The Commonwealth

Overview of the

Climate Change Programme

2026

Overview

The Commonwealth Climate Change Programme supports member countries to strengthen resilience, accelerate mitigation, improve access to climate finance and advance practical, inclusive climate action.



The Programme works across seven interconnected areas:

Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub
Increase access to finance

Commonwealth Living Lands Charter
Accelerate climate action around land

Commonwealth NDC Programme
Fast-track implementation and achievement of climate targets

Geospatial Programme
Use of geospatial data and information for climate decisions

Low Carbon & Climate Resilient Health Sector
Health sector adaptation and mitigation planning

Integration of Gender & Youth for Climate Action
Promote inclusive climate action

Multilateral Climate Advocacy
Engagement across the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD)

Together, these areas help member countries turn climate commitments into practical, financed and inclusive action.The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub

The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub

The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH), launched in 2015 and headquartered in Mauritius, helps member countries to access climate finance, strengthen institutions and develop bankable climate projects.

Through its hub-and-spokes model, CCFAH embeds Commonwealth National, Regional, and Thematic Advisers in government ministries and partner institutions to provide sustained, country-led support.

CCFAH in numbers

As of August 2026

US$ 644.69 M climate finance mobilised	**131** projects sup-ported	**4,154** officials trained	**191** capacity-building initiatives

Major Areas of Support

- Project Pipeline Development
- Policy and Strategy Support
- Capacity Development
- Climate Finance Readiness
- Knowledge Management, Learning and Sharing
- Gender, Youth & Health Integration

