

Terms of References

The contractor will undertake the role of “Climate Finance Officer”
(Individual Long-term Consultant)

I. Background:

The devastating impacts of climate change have increased in Africa and include severe droughts, floods, reduced agricultural yields, food and water insecurity. Climate change threatens the economic growth of African states and impedes progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The recent IPCC report has found that the GDP per capita for 1991–2010 in Africa was on average 13.6% lower compared to if climate change had not occurred.

To address this concerning situation, African Heads of States launched the African Adaptation Initiative (AAI) at the COP21 in Paris in 2015. This was the result of a mandate provided by the 25th African Union Summit to the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to enhance support to Africa on adaptation together with the African Group of Negotiators, in order to respond to increasing climate change challenges. AAI is designed as the initiative of Africa for Africa aimed at strengthening the resilience of African countries where communities, ecosystems, and economies are safeguarded against the adverse impacts of climate change.

AAI’s vision is to achieve enhanced adaptation on the Continent and a significant contribution to climate resilience in the context of implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the African Union’s (AU’s) 2063 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Initiative’s mission is to accelerate and scale up adaptation efforts across the continent, enhancing the capacity of nations to respond to the impacts of climate change through strategic planning, financing, and implementation of adaptation projects.

Since its launch in 2015, AAI has achieved visibility and reputation as a responsive adaptation initiative for Africa. This is the result of four years of strategic consultations, plans and partnerships under AAI Phase I (2015-2016) and AAI Phase II (2017-2019) as well as recent work under AAI Phase III (2020-2030), which is ongoing. During these seven years, AAI has established itself as the leading Africa-led initiative for coordinated adaptation action across Africa. From being a concept developed by the African Group of Negotiators and the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to becoming an African-owned initiative backed by all 54 African countries, the AAI has successfully evolved into a promising vehicle for achieving transformative adaptation results for African countries.

However, critical gaps remain in Africa’s adaptation landscape that are important to fill. To continuously working to bring adaptation to the needed level and to deliver upon its

vision and mission, AAI aims to transition from an initiative to a fully developed and well-established institution by 2030. The AAI's actual organisational Structure includes the AAI Champion, spearheading the initiative and appointed by the African Union; the Steering Committee that advises and oversees AAI's work; and the Technical Support Unit (TSU), that serves as the Secretariat to the Initiative and is responsible for the day-to-day operationalisation of AAI.

Under the direction of a Coordinator, the TSU develops multi-year work plans, with supporting project management tools and processes, which include budgets, resource plans, theories of change, and logical framework and indicator frameworks to facilitate project and partnership implementation and coordination, investment and resource mobilisation, and monitoring, evaluation and learning processes. The TSU is composed of a team with the skills, experience and knowledge necessary to build momentum on adaptation in Africa alongside a wider ecosystem of core partners.

To support the implementation of our mandate and reinforce the human resource capacity of the TSU, we are looking for a motivated and dynamic individual to fill the role of Climate Finance Officer, working as core team member to support the achievement of our objectives by providing expert guidance on financial structuring, accessing climate finance, and building the capacity of stakeholders to develop robust climate adaptation proposals. This position will play a key role in expanding the Africa's access to new and additional funding, including bilateral trust funds, thematic funds, and climate finance. The Climate Finance Officer will report directly to the TSU Coordinator.

II. Objectives of the position

Africa faces significant challenges in accessing climate finance, crucial for addressing the impacts of climate change. Despite being one of the region most vulnerable to climate change, Africa receives a disproportionately small share of global climate finance. The barriers include complex application processes, stringent eligibility criteria, and a lack of technical expertise to prepare competitive funding proposals. Additionally, political instability and inadequate institutional frameworks further complicate efforts to secure the necessary financial resources.

The demand for climate finance in Africa is immense, encompassing a wide range of needs from infrastructure resilience to community-based adaptation projects. However, existing financial mechanisms often fail to align with the unique needs and capacities of African countries. This misalignment leads to underfunded projects and missed opportunities for sustainable development. Moreover, the fluctuating and unpredictable nature of international climate finance flows adds another layer of difficulty for African nations striving to implement long-term adaptation strategies.

