshops

Capacity building is central to CCFAH's model. Through targeted training, technical support and peer learning, CCFAH strengthens the skills of government officials, technical experts, project developers and wider stakeholders to engage with climate finance mechanisms. A top priority for CCFAH has been to conduct institutional capacity development for government officials in relation to:

- enhancing understanding of climate finance requirements
- strengthening national entities to achieve direct access and accreditation to international funds
- developing a pipeline of climate change projects.

A key part of this support is climate finance writeshops. These intensive, participatory workshops bring stakeholders together to move from project ideas to practical written outputs, including concept notes and proposals. Participants are guided through funder requirements, climate rationale development, project logic, data use, gender and social inclusion, environmental safeguards and financing considerations.

Writeshops directly address common challenges faced by governments and institutions, including limited proposal-writing experience, weak climate rationales, insufficient data and difficulties in structuring projects to meet funder expectations.

Our procedure for responding to a request from a member country for support from CCFAH is as follows.

1. **Needs assessment:** a CCFAH scoping mission is conducted to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the national context. This informs the joint development of the Commonwealth National, Thematic and Regional Climate Finance Advisers' terms of reference and subsequent work plan by the government and CCFAH, where required capacity interventions are outlined.
2. **Design:** based on the assessment, the Commonwealth National, Thematic and Regional Climate Finance Advisers work with the government, and draw on CCFAH's wider expertise, to formulate the required capacity building and training initiatives.
3. **Implementation:** co-led with the government, and with guidance and technical support provided by the Commonwealth National, Thematic and Regional Climate Finance Advisers in-country and wider CCFAH staff.
4. **Monitoring:** CCFAH has experience in supporting member countries to develop tools for tracking and monitoring the impact of capacity building activities on national processes.

Figure 6: Elements of capacity building

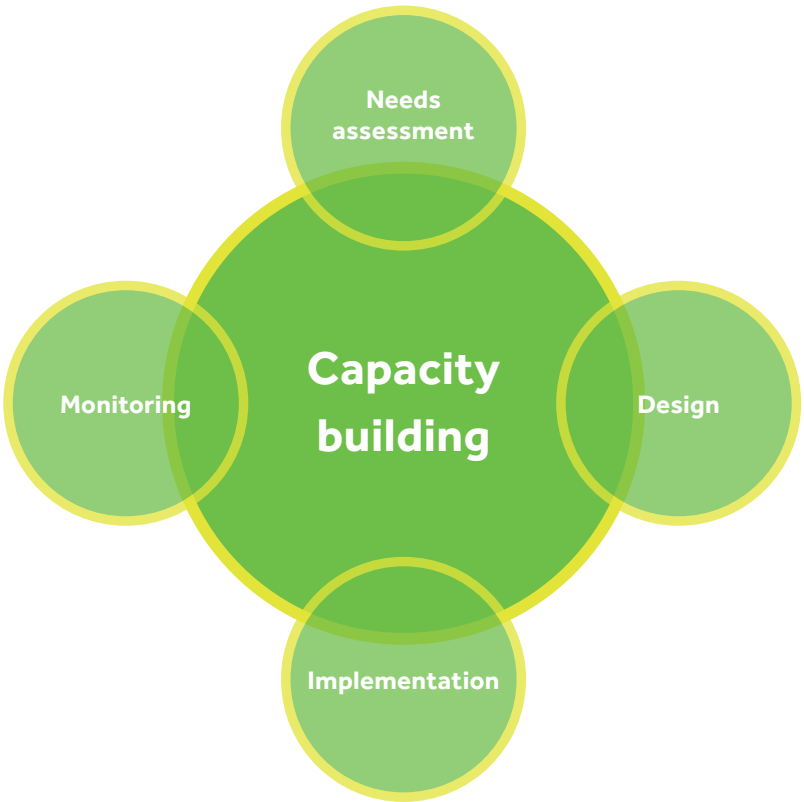


Table 2: Examples of capacity building activities undertaken

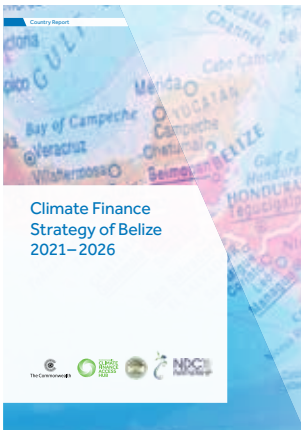
Country	Details of capacity building activities	Potential impact
Antigua and Barbuda	Development of operational manuals, procedures and training to mobilise climate finance resources (SIRF Fund).	Strengthened ability to operationalise the SIRF Fund and mobilise climate finance for nationally identified projects and activities.
Mauritius	Institutional capacity building for undertaking mitigation analysis for low-carbon development planning under the Third National Communication.	Improved capacity to identify priority emissions-reduction sectors and advance mitigation options aligned with Mauritius' Nationally Determined Contributions.
Eswatini	Undertook the Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review.	Strengthened basis for quantifying climate-related expenditure and establishing climate budget tagging and tracking systems.
Jamaica	Development and implementation of a road map for climate finance readiness.	Enhanced readiness to plan, co-ordinate and mobilise climate investments through a multisectoral roadmap for long-term climate action.
Saint Lucia	Development of a National Adaptation Plan and climate financing strategy.	Strengthened capacity to identify adaptation priorities, define implementation arrangements and link adaptation planning to climate financing strategies.
Tonga	Readiness support towards becoming the first country in the Pacific region to receive GCF Readiness Adaptation Planning support grant.	Improved readiness to advance adaptation planning and implement priority climate resilience actions through GCF readiness support.
Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands	Climate Finance Writeshop Trainings.	Strengthened practical skills to develop climate finance proposals by applying data and information from the CommonSensing platform to improve evidence, climate rationale and project design.

