

Climate Change Communications and Knowledge Management Support to the Africa Union for Implementation of the Green Recovery Action Plan

TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND

The African Union (AU) is a continental body consisting of the 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent. To ensure the realization of AU objectives and the attainment of the Pan African Vision, Agenda 2063 was developed as a 50 year (2013 to 2063) strategic framework for Africa's long term socio-economic and integrative transformation. It has twenty goals well aligned with the SDGs, one of which, is "Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities" focusing on; Sustainable natural resource management and Biodiversity conservation, Sustainable consumption and production patterns, Water security and Climate resilience and natural disasters preparedness and Renewable energy (read more at <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/goals>).

The implementation of the Agenda 2063 is largely through the African Union Commission (AUC) which is the AU's secretariat in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities¹ (RECs) and the regional commissions². Supported by AU's high level decision-making coordination mechanisms and organs, which also strengthen Africa's participation and active involvement both in global negotiations and in international agreements on the environment

The coming in of Covid-19 pandemic represents the biggest global economic shock and has exposed and exacerbated economic, societal and environmental challenges globally and especially in Africa. According to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) report 'Building Forward for an African Green Recovery' together with the United Nations Secretary-General's Policy Brief³ on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa, among other studies, the pandemic has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities across the region. World Bank estimates that an additional 23 million people will be pushed into extreme poverty and 20 million jobs could disappear, costing Africa up to \$500 billion in revenue. Food insecurity and debt are rising, and hard-won development gains are being lost.

The recovery effort from the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa, presents an unprecedented opportunity that delivers cleaner, healthier, more resilient and more inclusive economies and societies, especially to protect the most vulnerable sectors of society including women and the youth that are the most adversely effected by the economic fallout of the pandemic. Moreover, an opportunity to align with the United Nations 2030 Agenda on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union's Agenda 2063, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biodiversity (UN CBD) and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

¹ The AU recognizes eight RECs, the: Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC).

² Recently three regional commissions have been established, including the Sahel commission chaired by the Republic of Niger, the Congo Basin commission chaired by the Republic of Congo, and the Commission for African Island States chaired by the Republic of Seychelles.

³ https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_policy_brief_on_covid-19_impact_on_africa_may_2020.pdf

About the AU Green Recovery Action Plan

The AU Green Recovery Action Plan was developed jointly by the African Union Commission, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Office of the Chair of AMCEN and the United Kingdom in collaboration with the NDC Partnership. The Action Plan will tackle the combined challenges of the COVID-19 recovery and climate change, by focusing on critical five areas of joint priority: (i) Climate finance, including increasing flows, efficiency, and impact of funding (ii) renewable energy, energy efficiency and national Just Transition Programmes (iii) Nature-based solutions and focus on biodiversity through work on sustainable land management, forestry, oceans, and ecotourism (iv) Resilient agriculture, by focusing on inclusive economic development and green jobs; and (v) Green and resilient cities, including a focus on water (flooding and water resources) and enhancing information, communication and technology.

Under the leadership of the African Union Commission, the Green Recovery Action Plan seeks a green economic transformation that will require strong partnerships and coordination with public and private investors to deliver up to the magnitude proposed in the plan. Within the existing institutional mechanisms, it is proposed to establish co-champions for each thematic area - a member state and an international partner. The co-champions will be steering the coordination, resource mobilization and technical support for Green Recovery efforts within the specific thematic area across the continent.

Specifically, member states will be supporting: the development of and integration of Principles of Green Recovery into ongoing and future plans and investments; Monitoring and tracking the implementation of the GRAP and participate in events related to GRAP. The international partners are requested to: prioritising investments and technical support for African Union Member states; supporting the development of and integration of Principles of Green Recovery into ongoing and future plans and investments; providing dedicated technical experts/leads within the AU Commission to liaise with Regional Economic Commissions and Member States on the GRAP; supporting a few 'signature' initiatives to push forward dialogue in Africa, including setting up task forces for the different thematic areas for example a Task Force for Climate Finance, Task Force on Renewable Energy or Green Recovery; and supporting lessons sharing, side events at major events, commissioned reports under the GRAP, and dialogue platforms.

The Green Recovery Action Plan is intended to complement and enhance African Union member States own recovery plans for a greater impact on the continent as well as the broader African Green Stimulus Programme (AGSP) under the AMCEN. The plan intends to draw from existing initiatives among others the outcomes of the country-driven Economic Advisory initiative and NDCs implementation processes under the NDC Partnership country engagement work and align support to countries.

About the NDC Partnership's Economic Advisory Support

The NDC Partnership is a global coalition of countries and institutions working to mobilize support and achieve ambitious climate goals while enhancing sustainable development. Through our Partnership, members leverage their resources and expertise to provide countries with the tools they need to implement their NDCs and combat climate change to build a better future. Hosted by WRI and the UNFCCC Secretariat, the NDC Partnership has members in all regions of the world, with staff in Washington DC and Bonn, Germany and at regional level.

