

Climate Finance Accelerator South Africa: First Cohort of Projects Announced

The Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA) South Africa has announced 13 innovative low-carbon projects that it will support to access finance from investors following a call for proposals that attracted 120 applications. The CFA is part of the UK Government's efforts to help South Africa tackle climate change and support a just transition.

Projects in the CFA cohort come from a range of sectors including waste management, energy and transport. Some of them will increase sustainable mobility alternatives in cities while reducing emissions, whilst others support the growth of renewable energies in South Africa.

To ensure the selected projects are in the best position to attract investment from South African and international financiers, the projects will receive capacity building support in areas such as low-carbon technologies, blending finance from public and private sources, as well as advice on enhancing gender, equality and social inclusion. If they secure funding, the projects will benefit communities across South Africa through pollution abatement, employment opportunities, access to energy, water conservation, improved food safety, and by supporting gender equality and social inclusion efforts.

The CFA is funded by the UK government's Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). By bringing together stakeholders who can develop and finance climate projects at scale the CFA will support South Africa's efforts to meet the priorities set out in its Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.

Acting British High Commissioner to South Africa, Adam Bye, said:

South Africa's Cabinet recently approved a new more ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution ahead of COP26. To help deliver this level of ambition by 2030 and net zero by mid-century, every sector of the economy will need to develop low-carbon alternatives. I am therefore delighted to see the projects the Climate Finance Accelerator is supporting in its first cohort, including in key sectors like water, sustainable agriculture, waste management and green transport. The CFA's support is all about helping unlock the finance that these and other innovative projects will need as part of delivering green growth and transition.

NBI CEO, Joanne Yawitch, a commissioner on the South African Presidential Climate Change Commission (PCCC), said:

SA's climate commitments to the UNFCCC in the lead up to COP26 show an enhanced level of ambition, which the private sector can help deliver through the activation of domestic and international finance. This will enable the realisation of investment potential in SA through the active support of climate projects and SMMEs, thereby ensuring our transition is just, inclusive and economically competitive.

GreenCape Energy and Climate Finance Program Manager, Jack Radmore, said:

The South African ecosystem is perfectly primed for an intervention that supports the country's efforts to implement its Nationally Determined Contribution by bringing together stakeholders that can develop and finance climate projects at scale. If this reorganisation can be done in a "just" way, an opportunity arises to address many of the existing social ills through increased investment, new jobs and new skills. This is particularly true when investing in long-term infrastructure projects which will have lasting economic, environmental and socio-economic impacts.

The projects have been receiving tailored support ahead of a four-day event at the end of October. The support so far has included individual needs assessment discussions and analysis of each of the projects from financial and technical perspectives. The October event will allow project proponents to further refine their financial structuring through tailored discussions with interested financial institutions. The event will also provide an opportunity for all participants to network and for policymakers and other initiatives in the climate finance space to learn from the landscape mapping findings and recommendations.

The CFA projects include:

- [Black Soldier Flies Breeding South Africa](#) – Providing black soldier fly larvae that can be grown by anybody and used to produce products such as protein meal, insect oil, biodiesel, and soil enhancer.
- [Go-Lectric](#) – Providing electric scooters to middle and low-income urban commuters as well as the growing short-distance delivery market. Also developing solar powered battery charging infrastructure.
- [The Green Cab](#) – Setting up a Cab Division where women owner-drivers will operate electric vehicles on a national e-hailing app under The Green Cab brand plugged into corporate services.
- [Greenline Africa](#) aims to revolutionise the way industrial processing produces their heat and steam by transitioning away from fossil fuels to a powerful renewable source – a dynamic solar thermal concentrator. This will reduce manufacturing costs and create sustainable jobs.
- [MOTU](#) – The installation of cloud-based metering and renewable energy equipment in new developments and retrofit buildings. Energy use is monitored in real time with artificial intelligence optimising the use of energy over time.