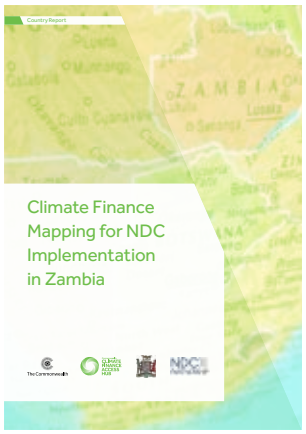
Policy and strategy support

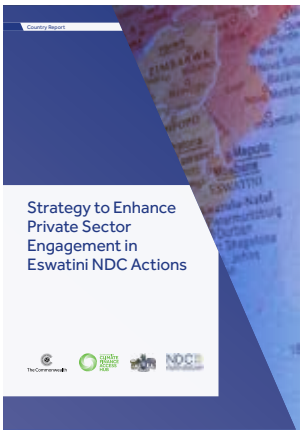
The ability of member countries to effectively meet their mitigation and adaptation targets is heavily influenced by various domestic climate policies and frameworks. Beyond simply enabling access to climate finance, technical assistance for the development and implementation of climate-related policies is crucial to ensure and safeguard sustainable long-term climate action. This includes national climate policy and planning documents, roadmaps and project pipelines, and climate action plans – all of which are supported by CCFAH.

CCFAH has demonstrable experience in contributing to national financing strategies across the Commonwealth.

- **Tonga:** development of Tonga's Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (JNAP2), which sets out a strategy for implementation of the country's national climate change priorities across all sectors and serves as an entry point for climate-related assistance to the country.
- **Belize:** a climate finance landscape study was conducted which informed the development of the Climate Finance Strategy of Belize 2021–2026[3], also developed through CCFAH, and will support the work of the newly established Climate Finance Unit in the country.
- **Zambia:** a similar *Climate Finance Mapping for NDC Implementation* study was also completed under this initiative for the Government of Zambia.[4] This study provided a comprehensive knowledge base about the stakeholders and systems required to finance climate action in the country.
- **Eswatini:** in an effort to enhance private sector engagement in NDC implementation, CCFAH led the development of a *Strategy to Enhance Private Sector Engagement in Eswatini NDC Actions*.[5] The strategy assesses private sector potential to leverage finance in order to meet NDC targets, as well as providing guidance to the government on ways to further encourage and facilitate the involvement of the sector in climate actions.



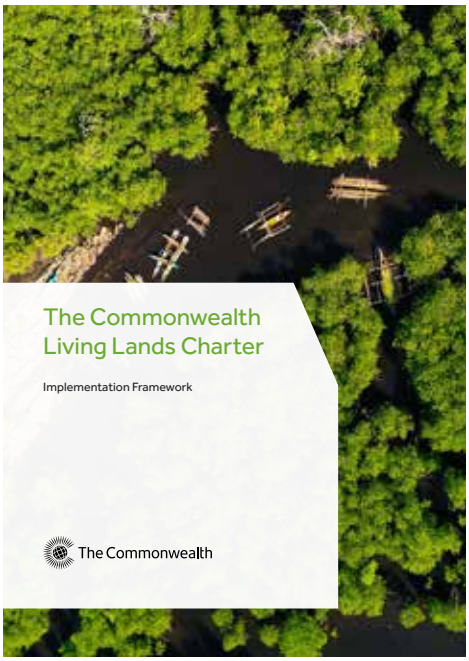




3 Commonwealth Secretariat (2021), *National Climate Finance Strategy of Belize 2021–2026*.
4 Commonwealth Secretariat (2021). *Climate Finance Mapping for NDC Implementation in Zambia*.
5 Commonwealth Secretariat (2021). *Strategy to Enhance Private Sector Engagement in Eswatini NDCActions*.

The Commonwealth Living Lands Charter

The Commonwealth Living Lands Charter, adopted by leaders of the Commonwealth's 56 member countries in June 2022, provides a shared framework for tackling the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. Building on the Commonwealth Call to Action on Living Lands, the Charter recognises that these challenges are interdependent and must be addressed through co-ordinated, country-led action across the three Rio Conventions: the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

