

TERMS OF REFERENCE- CLIMATE FINANCE SPECIALIST

About AECF

The **Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF)** is a leading development finance organization that supports businesses to innovate, create jobs and leverage investments to build resilience and sustainable incomes for rural and marginalized communities in Africa. AECF's goal is to bridge the investment gap between early-stage enterprise and business maturity for entrepreneurs serving the poorest communities.

The AECF provides patient capital to new and innovative business models in the agribusiness and renewable energy sectors across Sub-Saharan Africa through various financing instruments, which include grants, zero-interest loans, guarantees, and working capital facilities. AECF's financing products are supplemented by three additional growth support services to improve the viability and sustainability of our investees, namely, (i) Advisory Services to improve investee internal capabilities (ii) Investment Support in raising commercial capital in significant volumes and (iii) Knowledge and Insights for learning and evidence gathering for policy influencing and advocacy.

AECF has successfully implemented programmes across 26 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, supporting over 343 enterprises, raising US\$ 392 million in funding for programmes, leveraging \$750 million in additional capital and impacting 28 million lives. According to the recent findings by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, there is need for urgent and significant reductions in carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to keep temperature rise well below 2°C and subsequently below 1.5°C. The report further states that it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Therefore, human solutions are required to address the climate change challenge and bolstering climate action will need significant funding. As a result, AECF is looking for an experienced Climate Finance Specialist.

Background

The AECF 2021-2025 strategy aims to build low carbon economies and resilience to climate change across SSA through its interventions. To operationalize the strategy, we are seeking to ramp up efforts in the mobilisation of climate finance, development of quality and bankable projects and programmes and foster strategic partnerships to implement climate change initiatives at scale. The AECF is looking for a dynamic and experienced Climate Finance Specialist with a passion for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience building who will be responsible for leading AECF's climate agenda at strategic and programmatic levels.

The Role

The Climate Finance Specialist will be responsible for identifying, developing, and managing climate finance activities that contribute significantly to the achievement of AECF's mission of building resilience, low carbon economies and sustainable incomes for rural and marginalised communities in Africa. In particular, s/he will support the design and development of climate responsive projects and programmes that offer resilience, low carbon development pathways and growth opportunities for enterprises and low-income households. Further, he/she will principally be responsible for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation measures into AECF's interventions.

The Climate Finance Specialist will guide an interdisciplinary team of sector experts and work alongside the AECF Partnership team to integrate climate change measures into AECF's work and undertake the programme design, which includes preparing project documents in line with different climate funds, feasibility studies, stakeholder consultations, environmental and social studies, climate

screening and risk analysis, adaptation and vulnerability assessments, and gender analyses among others.

Expected Outcomes and Deliverables

Under the overall supervision of the Chief of Investments & Innovation, the Climate Finance Specialist will lead and coordinate and deliver the following project activities in a timely manner:

- Integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation into AECF's current programs.
- Research and analyse information of climate funds available (Donor mapping and understanding their requirements) and accessible by AECF
- Support AECF Climate Finance Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Cooperation with Partners.
- Develop quality and bankable projects and funding proposals.
- Design and implement capacity building training for AECF staff on climate change and climate finance.
- Prepare guidelines and tools for climate-related assessments and for identification and formulation of proposals for funding.
- Structure relevant financing instruments and tools and develop innovative financing and investment mechanisms for climate change projects and programmes.
- Recommend the type of engagements for climate financing including organisational risk appetite on climate financing.
- Design and implement a monitoring and evaluation framework for the climate finance projects.
- Support Information creation and evidence generation and build knowledge products on climate change.
- Facilitate effective communication and provide policy-academia-practitioner engagement platforms on climate change and financing.
- Support development of AECF climate finance work programs, green project pipeline and deal flow, budgets, action plans and ensure compliance with all reporting requirements internally and to all external partners.
- Ensure that AECF is carbon neutral.

Required Qualifications and Experience

- S/he must hold at least a master's degree in climate change, environment and natural resource management, green finance, energy policy, international development, economics, or any closely related field.
- Have a minimum of ten (10) years of experience managing climate change projects and programmes preferably in sub-Saharan Africa in a combination of related fields such as national and international climate policies and measures including climate and green growth; energy and project management; climate finance; and climate-smart agriculture.
- Demonstrated experience in developing quality and bankable projects for financing from various climate funds such as the GCF, LDCF, SCCF, GEF, AF, bilateral climate finance, regional funds, climate innovative funds, and non-governmental climate finance among others.
- Demonstrated experience working with climate finance instruments, renewable energy technologies and private sector development.
- Knowledge on the interlinkages between climate change and other sustainable development goals.
- Understanding of environmental and social safeguards and gender issues.

- Solid knowledge of climate governance frameworks and global climate finance architecture relating to Africa.
- Experience in mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation measures into development interventions in Africa.
- Experience in researching and drafting the technical content of proposals to climate funds or similar multilateral funds.
- Strong oral and written proficiency in English, a good command of French is an added advantage
- Exceptional communication, analytical and writing skills
- Demonstrated ability to think strategically, trouble shoot decisions based on expert judgement and to provide credible leadership.
- Demonstrated intellectual leadership and ability to integrate green finance with a broader strategic overview and corporate vision.
- Demonstrated ability to develop and maintain strategic partnerships.
- Ability to strongly promote and build knowledge products.

The AECF is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The AECF considers all applicants based on merit without regard to race, sex, colour, national origin, religion, age, disability, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law.

If you believe, you can clearly demonstrate your abilities to meet the relevant criteria for the role, please submit your application to recruitment@aecfafrica.org quoting in the subject line the title “Climate Finance Specialist” – AECF/CII/2021.

To be considered, your application must be received by **Sept. 10th, 2021**.

For more information on AECF, please visit www.aecfafrica.org