Key project highlights by region

AFRICA

Namibia & Angola
Kunene River Basin resilience project
US$24.55m

Mauritius
Blue Carbon Horizons
US$3m

ASIA-PACIFIC

Maldives
TRACT project
US$25m

Solomon Islands
SOLSKAS
US$25m

Fiji
Climate Adaptation in the Rewa Delta (CARE) Project
US$2.89m

CARIBBEAN

Belize
Transformative Adaptation project
US$5m

Barbados
One Million Trees Readiness
US$451,104

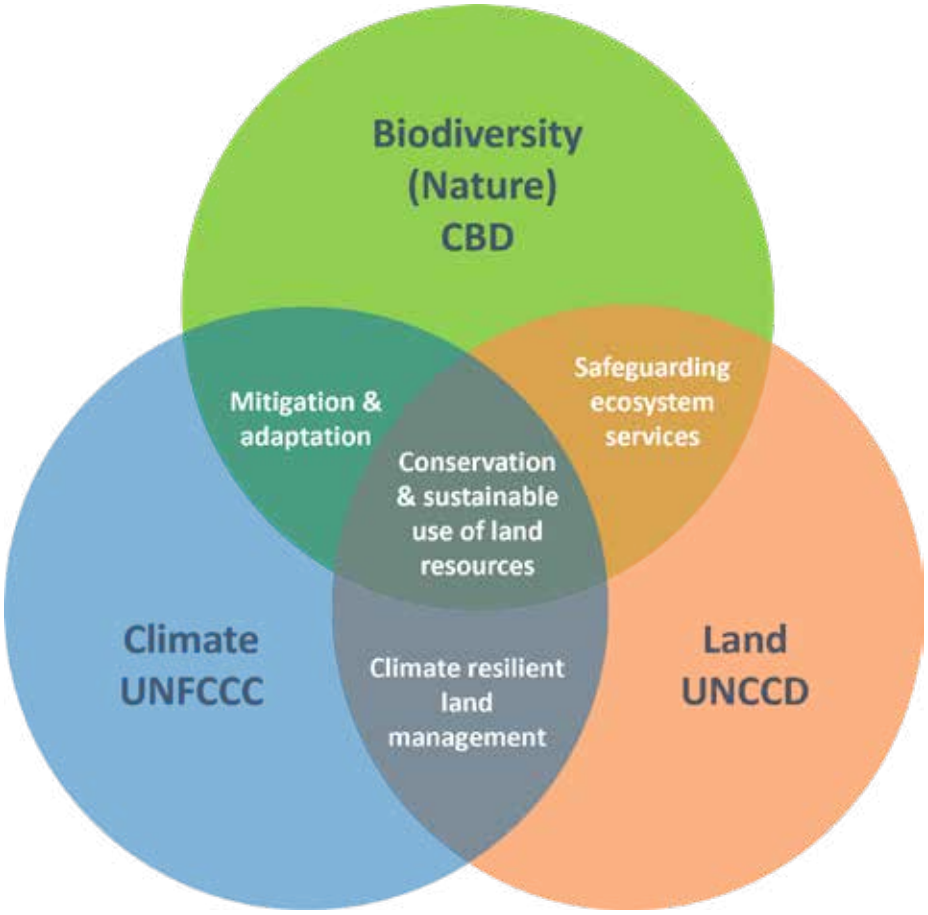


Climate finance writeshop, Namibia, February 2026

The Commonwealth Living Lands Charter

The Commonwealth Living Lands Charter, adopted by Commonwealth leaders in 2022, supports countries to address the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. Bringing together the goals of the three Rio Conventions, the Charter helps translate commitments into coordinated, country-led action aligned with national priorities, while promoting Indigenous knowledge, community-based approaches and nature-positive solutions.

One Charter, three interconnected challenges



From commitments to implementation

The Charter supports countries to translate commitments under the Rio Conventions into integrated land-based action aligned with national priorities, as reflected in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets.

Key results and examples

US$60.35 million
Support for the Zambezi Basin Nature, People and Climate Investment Plan

US$250,000
Support for ecosystem-based adaptation in Fiji and Tuvalu, informed by indigenous and traditional knowledge

US$5.7 million
Support for nature-based seawalls in Fiji

Current work is expanding this integrated approach across land, water, biodiversity, health and climate resilience, while strengthening countries' capacity to develop project pipelines and access finance for nature-positive climate action.

Commonwealth NDC Programme

The Commonwealth NDC Programme supports member countries to advance their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), or national climate plans, by turning climate pledges into implementable and investable action. It helps countries translate NDCs into realistic investment strategies and accelerate implementation towards climate-resilient, low-carbon, gender-responsive and youth-inclusive development, contributing to inclusive and sustainable growth across the Commonwealth.

As an institutional and implementing member of the NDC Partnership, the Commonwealth Secretariat provides targeted support through initiatives such as the Climate Action Enhancement Package and the Partnership Action Fund. Through this support, assistance has been delivered to Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Eswatini, Grenada, Jamaica, Maldives and Zambia

Current work includes support on the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), biennial transparency reports, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems, adaptation investment planning and continued knowledge exchange through the Commonwealth NDC webinar series. Alongside thematic knowledge products, the Programme also builds partnerships and strengthens collaboration to support member countries' NDC implementation.

Climate transparency in action

In 2026, the Commonwealth launched its first review of member countries' Biennial Transparency Reports, supported the first Regional Centralised BTR Review for African LDCs with the UNFCCC, and supported the launch of the SADC Regional Transparency Hub. Together, these initiatives are strengthening ETF implementation, MRV systems, institutional capacity and evidence-based climate reporting.



Selected NDC-related Commonwealth knowledge products



The Commonwealth Geospatial Programme

The Commonwealth Geospatial Programme promotes the use of satellite data, remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS) and earth observation (EO) to strengthen climate planning, disaster risk reduction, food security and climate finance proposal development. Building on the success of CommonSensing, the programme has secured GBP 350,000 through the COP29 Presidency Project on Geospatial and AI for Climate in SIDS, with 23 member countries set to benefit from remote sensing and GIS capacity building.

The three main elements of the programme are as follows.