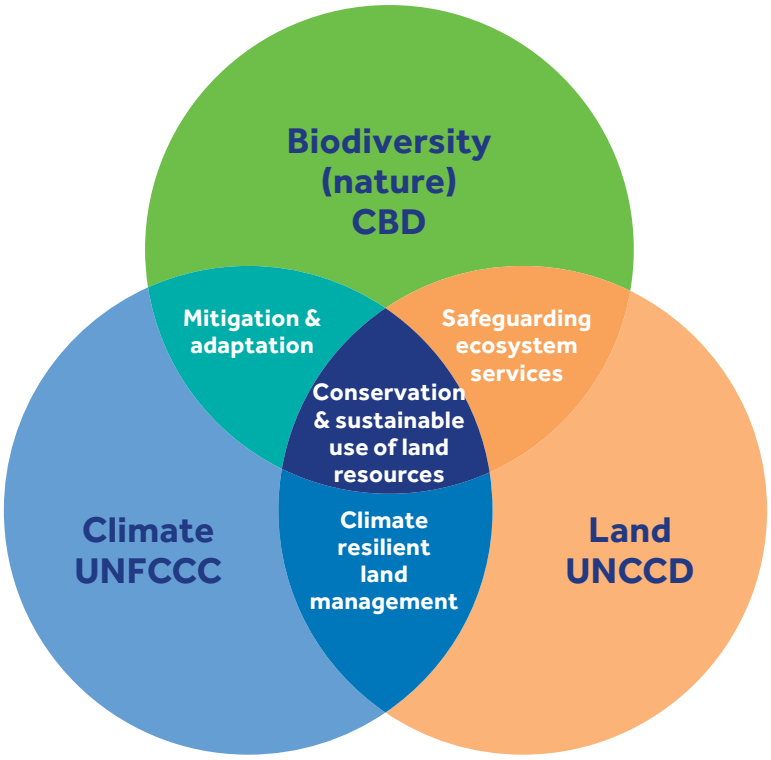


The Charter supports countries to strengthen climate-resilient and sustainable land management by aligning land-based action with national priorities, including NDCs, National Adaptation Plans, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, land degradation neutrality targets and wider development plans. It promotes practical solutions that protect ecosystems, support communities and build resilience, while advancing Indigenous knowledge, community-based approaches, nature-positive solutions and inclusive development.

Its thematic areas include climate-resilient agriculture for food security; soil and water conservation and management; sustainable green cover and biodiversity; carbon-neutral and climate-resilient livestock systems; Indigenous peoples and local communities; and the climate-health nexus. Cross-cutting priorities include justice and equity, gender and youth, green jobs and business development, earth observation data and artificial intelligence, and monitoring and evaluation.

Through collaboration with CCFAH and other Commonwealth climate programmes, the Charter is helping countries to translate commitments into implementation. This includes support for climate finance mobilisation, technical assistance, capacity building, evidence-based analysis, policy guidance and knowledge-sharing. Key results include support for the US$60.35 million Zambezi Basin Nature, People and Climate Investment Plan, an Indigenous Peoples and local communities proposal in Fiji and Tuvalu, and finance for nature-based seawalls in Fiji. Ongoing work continues to focus on nature-based solutions, food systems, drought resilience, climate-health linkages and finance for nature.

Figure 7: The Rio Conventions and co-ordinated, country-led action under the Commonwealth Living Lands Charter



The Commonwealth NDC Programme

The Commonwealth NDC Programme supports member countries to turn their NDCs into realistic, investable and implementable action. It helps countries develop investment strategies, project pipelines, policy reforms and capacity-building approaches that advance climate-resilient, low-carbon, gender-responsive and youth-inclusive development.

As an institutional and implementing partner of the NDC Partnership, the Commonwealth Secretariat has supported countries through the Climate Action Enhancement Package and the Partnership Action Fund. This has included climate finance mapping and measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) support in Zambia, a climate finance strategy for Belize, a climate public expenditure and institutional review and private sector engagement strategy in Eswatini, a resource mobilisation strategy in Grenada, socio-economic and financial assessment work in Jamaica, and ongoing adaptation investment pipeline support in the Maldives.

The programme also supports implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement, including Biennial Transparency Reports, MRV systems and related capacity-building. Through the Commonwealth NDC Webinar Series and knowledge products, it promotes peer learning and practical exchange on NDC financing and implementation across the Commonwealth.



Enhancing access to climate finance through evidenced-based and data-driven climate action

Geospatial data, including satellite remote sensing, earth observation and geographic information systems, provides objective information for climate planning, disaster risk reduction, project development, monitoring and adaptive action. CCFAH supports member countries to use this data to strengthen the evidence base and climate rationale of climate finance concept notes and proposals.

This support was pioneered through the CommonSensing project, which brought together Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, the Commonwealth Secretariat and other partners to strengthen the use of satellite-based data for climate resilience. Through CCFAH, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Advisers in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu supported the practical application of earth observation data in proposal development, including site selection, baseline analysis and climate risk assessment.

Building on these lessons, the Commonwealth has advanced its geospatial capabilities through strategic collaboration with Azercosmos and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, including joint declarations that provide a foundation for integrating space-based technologies into Commonwealth climate programmes. These partnerships are expanding access to satellite data for climate monitoring and early warning systems, supporting capacity-building in geospatial analysis for small states and least developed countries, and facilitating technical training in remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems and spatial planning for climate-linked disasters. This work positions the Commonwealth to scale geospatial applications in climate finance, land degradation tracking and ecosystem monitoring, strengthening data-driven decision-making and resilience across member countries.

Gender and youth integration for climate action

Gender and youth inclusion are central to effective climate finance. Climate change affects women, men, young people and vulnerable groups differently, and climate finance proposals must respond to these realities if they are to deliver equitable and sustainable outcomes.

Through CCFAH, the Commonwealth Secretariat supports member countries to integrate gender and youth considerations into climate finance proposals, NDCs, National Adaptation Plans, Biennial Transparency Reports and wider climate policy processes. This work has been strengthened by the appointment of a Commonwealth Climate Finance Gender Adviser, who provides dedicated technical support on gender-responsive climate finance, project development, capacity building and reporting.

The work aligns with Commonwealth mandates from the 13th Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting and the 2024 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which endorsed the establishment of the Commonwealth Collaborative Network on Gender-responsive Climate Action. The Network supports member countries to address gender and climate data gaps, promote equitable access to climate finance and strengthen diverse leadership in climate decision-making.

CCFAH has supported gender integration across climate policy and finance processes in several member countries, including Mauritius, Fiji, Namibia, Maldives, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Grenada and Nigeria. Youth inclusion is also being advanced through climate negotiations training and wider engagement that strengthens young people's participation in climate diplomacy, policy dialogue and climate finance processes.