The suitable incumbent for the position of Climate Finance Officer will deploy his/her expertise to support AAI TSU to realize Africa's major adaptation initiatives by addressing the aforementioned barriers. The main objectives of the position are:

- Provide expert guidance on financial structuring and accessing climate finance;
- Support the development of robust funding proposals for climate projects;
- Build the capacity of local stakeholders to enhance financial readiness;
- Foster partnerships with financial institutions to secure consistent and substantial climate finance; and
- Drive effective and sustainable climate action across the continent by enhancing strategic planning capabilities of African entities.

III. Key responsibilities

The Climate Finance Officer is expected to play a crucial role in advancing AAI's mission to strengthen the resilience of African countries to climate change and enhance their capacity to secure and effectively utilize climate finance. Thus, the selected candidate will be charged with the followings:

1. Proposal development and financial structuring:

- Provide support to the APIA Programme coordination team and collaborate with the technical assistance firm in developing competitive funding proposals for submission to international climate finance institutions such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund (AF); and
- Assist GCF and AF entities targeted by the APIA Programme in designing the financial structuring of their adaptation project/programme proposals.

2. Mobilizing co-funding:

- Identify and pursue opportunities to mobilize co-funding for climate adaptation projects, particularly with financial institutions such as banks, development finance institutions (DFIs), and other private sector entities;
- Establish and maintain relationships with key financial institutions, including banks and DFIs, to foster collaboration and secure additional funding streams;
- Work closely with these institutions to align their investment strategies with climate adaptation goals and identify potential co-investment opportunities;
- Collaborate with the APIA Programme coordination team and other stakeholders to develop compelling co-funding proposals by ensuring that these proposals highlight the

benefits and impacts of joint financing arrangements and demonstrate the value proposition for financial institutions and other potential co-funders; and

- Assess and implement co-financing opportunities to leverage additional resources for AAI's initiatives.

3. Capacity building:

- Support capacity-building activities for GCF and AF accredited entities, particularly in areas that fall within his/her expertise.

4. Stakeholder engagement and participation:

- Participate in different forums to represent AAI and contribute to discussions on climate finance and adaptation;
- Engage with key stakeholders to facilitate access to climate finance and foster partnerships to enhance the impact of AAI's adaptation initiatives; and
- Facilitate consultations and collaboration among stakeholders to align on climate finance priorities and strategies.

5. Policy and advisory

- Advise AAI and its partners on strategies for engaging with climate finance mechanisms; and
- Provide insights on policy development to enhance the alignment of national and regional strategies with international climate finance requirements.

6. Knowledge management

- Capitalize on information and disseminate knowledge products to support climate finance readiness; and
- Document and share best practices and lessons learned to inform future climate finance efforts.

V. Qualifications and Experience:

- Advanced University degree in the fields of climate change, finance, development economics or sustainable development financing;
- Minimum of four (4) years of experience related to banking, climate financing and/or sustainable development financing analysis;

- Strong and demonstrated track record of policy analysis;
- Language requirement: Proficient in both written and oral English and French; and
- Computer skills: Demonstrable skills in office computer use - word processing, spread sheets, etc.

VII. What we offer

AAI offers a dynamic, high profile and international working environment in a growing organization. You will have the opportunity to draw upon the substantial expertise available at AAI and its partner organizations across the world and will be given an opportunity to support the shaping of international policies and global action on climate change, working at the highest governmental levels and collaborating with governments on all continents. The post will be located at AAI TSU operational Office at UCLG Africa headquarters in Rabat, in Morocco, on a full-time basis (40 hours per week). The initial duration of the assignment is twelve (12) months.

VIII. How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit their CV, a cover letter and financial proposal, by **Sunday, 25th of August 2024** to the email address: AAIRecrutement@uclga.org and mention « **Climate Finance Officer based in Rabat** » in the e-mail subject line.

IX. Selection Process

The selection will be made after evaluation of the candidates' qualifications and experience.