

Terms of Reference/Job Description

Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser - LESOTHO

Ministry of Energy and Meteorology, Lesotho Meteorological Services

Post Title:	Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser
Project Title:	Enhancing the Institutional Capacity of The Ministry of Energy and Meteorology (Lesotho Meteorological Services) to Access Climate Finance
Project Location:	LESTOHO
Duration:	1 year (with the possibility of extension)
Responsible To:	Adviser and Manager, Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub, Climate Section, Commonwealth Secretariat; and Director, Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS), Ministry of Energy and Meteorology, The Kingdom of Lesotho
Start Date:	2024

Context

Background

This Project will aid the Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS) to enhance its ability to access climate finance by strengthening and, where necessary, supporting the establishment of institutional mechanisms and modalities to seek, receive and utilise international climate finance. This project will also support the country with wider efforts to mainstream climate change across national plans by enhancing the skills and expertise of staff in the host ministry and other relevant ministries and agencies. The expert will provide guidance, support and coordination in accessing climate finance. Furthermore, in order to take advantage of the direct access modalities for international climate finance, this programme will support the development of a pipeline of climate change projects into full proposals for submission to potential funders.

This technical assistance is delivered under the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) which supports small and vulnerable states with improved access to climate finance to achieve their adaptation and mitigation goals. To do this, the CCFAH places long-term Advisers in key national ministries in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) across the Commonwealth. The Advisers support national efforts to access and effectively use international climate finance, with particular focus on developing local capacity and South-South cooperation.

Situation Analysis

Climate change is an existential threat to the least developed countries (LDC) such as Lesotho. Climate variability and change is impacting Lesotho through increased frequency and intensity of climate hazards such as droughts, episodes of heavy rain fall, heavy snow, Hailstorms, late and early frosts, strong winds, heatwaves, and flash flooding. This condition is currently affecting, and is very likely to further affect, the overall country's development and economy. Given that, these reefs support both the country's tourism and fisheries

industries whereupon the people depend almost fully, climate change is a profound threat to its very economic base. Tourism is the dominant sector of the Maldivian economy, and its operations are intimately connected to a diverse range of value chains which provide goods and services related to agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing, construction, energy, water and waste management. Climate change undermines the resilience, viability and profitability of these value chains both directly and indirectly.

Lesotho has established policies, strategies, plans and programmes to advance low-carbon development in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. The Government of Lesotho considers the response to climate change as an issue that warrants as broad an intervention as possible, i.e., requiring participation of all tiers of government, traditional leaders, the non-governmental organisations, the private sector, development partners, women, and youth

Lesotho is currently implementing its second National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP II) 2018/19-2022/23. The NSDP II pillars include i) Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Private Sector-led Job Creation; ii) Strengthening Human Capital (through developing human capabilities in Health, Education, Nutrition and Social Protection); iii) Building Enabling Infrastructure; and iv) Strengthening National Governance and Accountability Systems. The theme of NSDP II is Employment and Inclusive Growth: In Pursuit of Economic and Institutional Transformation for Private Sector-led Jobs and Inclusive Growth.

Lesotho also developed the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2017 -2027. The overarching objective of the policy is to ensure that all stakeholders address climate change impacts and their causes through the identification, mainstreaming and implementation of appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures, while promoting sustainable development.

Specifically, the policy fosters development of processes, plans, strategies, and approaches that:

- i. Promote climate-resilient, social, economic and environmental development that is compatible with, and mainstreamed into, national development planning and national budget-setting processes;
- ii. Explore low-carbon development opportunities, nationally and internationally, in order to promote the sustainable use of resources; and
- iii. Strengthen a framework that promotes efficient climate change governance, strong international cooperation, capacity building, research and systematic observations, clean technology development, transfer and use, education, training and public awareness and financing in a way that also benefits the most vulnerable through the implementation arrangements to be defined in the strategy

The National Climate Change Implementation Strategy (NCCPIS) of 2017 outlines action guidelines to build a climate resilient society and promote green development pathways by mainstreaming and integrating climate change into key national socio - economic and environmental sectors. To this effect, the NCCPIS identifies exploring low-carbon development opportunities, nationally and internationally, in order to promote the sustainable use of resources as one of its strategic objectives.

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) developed in 2017 presents Lesotho's two-fold strategy for climate change action. The country's primary focus is on activities which enhance the country's adaptive capacity and build the resilience to the impacts of climate change. The review of the NDC is underway currently and will be completed in October 2022

with the aim of increasing the ambition of reducing emissions and increasing Lesotho's resilience.