Gender, Youth, Social and Health Inclusion Workshop, Mauritius, April 2025

The Commonwealth Youth Climate Negotiations



Commonwealth Youth Climate Negotiations Training, June 2026

Training strengthens young people's understanding of climate diplomacy, UNFCCC processes and negotiation priorities, helping them contribute more effectively to national, regional and global climate action. The inaugural Commonwealth Youth Climate Negotiations Training, held in September 2024, brought together 27 participants from 23 countries to build practical skills in climate diplomacy and negotiations. Several participants subsequently joined national delegations at COP29. Building on this success, the June 2026 Commonwealth Youth Multilateral Negotiations Training brought together 32 participants from 23 countries and expanded the focus beyond climate negotiations to include the three Rio Conventions.. The training reflects the Commonwealth's commitment to ensuring young people are not only beneficiaries of climate action, but active contributors to shaping it.

Climate change and health



Secretariat team engagement in the collaborative ECSA-HC Regional Meeting on Best Practices and Outcomes in Health. Photo credit:ECSA-HC

Climate change continues to affect water, food and health security, with rising temperatures and more extreme, less predictable weather altering the availability, distribution and quality of surface and groundwater resources. These impacts are placing increasing pressure on public health systems through extreme weather events, heat stress, food and water insecurity, vector-borne diseases and risks to health infrastructure and essential services. For small and other vulnerable Commonwealth countries, this reinforces the need to integrate health more systematically into climate policy, adaptation planning and climate finance. Recognising these growing linkages, the Commonwealth Secretariat is placing greater focus on climate and health initiatives, with its February 2022 memorandum of understanding with the World Health Organization providing an important foundation for catalysing action to build resilient health systems across the Commonwealth.

CCFAH has expanded its thematic support to include health and climate finance expertise, helping member countries integrate health priorities into NDCs, Health National Adaptation Plans, climate finance proposals and institutional planning processes. Support has included health integration in NDC 3.0 processes in Grenada, Solomon Islands, Mauritius, Maldives and Sri Lanka, as well as health adaptation planning support in Mauritius and Seychelles.

CCFAH has also been supporting the development of health-related climate finance proposals, including a climate-resilient health sector proposal in Grenada, a Green Climate Fund concept note for Namibia valued at US$15 million, and an Adaptation Fund concept note for the Maldives valued at US$5 million. Through capacity building, guidance tools and engagement with the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate Change and Health, CCFAH is helping countries to identify financing pathways and strengthen climate-resilient health systems.

This work is also expanding through partnerships and implementation-focused support, including work with the WHO-led Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate Change and Health (ATACH) on climate-health finance mapping and country case studies; a dedicated Seychelles climate-health finance writeshop in May 2026; collaboration with the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community and the University of Colombo; and support for climate-resilient health infrastructure in Mauritius.

Independent Evaluation: Learning from the First Decade

As CCFAH marks ten years of operation, the Commonwealth Secretariat commissioned an independent formative evaluation covering the programme's first decade, building on the 2021 evaluation and looking ahead to its next phase. The review examined not only finance mobilised, but also CCFAH's contribution to institutional capacity, policy and systems change, sustainability and longer-term resilience in member countries.

The evaluation rated CCFAH highly for both relevance and impact, finding that the need for the programme remains as strong as when it was established and that it has generated broad and deep impact in the countries examined, including institutional and individual capacity that was unlikely to have been built otherwise.

The assessment found strong country-level results and institutional gains, alongside opportunities to further strengthen programme-level co-ordination, systematic results capture and long-term continuity.

Overall, the evaluation found evidence of strengthened national institutions and individual capacity, improved collaboration across government, climate-responsive policies and systems, and growing ability among countries to access and manage climate finance. Its findings will help ensure that lessons from the first decade inform a stronger, more sustainable and impact-focused CCFAH in its next phase.

Operational Sustainability

As demand for climate finance support continues to grow, CCFAH's long-term sustainability remains central to its ability to deliver responsive and effective support to small and other vulnerable Commonwealth countries. The Hub has demonstrated strong value through its embedded advisory model, practical capacity-building, project pipeline support and contribution to climate finance mobilisation. Sustaining and scaling this impact will require predictable resources, diversified partnerships and strengthened operational systems.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is actively working to safeguard and expand CCFAH's sustainability by broadening its funding base and strengthening its delivery model. This includes exploring opportunities for multi-year funding, blended public and private capital, new donor partnerships, capital market engagement and collaboration with complementary Commonwealth platforms and external partners.

As CCFAH enters its second decade, its next phase will focus on enhancing its ability to mobilise both public and private finance, deliver tailored advisory services and support transformative climate projects that respond to the priorities of small and other vulnerable member countries. Strengthened governance, adaptive operational frameworks, clearer co-ordination mechanisms and increased visibility of results will be vital to ensuring that CCFAH remains a trusted and effective platform for climate finance access.

The Hub's sustainability will also depend on deepening knowledge management, documenting lessons and impact and ensuring that successful approaches can be shared, replicated and scaled across the Commonwealth. In this way, CCFAH's operational sustainability is not only about financing the Hub, but about strengthening the systems, partnerships and institutional capacity needed to sustain climate action over time.

Building CCFAH for the next decade

Financial sustainability

Secure more predictable, diversified and multi-year funding, while expanding opportunities for public, private and philanthropic finance.

Human and institutional capacity

Strengthen specialist expertise, adviser continuity and institutional capacity to sustain high-quality country support.

Strategic partnerships

Deepen collaboration with climate finance institutions, development finance institutions, the private sector and other partners to expand investment and technical cooperation opportunities.