- **Climate finance proposals:** using satellite remote sensing technology and EO data to feed into climate finance proposals and make them more evidence-based and robust.
- **Evidence-based decision-making:** developing national capacities for longer-term sustainability and business continuity by providing member countries with the knowledge and skillsets for institutionalising evidence-based decision-making.
- **Baselines and references:** promoting the use of EO for calculating baseline and reference conditions, and for measuring the direction and rate of change for projects relating to, for example, sea-level rise, flooding, land degradation, fisheries, coastal protection, food security, exclusive economic zones and maritime agreements.

Current efforts are focused on scaling support through partnerships with Azercosmos, UNOOSA and Planet, including work under the COP29 Presidency Commonwealth SIDS Fund to help SIDS use AI-driven and space-based data for climate policies, adaptation planning, reporting and climate finance proposals.



Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Health Sector

In response to the growing health challenges associated with climate change, the Commonwealth is supporting member countries to strengthen planning, finance and health system resilience. This workstream supports countries to integrate health into climate policy, adaptation planning, climate finance and institutional systems so that health becomes a central pillar of climate resilience.

Its five priority areas of work are:

- strengthen healthcare infrastructure
- enhance water and sanitation systems
- develop early warning systems
- promote community-based adaptation initiatives
- capacity-building.

Support has so far been provided for integrating health into NDC 3.0 in countries including Grenada, Maldives, Mauritius, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka, alongside technical support to health-related climate finance proposals in Grenada, Maldives and Namibia.

Through its transformational leadership, including engagement with the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate Change and Health (ATACH), the Commonwealth Secretariat is also supporting efforts to map financial resources and access mechanisms and identify gaps in climate-health financing. Through partnership with East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC), it has also supported the establishment of the Commonwealth and ECSA Climate-Health Youth Network to strengthen youth engagement and leadership in climate-health action.

Our current work includes:

- support to Mauritius and Seychelles on the climate change health vulnerability and adaptation assessment and health national adaptation plan processes
- climate-health finance mapping
- development of a training manual on climate change, gender and health
- expansion of bankable climate-health concepts and proposals.
- capacity building on climate-health nexus
- integration of disability analysis in climate change health vulnerability and adaptation assessments

Integration of Gender and Youth for Climate Action

This programme area promotes inclusive climate action by strengthening gender responsiveness, youth participation, equitable access to climate finance and diverse leadership in climate policy and delivery.

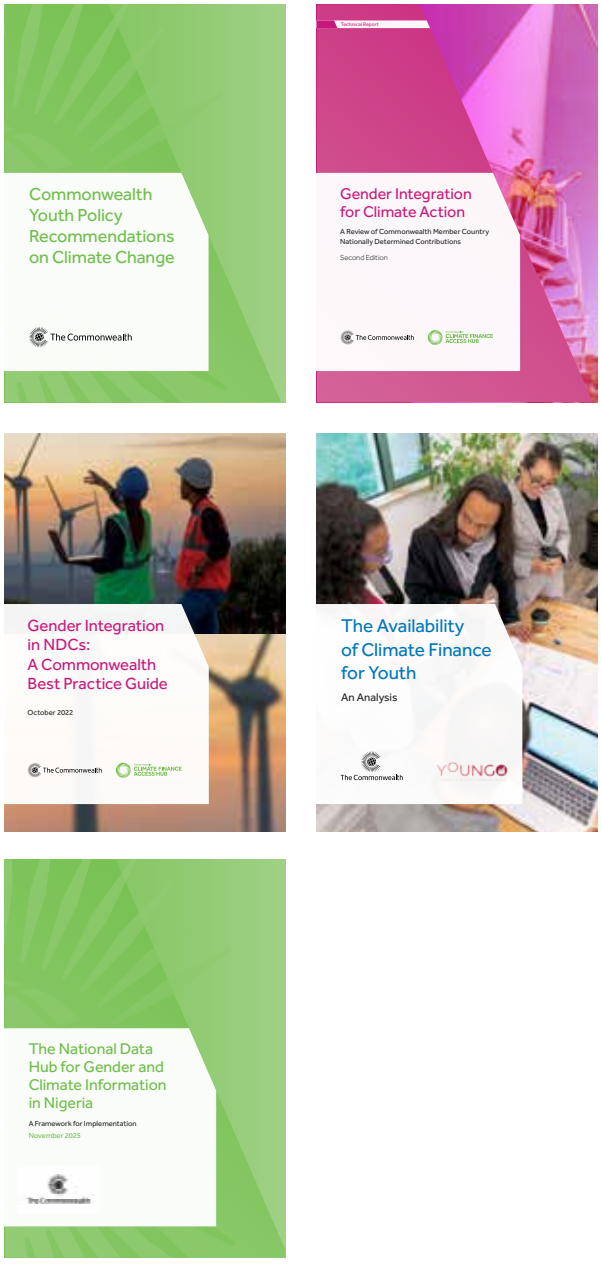
The Commonwealth supports member countries to integrate gender and youth considerations into climate finance proposals, Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, Biennial Transparency Reports and wider climate policy processes. This work has been strengthened by the Commonwealth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