The Guidelines For The Integration Of Climate Change In National, Sectoral And Local Policies, Strategies And Development Plans were developed in 2018 as a tool for mainstreaming or integrating climate change in planning and decision-making processes, as it is a critical tool which ensures that climate change actions and poverty reduction are implemented simultaneously, taking into account risks and opportunities while pursuing mitigation and adaptation measures that are in tandem with long-term development objectives of a country.

Currently, the existing framework for Lesotho to guide investments in climate change adaptation is provided for by the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) of 2007. The NAPA identified urgent and immediate adaptation needs for Lesotho. It identified and prioritized eleven adaptation activities of which some have been completed while others are still under implementation.

In order to effectively plan, implement and monitor the progress towards the aforementioned goals and in general successful implementation of the Paris Agreement's transparency requirements and overcome existing gaps and barriers, it is necessary to enhance Lesotho's institutional, financial, human and technical capacities - urgently, and for the long term. This will also enable the country to track progress of and regularly update its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and ensure the most efficient use of existing resources. Lesotho's NDC contains both a mitigation and adaptation component. The NDC focuses on crucial actions to strengthen the country's resilience to climate impacts and prioritizes mitigation actions in energy, transport, and waste sectors. In this regard, Lesotho has set an ambitious target of achieving a 25% conditional and 10% unconditional emission reduction by 2030, in the context of scaled of donor assistances. Effective implementation of the activities within the different sectors requires coordination between line ministries and a robust system for monitoring, reporting and verification at the national level.

Lesotho is currently working with UNEP DTU in the implementation of its Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) project and the readiness support through Green Climate Fund (GCF) to develop the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) for Lesotho. Another key activity which is in the final stages is the support received through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) to develop a project document, which will aim at enhancing the reporting and tracking of climate actions, including the strengthening of existing climate finance tracking mechanisms in the country once it is implemented. There is also a Readiness Support Green Climate Fund for Lesotho to support to be able to establish appropriate institutional frameworks that will enable the country to benefit from the available GCF direct access financing window. The support will strengthen the ability of the country to participate in different mechanisms directed to facilitate adaptation and mitigating the effects of climate change and to fulfil country's obligations and commitments to the UNFCCC. The Government of Lesotho identified the office of the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Meteorology as a National Designated Authority (NDA), and National Implementing Entities (NIEs) is not yet identified.

The Government of Lesotho expressed interest as well as proactively reached out to the Commonwealth Secretariat for the assistance and support in realisation and implementation of its climate resilient strategy and finance mobilisation.

This technical assistance to Lesotho is delivered under the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) which aims to facilitate improved access by small and vulnerable countries to climate finance to meet priority needs of the country in achieving resilience as well as securing sustainable development. To do this, the Hub places long-term advisers at

regional and national levels within Small States and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and other vulnerable countries in the Commonwealth, to support national efforts to access and effectively use international climate finance. The focus is on supporting countries to build the necessary capacity to access climate finance through on-job training in developing project proposals and completing application procedures for relevant funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund and through promoting South-South cooperation, exchange and mutual learning.

In this regard, the Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser will provide the necessary support for capacity enhancement around proposal development, programming, and management of climate financing strategies. The adviser will work together with the climate finance focal point of the Ministry and will also support other relevant stakeholders and agencies through the focal point of the Ministry. The adviser will consider all legal frameworks of Lesotho other relevant government's policy documents and frameworks as a primary policy tool to execute the work program

III. The Scope of the Assignment is Expected to include the following:

The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) supports Commonwealth member countries in accessing finance from all sources - public, private, international, and regional.

Output 1: Project proposals developed in response to relevant climate finance funding envelopes

Expected activities include (but not limited to):

- Develop or review existing GCF's country action plan for the development of robust project proposals to be submitted to GCF funding.
- Develop or review concept notes provided in the GCF country action plan to identify the most relevant project concepts that could be further developed as full funding proposals
- Support the climate finance unit in the process for financial structuring, modelling, and proposal finalisation for the selected proposals;
- Investigate and apply financial blending and co-financing principles and approaches in preparation of funding proposals to enhance the approval potential of projects and programmes by international and regional climate finance institutions;
- Undertake capacity building as per the priorities and action plans of climate finance for staff in key stakeholders to undertake and manage the various tasks associated with the formulation, application, and submission of climate finance funding requests.
- Lead the proposal development and finalisation for the pipeline project (from concept to full proposal).
- Assist integration of climate change into the national budget

Output 2: Preparation of accounting and operational manuals and procedures for the establishment of the Climate Change Fund,

Expected activities include (but not limited to):

- Review existing funds to facilitate formulation of initial concepts to develop a special climate change fund
- Under the guidance of the climate finance focal point, prepare the best model (trust or any other models) to formulate the climate change fund.
- Assist in drafting the operational manuals and procedures for the establishment of the Lestho's Climate Change Fund