Governance excellence

Strengthen strategic oversight, performance reporting, accountability and resource mobilisation to support sustained impact.

Together, these four areas are intended to strengthen CCFAH as an agile, well-resourced and sustainable platform for climate finance access in its second decade.

Knowledge Management, Learning and Visibility

Scaling what works

Knowledge management is central to CCFAH's ability to scale its impact across the Commonwealth. Through technical publications, practical tools, learning platforms, case studies, peer exchange and strategic communication, CCFAH captures lessons from country-level support and makes them available to member countries, advisers, partners and stakeholders.

This work helps ensure that successful approaches are shared, adapted and replicated across countries and regions. It also strengthens institutional memory, improves access to technical resources and supports evidence-based decision-making in climate finance planning, proposal development and policy implementation.

CCFAH's knowledge products include the ***Toolkit to Enhance Access to Climate Finance***, climate finance landscape assessments, country reports, technical briefs, discussion papers and learning resources developed from its practical experience supporting member countries. The Commonwealth Climate Finance Essentials e-course, developed from the ***Toolkit***, further extends this knowledge base by providing open-access learning on climate finance access modalities, project development and institutional readiness.

The development of the CCFAH Knowledge Management Strategy marks an important step in strengthening this work. Built around the five impact pathways of People, Processes, Content, Culture and Technology, the strategy provides a framework for improving how knowledge is identified, captured, reviewed, stored, shared, used and adapted. It aims to enhance visibility, promote peer learning, support a stronger knowledge culture and ensure that CCFAH's experience continues to inform climate finance access across the Commonwealth.

As CCFAH enters its second decade, knowledge management will play an increasingly important role in supporting sustainability. By documenting lessons, strengthening access to tools, showcasing results and promoting cross-regional learning, CCFAH can help member countries move from isolated successes to scalable, evidence-informed climate finance practice.

Knowledge products

Extensive and effective use of electronic media from the Commonwealth Secretariat's communications team has expanded the overall visibility of CCFAH and the services it offers. Furthermore, several publications and promotional products have been developed that share the successes, achievements and lessons learned from CCFAH's technical assistance programme. These include country reports for

Fiji,[6] Vanuatu[7] and Solomon Islands,[8] a climate finance toolkit,[9] and discussion papers on nature-based solutions[10] and on the use of earth observation data for climate finance.[11]











6 Commonwealth Secretariat (2021), *An Assessment of Vulnerable Sectors and EO Data Potential in Fiji: Climate Finance Landscape Report*. https://comsec-web-static.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2022-02/Climate%20Finance%20Reports%20Fiji_UPDF.pdf

7 Commonwealth Secretariat (2021), *An Assessment of Vulnerable Sectors and EO Data Potential in Vanuatu Climate Finance Landscape Report*. https://production-new-commonwealth-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2022-02/Climate finance report Vanuatu_UPDF.pdf

8 Commonwealth Secretariat (2021), *An Assessment of Vulnerable Sectors and EO Data Potential for Solomon Islands: Climate Finance Landscape Report*. https://comsec-web-static.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2022-02/Climate%20finance%20reports%20Solomon%20Islands_UPDF.pdf

9 Commonwealth (2022). *Toolkit to Enhance Access to Climate Finance: A Commonwealth Practical Guide*. https://comsec-web-static.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2022-03/Toolkit_to_Enhance_Access_to_Climate_Finance_UPDF.pdf

10 Commonwealth Secretariat (2021, October), 'Accelerating Financing for Nature-based Solutions to Support Action Across the Rio Conventions', discussion paper 28. https://comsec-web-static.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2022-05/Accelerating%20Financing%20for%20Nature%20Based%20Solutions_Discusion%20Paper%2028_UPDF.pdf

11 Commonwealth Secretariat (2021, April), 'Earth Observation Technologies for Improved Access to Climate Finance: The Role of Data and Information', discussion paper 27. https://comsec-web-static.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2023-05/Earth-Observation-Discussion-Paper-1.pdf

Technical sessions and outreach events

Extensive efforts have been undertaken to reach out to national, regional and international partners, with the aim of sharing the work and objectives of CCFAH, as well as initiating sessions aimed at facilitating the sharing of knowledge and experience on various technical aspects of climate finance. The Commonwealth National and Regional Climate Finance Advisers have been seizing opportunities to participate in international, regional and national-level events, conferences and seminars to share the experiences of CCFAH with wider stakeholders and to establish collaborative partnerships. These include externally led events such as the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as Secretariat-led events, including the Commonwealth NDC Webinar Series.



Suresh Yadav, Senior Director, Climate Change and Oceans, participating in a panel discussion at the Sustainable Innovation Forum, November 2025



The Regional Forum on SIDS Readiness for NDC Implementation, Mauritius, 24–26 February 2026

Emerging Areas, Innovations and Global Engagement

As the climate finance landscape evolves, country needs and requests for technical assistance and capacity building are also changing. Building on its first decade of delivery, CCFAH is adapting its support to respond to emerging priorities, new financing opportunities and wider Commonwealth climate objectives. Through CCFAH and the broader Commonwealth Climate Change Programme, the Commonwealth Secretariat is strengthening support in areas that are critical to member countries' ability to access finance, implement climate commitments and participate effectively in global climate processes. In this next phase, the Hub is reinforcing its role not only as a climate finance access mechanism, but also as a platform for innovation, investment readiness, partnerships, knowledge exchange and inclusive climate action.