The work is aligned 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. Launched at COP 30, 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.

Current work is moving these commitments into practical implementation. CCFAH has supported the integration of gender, youth and social inclusion into project design and climate finance proposals through country writeshops in Seychelles, Eswatini, Maldives and Sri Lanka. It is also advancing knowledge and learning products, including the Gender and Health Climate-Responsive Training Manual and the Framework on National Data Hub for Gender and Climate Information in Nigeria.

Youth engagement is being advanced through the Commonwealth Youth Multilateral Negotiations Training, launched in 2024 as the Commonwealth Youth Climate Negotiations Training. Across two cohorts in 2024 and 2026, 61 young negotiators were trained, with the second cohort expanding the programme from the UNFCCC to all three Rio Conventions. Of the 2024 cohort, 17 of 27 participants subsequently served on their countries' delegations at COP29, while post-training feedback from the 2026 cohort showed that 94 per cent of respondents reported increased capacity to negotiate. Building on the success of the two cohorts, the Commonwealth Youth Negotiations Fellowship has been launched to provide continued skills development, mentorship and opportunities for practical engagement in multilateral negotiations.

Current priorities include strengthening gender-responsive climate finance pipelines, advancing gender and climate data systems, supporting inclusive project design, and expanding youth training and engagement across climate diplomacy, policy dialogue and climate finance processes.



Commonwealth reports and knowledge products on gender and youth integration for climate action

Multilateral Climate Advocacy

Effective advocacy remains central to the Commonwealth Secretariat's work to ensure that the priorities of vulnerable member countries are reflected in global climate processes.

As a partner of choice on climate action, the Secretariat advances Commonwealth engagement across the three Rio Conventions, strengthening member-country visibility at major climate forums and promoting practical solutions on climate finance, adaptation, transparency and implementation.

Recent engagements have strengthened Commonwealth visibility and partnerships. At COP30, the Secretariat advanced dialogue on inclusive climate finance and highlighted Commonwealth action on NDCs, transparency, adaptation, energy and forests. Engagement with governments, development partners and the private sector has also supported dialogue on investment readiness, blended finance and access to climate finance.

Climate transparency and accountability are also becoming an increasingly important part of the Commonwealth's advocacy. By strengthening national systems, evidence and reporting, the Secretariat helps member countries demonstrate progress, build confidence with partners and improve readiness to access climate finance. This work also creates a stronger basis for showcasing results and bringing country experiences into regional and global discussions.



Commonwealth Climate Finance Roundtable, Marlborough House, London, June 2025



Engagement with the Climate Investment Funds, Marlborough House, London, February 2026



The NDC Readiness Regional Forum, Mauritius, February 2026

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For more information about the Commonwealth Secretariat's Climate Change Programme and CCFAH please scan the QR code, or contact Uzoamaka Nwamarah, Adviser and Head, Climate Change: climatechange@commonwealth.int.

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

Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX, United Kingdom
Tel: **+44 (0)20 7747 6500** **www.thecommonwealth.org**

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