- Assess existing procedures for similar funds in the context of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDC) and provide recommendations based on best practices
- Provide technical support to the legal, financing and other focal points of the Ministry to draft the legal document to formulate the fund;
- Collaborate with climate finance focal points of the Ministry in undertaking joint financing and capacity building efforts;

Output 3: Development of climate insurance mechanisms for relevant economic sectors in the country

Expected activities include (but not limited to):

- Identify and assess the existing and potential climate related risks in the country, that could fit into climate insurance to develop concepts on climate insurance mechanisms for the key livelihood and potential key economic sectors
- In consultation with key stakeholders, propose measures to strengthen the existing risk insurance mechanisms in place and make recommendations to introduce new mechanisms if necessary
- Support climate finance focal points to develop a polite insurance mechanism for a key community livelihood sector such as agriculture or fisheries, and this shall be developed based on the situation analysis and also based on potential replication in the future
- Formulate recommendations including a Climate Risk Management Plan for the implementation of the proposed measures to mitigate climate risks. This should also include a framework for monitoring and evaluating the performance/success of the proposed measures
- Provide necessary training, knowledge sharing and capacity building of staff.

III. Implementation Arrangements

The Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser (CNCFA) will be based in LMS of the Ministry of Energy and Meteorology, reporting on a day-to-day basis to the Director. The expert will provide a monthly progress report to the reporting ministry in the country.

The appointee will be required to submit an inception report to Commonwealth Secretariat within 4 to 6 weeks of commencement of duties. This report will be agreed with the reporting officer and stakeholders and will set the context, work plan and baseline against which progress can be measured during the project period. The Expert will be required to submit a mid-term report at six-months that will provide an update on accomplishments, risks, how to mitigate such and plan for the following six months and a final report at the completion of one year.

V. Transfer of Expertise

The Commonwealth Secretariat attaches particular importance to the transfer of expertise and knowledge to counterparts at national level. The Adviser in his/her discussions with the reporting officer should draw attention to the need for staff from key agencies to be assigned as counterparts at the beginning of the assignment. This should be reported in the Inception Report. A training programme for key counterpart staff should be produced by the Adviser and agreed with the reporting officer. An update on this should be provided in the first progress report.

VI. Gender Mainstreaming and Youth

The Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser under this project will be expected to actively support the Commonwealth Secretariat's Gender Equality Policy. This Policy provides a mandate and framework for realising the Commonwealth's commitment to mainstreaming gender equality and equity into all its policies, structures, systems and operations. It is intended to strengthen and guide the collective effort of all Secretariat staff to ensure that women, men, girls and boys benefit equally from their work.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is also committed to supporting governments in developing countries to implement youth-focused policies and programmes. The Commonwealth supports young people to lead change and be recognised as development partners, by promoting their engagement at all levels of decision-making.

The Adviser will be expected to highlight and respond to specific gender and youth issues attached to the process under this project, which will be included in all project reporting.

VII. Required Skills and Experiences

Academic qualifications:

- A post-graduate qualification (Masters degree is essential) in any of the following: Climate Change, Environmental Studies/ Economics, Natural Resources Management; Energy; Project Management; Business Studies; or any other related subject.

Competencies:

- Demonstrated integrity, accountability and respect for diversity.
- Understanding of the circumstances of developing countries on climate change.
- Ability to document success case studies and package knowledge.
- Knowledge of platforms for facilitating exchange of knowledge and experiences.
- Technical skills for assessing climate change impacts along with the identification of requisite adaptation measures.
- Ability to formulate climate change adaptation and mitigation project proposals and budgets in compliance with climate finance principles, regulatory requirements and project financial analysis.
- Developing and implementing resource mobilisation plans and strategies.
- Keeps abreast of new developments in climate change and climate/green finance.
- Computer literacy in Microsoft packages (MS Word, MS PowerPoint, MS Excel, and Outlook).
- Demonstrate strong interpersonal and motivational skills and the ability to work effectively within and across teams and.
- Able to work independently with minimal supervision and under pressure.

Experience:

- At least 8 years of work experience in climate policy development and management of projects in the area of climate change, energy, forestry, biodiversity, agriculture and technical assistance initiatives.
- Demonstrated knowledge and extensive experience in the climate finance space including climate finance readiness, grant proposal writing ,climate change capacity building or technology transfer.

- Demonstrated experience in resource mobilization, stakeholder relationship building and collaboration with government agencies, donors and/or international development partners, and non-government organisations.
- Proven experience in developing knowledge products, including analytical pieces, papers, reports and related products.
- Experience in developing countries in general and demonstrated experience in Africa.

Language

- Fluency in both written and spoken English is essential.
- Knowledge of a relevant additional language is desirable.