Climate change negotiations

Climate change negotiations are an increasingly important area of support, particularly for small and other vulnerable Commonwealth countries seeking to advance their priorities in global climate discussions. The Commonwealth Secretariat has strengthened capacity-building in this area through targeted training for advisers, officials and young people. This includes climate negotiations training to deepen understanding of key negotiation themes, priorities and processes ahead of major UNFCCC meetings, helping participants engage more effectively in national, regional and global climate discussions.

How CCFAH has been strengthening climate negotiation capacity

Climate negotiations masterclass for advisers
A virtual masterclass was delivered for Commonwealth National Climate Finance Advisers ahead of COP29, strengthening their understanding of key negotiation themes, priorities and processes.

COP29 thematic webinars for Mauritius
Seven thematic webinars were delivered for Mauritius covering mitigation, adaptation, carbon markets, gender and just transition, climate finance, ocean protection and international trade. The sessions reached more than 100 participants from government, the private sector and academia.

Commonwealth youth climate negotiations training
The inaugural training in September 2024 brought together 27 participants from 23 countries to build practical skills in climate diplomacy and negotiations. Several participants subsequently joined national delegations at COP29.

Commonwealth youth climate negotiators platform
A dedicated platform was established to support continued youth engagement, resource-sharing, exchange of ideas and co-ordination of advocacy ahead of and during global climate negotiations.

Commonwealth Youth Negotiations Fellowship

Established to help training alumni continue building skills and practical experience through mentorship, applied advocacy, an alumni network and support for eligible COP participation.

The Enhanced Transparency Framework

Support for the Enhanced Transparency Framework under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement is another growing area of work for the Commonwealth Secretariat. Through CCFAH and the Commonwealth NDC Programme, the Secretariat is supporting member countries to prepare and strengthen Biennial Transparency Reports, improve monitoring, reporting and verification systems, and build capacity for transparent reporting on climate action and support received. This includes technical support for BTR preparation, greenhouse gas inventories, adaptation reporting, NDC tracking and climate finance monitoring.

This work has been further strengthened through the launch of the Commonwealth report, Commonwealth Countries' First Biennial Transparency Reports Review: Visible Progress, Hidden Barriers, Tangible Solutions, which analysed the first BTRs submitted by Commonwealth member countries under the Enhanced Transparency Framework. The report highlights participation trends, use of flexibility provisions, progress in climate action reporting, common challenges faced by countries, and the role of international support mechanisms in strengthening transparency systems. It also reinforces the Secretariat's role in supporting member countries to improve climate accountability, strengthen reporting systems and build the institutional and technical capacity required for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

This work helps strengthen trust, accountability and evidence-based decision-making, while linking climate reporting more closely to implementation, investment planning and climate finance mobilisation.Engagement with global climate fora

Effective engagement in global climate fora remains central to ensuring that the priorities of small and vulnerable Commonwealth countries are reflected in international climate processes. Through COPs, regional forums, high-level dialogues and partner convenings, the Commonwealth Secretariat supports advocacy, knowledge exchange, partnership-building and resource mobilisation for climate action.

Engagement at COP provides an opportunity to advance Commonwealth priorities on climate finance, adaptation, transparency, gender-responsive climate action, youth participation, climate-health financing and support for small and vulnerable states. It will also provide a platform to strengthen partnerships, showcase lessons from CCFAH's work and reinforce the Commonwealth's role as a trusted partner in supporting member countries to move from climate commitments to implementation.



The high-level panel at the launch of the framework for Nigeria's Climate and Gender Data Hub, COP30, Belém, Brazil, November 2025



A COP31 engagement between the Commonwealth Secretariat team and the Turkish Mission, May 2026

Private sector engagement

CCFAH is working to strengthen the Hub's role in helping countries move from climate finance access to investment readiness. This includes building stronger project pipelines, improving proposal quality, engaging private sector partners and identifying blended finance opportunities that can help scale climate action across the Commonwealth. Examples of CCFAH's private sector engagement include the following.

Eswatini: private sector engagement in NDC implementation

CCFAH supported the development of the **Strategy to Enhance Private Sector Engagement in Eswatini NDC Actions**, which assessed private sector potential to leverage finance for NDC targets, and provided guidance to government on how to encourage and facilitate private sector involvement in climate action.

Antigua and Barbuda: gender-responsive blended finance window

Under Commonwealth NDC-related support, Antigua and Barbuda received support for a **feasibility study for a gender-responsive blended financing window** under the Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund. This is a useful example of blended finance and inclusive climate investment design.

Eastern Caribbean: public, private and civil society resilience financing

The Integrated Physical Adaptation and Community Resilience project for Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Grenada strengthened resilience through the **public, private and civil society sectors**, including revolving loans for households and businesses and microfinancing for vulnerable households and businesses.

Commonwealth Climate Finance Roundtable: private sector mobilisation

The Commonwealth Climate Finance Roundtable held in June 2025 provided a platform for dialogue with private sector actors, development finance institutions and partners on how to mobilise additional finance for vulnerable member states. The engagement helped position private sector collaboration, blended finance and investment partnerships as important pathways for scaling climate action, strengthening project pipelines and supporting countries to move from climate finance access to investment readiness.

Mauritius: renewable energy revolving fund

In Mauritius, CCFAH has supported the development of a renewable energy revolving fund concept aimed at accelerating the country's clean energy transition and mobilising investment towards national climate targets. The proposed US$103 million project includes a US$27 million fund request and US$76 million in co-financing, with an expected mitigation target of 1.2 million tCO_2. By using concessional finance to overcome market barriers and recycle returns into further renewable energy projects, the initiative illustrates how CCFAH can support innovative financing mechanisms that mobilise public and private investment for climate action.