The NDC Partnership has initiated support to integrate climate actions in recovery planning in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. This initiative is addition to the NDC revision and implementation support to countries. In Africa, the NDC Partnership is active in 34 countries with NDC support and about 20 countries have accessed Economic and Finance Advisors embedded in ministries of finance and/or planning. This support comes at a critical time when many countries are revising their commitments to the Paris Agreement in 2020, through the enhancement of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). While countries design

stimulus packages and recovery plans in response to COVID-19, there is opportunity to ensure that national climate ambition is an integral component of short- and long-term recovery and economic growth strategies.

The AUC joined the NDC Partnership in 2019, with the aim of expanding its partnerships network to leverage expertise and resources to increase support to member countries. A deliberate partnership and resource mobilization strategy will be required to facilitate a coordinated approach of maximizing collaborative resource mobilization.

It is with this background that the Africa Union Commission is seeking for Climate Change Communications and Knowledge Management Expert from the NDC Partnership to provide virtual support to the Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy for 6 months until March 2022 (subject to extension pending funding availability) , to ensure effective, timely and coordinated communications about the implementation progress of the AU Green Recovery Plan and managing an interactive online platform. The NDC Partnership has secured approval and funding from the UK Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy to provide this support, as outlined under these Terms of Reference, developed by the African Union Commission.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE GREEN ECONOMIC ADVISOR

The Climate change Communications and Knowledge Management Expert will work virtually closely with the Green Economic Advisor to ensure timely production of communications materials, sharing of updates information across stakeholders, and managing an interactive online platform of GRAP. The expert will provide communications technical advice and support to the Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE) together with the Climate Change team of the African Union Commission on communications matters for different audiences related to implementation progress of GRAP. The Expert will ensure effective communications and coordination on rolling out the five thematic priority areas of the plan considering other existing green recovery initiatives in the continent. S/he will also document knowledge from the monitoring and progress reports and produce knowledge products for dissemination and capacity building.

The Climate change Communications and Knowledge Management Expert will report primarily to the Director, Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy under the direct supervision of the Head of Division of Sustainable Environment and work in close collaboration with the AUC Climate Change Team and the NDC Partnership Support Unit Africa team. The Expert will be producing monthly and quarterly progress reports about communications related matters of the AU Green Recovery Plan implementation across the continent. S/he will also regularly provide progress reports to the NDC Partnership Support Unit and the focal point of the government of the UK on key deliverables as per the contract.

S/he will perform the following functions:

- Develop a resource communication and outreach strategy for the AU Green Recovery Action Plan
- Increase awareness and understanding of AU green recovery initiatives across state members and mobilize support for the plan.
- Develop an online platform of key stakeholders (national, regional and global) for sharing AU Green Recovery Action Plan related communications, progress and funding opportunities
- Prepare fact sheets and collateral/materials that effectively communicate the AU Green Recovery Action Plan based on the Continental Green Economic Recovery Status Reports and Policy Briefs developed by the Green Economic Advisor.
- Prepare investment fact sheets and briefs for the two annual Donor/Investors Round Table meetings aiming at mobilizing resources for the plan.

- Support the Green Economic Advisor to organize two annual continental technical meetings with relevant stakeholder including Country Based Economic Advisors, country champions and Finance Ministries among others.
- Organize and prepare press releases, speaking notes and presentations for the commission for joint Knowledge and learning events during and post Covid19, to inform /sharpen Africa messages to policy makers. Organize events related to Green economic recovery, the AU summit, AMCEN and CAHOSCC, CoPs, among others.
- Communicate quarterly publications/newsletters on progress of the AU Green Recovery Action Plan across stakeholders, including media coverage with members states and partners across the continent.
- Work with NDC Partnership Support Unit communications team and the UK Government to jointly promote the results of the Partnership Plan implementation, both nationally and internationally

Expected Outcomes

- A resource communication and outreach strategy for the AU Green Recovery Action Plan;
- An operational online database and platform;
- Quarterly continental fact sheets/ communications materials /country briefs on the progress of the plan.
- Press releases and Media coverage at critical events;
- Two annual continental technical meetings with country based Economic Advisors, country champions, and finance ministries, among others;
- Quarterly publications/newsletters on progress of the AU Green Recovery Action;
- CoP26 engagement communication materials for AU about the progress of the plan.

EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Education

- Master's degree or equivalent in knowledge management or communication studies or related field.

Experience

- 5 or more years of relevant experience at regional or international level in covering communication aspects of institutions or programmes;
- Experience in development of knowledge products, facilitating training and communication at regional or national governmental authorities;
- Previous experience with a multilateral or international organization/foundation will be an asset.

Skills

- Strong communication, planning, organizing, and problem solving skills;
- Mature judgment combined with a proactive, energetic approach and excellent interpersonal skills;
- Strong organizational and time management skills;
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines;
- Excellent analytical skills;
- Excellent writing, proficient communication and organization skills.

Applicants shall submit the following documents

- Letter of interest explaining why the applicant considers him- or herself the most suitable for the work
- Personal CV including information about past experience in similar projects / assignments together with contact details for at least 2 referees
- Indication of expected professional fees – daily rate

Application Submission

Application materials should be sent by **20 August 2021** to:

- Margaret Barihaihi, Regional Manager for Anglophone Africa (margaret.barihaihi@ndcpartnership.org)
- John Heermans, Senior Country Engagement Specialist (john.heermans@ndcpartnership.org)