
Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate

Nature Workstream Workshop: Taking stock of Nature: Insights from Institutional Partners 16th May 2023

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The Commonwealth

Nature Based Initiatives in the Commonwealth led by Head of Commonwealth of Nations

- The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) was launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta in 2015, with the vision of creating a pan-Commonwealth network of forest conservation projects that marks Her Majesty The Queen's service as Head of the Commonwealth to the Commonwealth and conserves indigenous forests for future generations. It is the first environmental initiative that The Queen gave her name to. The Queen persuaded Heads of Governments to plant at least a million trees in each of their countries. [The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy | Royal Commonwealth Society \(royalcommonwealthsociety.org\)](https://royalcommonwealthsociety.org/qcc/)
- The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) was a UK initiative to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in October 2021. Three million trees had been planted across the UK by the conclusion of this initiative in March 2023. [The Queen's Green Canopy \(queensgreencanopy.org\)](https://queensgreencanopy.org/)
- King Charles, currently Head of The Commonwealth has been championing against Climate Change and Biodiversity loss for over five decades.
- At the World Economic Forum in 2020, then Prince Charles launched the Sustainable Markets Initiative (SMI) to build a global co-ordinated effort to enable private sector to accelerate the transition to a sustainable future. The central focus of his initiative is [Nature, People and Planet](#).

Commonwealth Initiatives

- Commonwealth Secretariat's engagement in **Climate Change has a key focus on Nature Based Solutions**. The mechanisms involve Advocacy; Access to Finance; Technical Assistance and Capacity Building; Evidence Based Analyses to inform and influence Policy.
- **Advocacy** through Commonwealth Finance Ministers High level group for Commonwealth Call for a New Financial Architecture.
- **Technical Assistance and Capacity Building**
 - **Commonwealth Universal Vulnerability Index (CW-UVI)** which has informed as acknowledged by the proposed UN Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (UN-MVI)
 - Disaster Risk Finance Portal to assist countries facing natural disasters; supporting countries with **Debt for Nature Swaps**
 - Mobilising Finance for Nature based solutions

Taking stock of Nature: Insights from Commonwealth Secretariat

Commonwealth Secretariat covers land and oceans in our quest to protect nature, climate and people depending on it.

- The [Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub](#) - a vehicle to close the finance gap through project & readiness support especially for SIDS, with country presence to deliver at speed and scale.
- [Blue Charter](#) helps Commonwealth countries work together solving ocean-related challenges and take sustainable ocean action.
- [Living Lands Charter](#) is synergizing actions of the three Rio Conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification focused on Nature based Solutions (NbS).
- [Discussion paper](#) on financing nature-based solutions, highlighting Commonwealth examples- COP 27

Thematic areas:

- Climate Resilient Agriculture for Food Security
- Sustainable Green Cover & Biodiversity
- Soil & Water Conservation & Management
- Carbon Neutral & Climate Resilient Livestock Rearing & Animal Husbandry
- Indigenous people, local communities & climate resilient development

Implementation Strategy

1. Evidence Based Analysis and Policy Influence
2. Financing for Implementation
3. Institutional Structure and Governance
4. Technical Assistance and Capacity Building
5. Knowledge sharing and Management

Support in Implementation of NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs and LDN targets

Project Examples

 Regional

Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) in the development of a [successful nature-based solutions proposal to be funded by the Climate Investment Funds \(CIF\)](#) that will focus on the Africa's Zambezi River Basin Region, cutting across Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Tanzania

 National level



Integrating climate smart approaches into the agriculture sectors for increased community resilience, sustainable food and nutrition security and livelihoods for Tonga



Land restoration and knowledge management in Ohangwena and Kunene regions in attainment of the LDN and NDC targets under the Bio-Bridge Initiative