Maldives: adaptation investment pipeline

Work in the Maldives under the NDC Partnership Action Fund is supporting the preparation of an **adaptation investment pipeline** and institutional capacity for adaptation project implementation. This can be framed as investment-readiness support, even where the private sector link is still emerging.

10 lessons from 10 years of CCFAH

Over its first decade, CCFAH has generated important lessons on what it takes to help small and vulnerable Commonwealth countries access climate finance and translate climate priorities into action.

1. **Embedded support works**
   Long-term advisers placed within ministries and regional institutions provide practical, country-led support that short-term assistance often cannot achieve.
2. **Partnerships drive impact**
   Climate finance access is strongest when governments, regional institutions, development partners, climate funds, civil society and the private sector work together around shared priorities.
3. **Country ownership is essential**
   Support is most effective when it responds to national priorities and strengthens the systems, institutions and people that will sustain climate action over time.
4. **Institutional readiness matters**
   Successful climate finance access depends not only on good project ideas, but also on strong co-ordination, data systems, policies, pipelines and implementation capacity.
5. **Accreditation strengthens sustainability**
   Helping national and regional entities engage directly with climate funds builds long-term capacity and reduces reliance on external intermediaries.
6. **Capacity building must be practical**
   Hands-on support, including writeshops, helps officials and stakeholders move from concepts to structured proposals that can attract finance.
7. **South–South learning helps scale success**
   Cross-regional exchange enables countries and advisers to share tools, lessons and approaches that can be adapted and replicated across the Commonwealth.
8. **Inclusion improves climate outcomes**
   Gender, youth, health and community perspectives strengthen the quality, relevance and equity of climate finance proposals and policies.
9. **Visibility strengthens influence**
   Documenting and communicating results helps demonstrate value, build partner confidence and increase awareness of the support available to member countries.
10. **Private finance is essential for scale**
    Public finance alone cannot meet growing climate needs: investment readiness, blended finance and private sector partnerships will be critical to CCFAH's next phase.

Meet the Team

Climate Change Section, Commonwealth Secretariat, London



Uzoamaka Nwamarah
Adviser and Head of Climate Change Section



Mxolisi Sibanda
Adviser



Ankita Narain
Research and Policy Officer



Shevon C. Roberts
Research and Policy Officer



Dr Laila Shahzad
Research and Policy Officer



Knollis Delle
Assistant Research Officer

CCFAH Central Hub, Mauritius



Aurelius Nkonde
Manager



Fasiihah Oobaye
Senior Administrative Officer



Dhishna Seegovind-Gunga
Administrative Officer



Chishala Siame
Information and Knowledge Management Officer

Commonwealth Regional Climate Finance Advisers



Chibesa Pensulo Simalabwi
Africa



Zipora Otieno
Caribbean



Fred Siho'ou'ou Patison
Indo-Pacific

Commonwealth National Climate Finance Advisers – Indo-Pacific



Michael Ha'apio
Kiribati



Sagar Joshi
Maldives



Gina Maswabi
Sri Lanka

Commonwealth National Climate Finance Advisers – Africa



Deepa Pullanikattil
Eswatini



Denis Kangere Asiimwe
Seychelles



William Fonta
Gambia



Suraj Pandey
Mauritius



Eric Chipeta
Mozambique



Othniel Yila
Uganda



Emmanuel Ngungoh
Lesotho

Commonwealth National Climate Finance Advisers – Caribbean



Martin Michel Barriteau
Grenada



Francis Mpampi
Dominica

Commonwealth Thematic Advisers



Christabel Chilekwa Mibenge
Commonwealth Climate Finance Health Adviser



Nancy Omolo
Commonwealth Climate Finance Gender Adviser

Annex A: From Pipeline to Impact

Project Results and Emerging Opportunities

Spotlight on approved projects

Building Inclusive Resilience to Climate Change for Semi-Nomadic Agro-Pastoral Communities in the Transboundary Kunene River Basin

Type of project: Adaptation

Country: Angola and Namibia / Regional

National entity: Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Namibia; Ministry of Environment, Angola; regional support through the Food and Agriculture Organization

Implementing entity: International Fund for Agricultural Development

Sector: Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; ecosystem-based adaptation; community-based adaptation; agro-pastoral livelihoods

Financing details: US$24,550,836 from the Adaptation Fund

Project duration: 5 years

Description

The project supports climate change adaptation and resilience for semi-nomadic agro-pastoral communities in the transboundary Kunene River Basin. It focuses on strengthening resilience through ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction planning, a satellite-based multi-hazard early warning system, inclusive community-based adaptation actions, and awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing on climate change adaptation within the Kunene River ecosystem.

Objective

To support the climate change adaptation and resilience of semi-nomadic agro-pastoral populations in the Kunene River Basin through inclusive, ecosystem-based and community-led approaches that combine local knowledge, scientific information, early warning systems and practical adaptation actions.

Impact

The project is expected to:

- strengthen the resilience of semi-nomadic agro-pastoral communities to climate-related risks
- improve disaster preparedness through a satellite-based multi-hazard early warning system
- support more sustainable management of natural resources
- promote inclusive community-based adaptation in the Kunene River Basin.

Its core components include an ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction plan, an early warning system, community adaptation actions and climate adaptation knowledge sharing.

Beneficiaries

Semi-nomadic agro-pastoral communities and their wider socio-economic networks in the Kunene River Basin. The project document identifies direct beneficiary targets of **36,692 people in Angola** and **17,508 people in Namibia**, for a total of **54,200 direct beneficiaries**. [12]

12 Adaptation Fund (2026, March 16), *Proposal for Angola, Namibia*. https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/4_AFB.PPRC_.37.23-Proposal-for-Angola-Namibia-1.pdf

Toward Risk-Aware and Climate-resilienT communities (TRACT): Strengthening climate services and impact-based multi-hazard early warning in Maldives

Country: Maldives

National entity: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Technology

Financing details: US$25 million Green Climate Fund Grant

Sector: Support

Description: To build reliable, inclusive and impactbased climate services and early warning systems that ensure every person, on every island, receives and can act on timely climate information and warnings, shifting from reactive response to anticipatory, riskinformed action.

Impact

- **Improved climate risk knowledge and governance**, including a National Framework for Climate Services.
- **Upgraded weather and ocean monitoring** and enhanced impactbased forecasting capacity.
- **Inclusive early warning dissemination** reaching the 'last mile' through multilingual and communitybased channels.
- **Strengthened preparedness and anticipatory action**, including genderresponsive and forecastbased approaches.
- **Lives saved and losses avoided**, alongside improved livelihood, food and water security and stronger national institutions.

Beneficiaries

The multi-hazard early warning systems envisaged under this project will benefit the 42 per cent of the population living within 100 meters of the coastline who are most at risk of sea-level rise.

Priority groups

Women and girls, children and youth, elderly people, persons with disabilities, migrant communities and remote/ outerisland populations.

Institutions and Sectors

Maldives Meteorological Service
National Disaster Management Authority
Maldivian Red Crescent

Project name: Knowledge-Action-Sustainability for Resilient Villages (SOLSKAS)

Type of project: Adaptation

Country: Solomon Islands

National entity: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Save the Children

Sector: Education and training

Financing details: US30 million, comprising $24.97 million in Green Climate Fund grant financing and $6.87 million in co-financing.

Status: Under implementation (2023–2025)

Description

The project supports locally led climate adaptation in Solomon Islands, where communities face increasing risks from sea-level rise, higher temperatures, extreme rainfall, flooding, droughts and pressure on food and water systems. It strengthens the resilience of targeted rural communities, schools and young people by improving climate awareness, adaptation planning, community and school infrastructure, food security, climate-resilient livelihoods and institutional linkages between national, provincial and village levels. It also includes innovative tools such as a digital climate risk assessment and adaptation planning system, and a Youth Climate Resilience Livelihoods incubator.

Objective

To strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of targeted communities, schools and rural youth in Solomon Islands through locally led, gender- and socially inclusive adaptation planning, improved climate risk information, resilient livelihoods and stronger links between village, provincial and national systems.

Impact

The project is expected to enhance community-level resilience, strengthen adaptation planning in schools and villages, improve food security and climate-resilient livelihoods, and equip communities and government institutions with tools and systems to assess climate risks and plan effective adaptation responses.

Beneficiaries

The project is expected to directly benefit approximately 185,102 people and indirectly benefit 277,797. It targets about 170 rural and remote communities across six provinces in Solomon Islands.

Supporting Climate Mobility and Community Resilience in Fiji

Type of project: Adaptation

Country: Fiji

National entity: Community Climate Adaptation Facility (C-CAF) Infrastructure

Financing Details: US$85,520 (FJD 200,000) direct funding from C-CAF awarded to each community

Total funding mobilised from local stakeholders and ministries:

- Vuniniudrovu: US$120,156
- Narata: US$95,229
- Macuata-i-Wai: US$89,796

Description

Fiji faces rising sea levels, saltwater intrusion and coastal erosion. These impacts threaten livelihoods, infrastructure and cultural heritage.

With CCFAH support, Fiji advanced community-focused climate finance solutions for vulnerable coastal communities

Objective

Support community-led climate adaptation and mobility solutions and strengthen national capacity to access and deliver climate finance.

Impact

The project supports climate-resilient infrastructure, freshwater restoration, livelihood recovery and stronger local resilience. It also strengthens capacity within Fiji's Climate Change Division and reinforces community ownership of climate action.

Beneficiaries

Three climate-vulnerable coastal communities facing displacement, relocation pressures, erosion and saltwater intrusion.

Facilitating a Gender Responsive Approach to Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Type of project: Cross-cutting

Country: Jamaica

National entity: Climate Change Division, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, and Bureau of Gender Affairs

Sector: Gender-responsive climate action

Financing details: US$272,797 from the Green Climate Fund.

Status: Completed (2020–2022)

Description

The project was developed following earlier gender analysis and stakeholder engagement, which found that

Jamaica's climate policy framework was not sufficiently gender-responsive

understanding of the gender dimensions of climate change was limited

data on the differentiated impacts of climate change on men and women was lacking

institutional linkages needed strengthening.

The project therefore supported Jamaica to address these gaps by strengthening gender-responsive climate planning, institutional co-ordination and awareness.

Objective

To strengthen Jamaica's institutional co-ordination for gender-responsive climate action and ensure that climate policies, programmes and projects better address gender inequalities.

Impact

The project contributed to stronger awareness of gender and climate change among national stakeholders, and resulted in the development of Jamaica's Gender and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in 2022. It also supported Jamaica's broader climate finance readiness and accreditation process to the Green Climate Fund, including work linked to the country's first National Gender Policy.

Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries were government officials and national institutions involved in climate change and gender equality. The wider intended beneficiaries include women, men and vulnerable groups who stand to benefit from more inclusive and gender-responsive climate policies, programmes and projects.

Commonwealth Secretariat
Marlborough House, Pall Mall
London SW1Y 5HX
United Kingdom

thecommonwealth.org

The Commonwealth
Climate Finance Access Hub

D20663