- [RBN Fund Managers \(PTY\) Ltd and GFA Climate and Infrastructure \(PTY\) Ltd](#) – New instruments to address funding climate infrastructure in Southern Africa by streamlining project financing into a single blended finance instrument through a partnership between commercial banks and institutional investors.
- Renewco – Cutting edge Biogas and other renewable energy solutions for small-medium scale operations, with a positive impact on the natural environment through waste stream management and recovery of water to use for irrigation.
- [Restore Africa Funds](#) – Promotes climate-smart conservation and regenerative agriculture at scale by supporting farmers to adapt to climate change while mitigating agriculture-based emissions and increasing soil carbon sequestration.
- [SANERGY](#) – Applies a circular economy approach to safe waste treatment and reuse, while addressing critical food security and environmental challenges in fast-growing cities. Sanergy’s Nairobi facility has the capacity to transform 72,000 t/yr of waste into insect-protein for animal feeds, organic fertilizers for horticulture, and biomass fuel for industry. Now scoping out expansion to South Africa.
- [Spark Plaid Solar](#) – A solar rooftop marketplace that manages and streamlines the fragmentation of solar installers, product suppliers and financiers to make solar simple for homeowners and businesses.
- [Ukuqala Okusha](#) – The first industrial Black-owned organic fertilizer company to enter the agricultural arena. Sewage is treated using black soldier flies, from which fertilizer protein oil and water are extracted. The profits from the fertilizer are then reinvested into the community.
- [Wetility](#) – Enabling clients to generate and store solar energy, automatically release the stored electricity to power homes and businesses, stay shielded from grid outages and save on energy costs.

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Notes to editors:

- CFA South Africa’s first cohort includes projects from the following businesses: BSF Breeding South Africa; The Green Cab; Greenline Africa (Pty) Ltd & Absolicon South Africa (Pty) Ltd; Go-Lectric; K2021528715 (PTY) Ltd a Joint Venture between RBN Fund Managers (PTY) Ltd and GFA Climate and Infrastructure (PTY) Ltd; MOTU Utilities; Renewco; Restore Africa Funds; SANERGY; Spark Plaid Solar; Ukuqala Okusha; and Wetility.
- The UK’s support to South Africa in sustainable finance: Over £200

million of UK International Climate Finance (ICF) has been spent on programmes in South Africa that support clean technology developments like battery storage, clean energy, coal transition programming, renewable energy and energy efficiency. In addition, through the bilateral UK PACT programme, the UK is this year spending £3.4m in providing technical assistance to support just and accelerated climate transitions, including supporting projects within the areas of energy, sustainable finance and sustainable transport.

- UK's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS): The CFA is funded by International Climate Finance in BEIS. BEIS is the UK government department responsible for business, industrial strategy, science, research and innovation, energy and clean growth and climate change. UK International Climate Finance is the UK government's commitment to support developing countries to respond to climate change. The UK has committed to spend at least £11.6 billion of International Climate Finance between 2021 and 2025. This is the UK's contribution to the developed country goal of mobilising \$100 billion per year in climate finance by 2020, which underpins the Paris Agreement.
- The National Business Initiative (NBI) is a voluntary coalition of companies, working for the past 25 years towards a resilient and inclusive economy, building trust to enable implementation and enhancing the capacity of their stakeholders to participate in economic and social transformation. The NBI's membership includes a significant proportion of the country's leading listed companies, a number of the major state-owned enterprises and a variety of medium-sized firms. Since their inception in 1995, the NBI has made a distinct impact in the spheres of climate change, water, energy efficiency, local economic development, public sector capacity building, further education and training, public private partnerships and more recently in the social transformation sphere.
- GreenCape is a non-profit organisation that drives the widespread adoption of economically viable green economy solutions from South Africa. The team works with businesses, investors, academia and government to unlock the investment and employment potential of green technologies and services, and to support a transition to a resilient green economy. GreenCape's vision is to create a thriving and prosperous Africa using green economy principles. Our aim is to be globally relevant in driving the uptake of green economy infrastructure solutions in the developing world context.
- The global CFA programme is delivered by PwC UK, in collaboration with Ricardo.

UN Human Rights Council 48: UK

statement for the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Cambodia

World news story

The UK delivered this statement welcoming Cambodia's cooperation with the OHCHR as an indication of their commitment to engage on human rights issues.



UK Government

Madam President,

The UK welcomes Prof Muntarbhorn to the role of Special Rapporteur, and we support his assessment of the human rights situation in Cambodia. We also welcome Cambodia's cooperation with the OHCHR as an indication of their commitment to engage on human rights issues.

The UK notes the unique pressures that COVID-19 has placed on countries globally. However, despite the Cambodian Government's good handling of the health aspects of COVID-19, there has been a regression in previously made gains in economic, social and cultural rights, particularly in primary education. As the world begins to emerge from crisis, we urge Cambodia to not lose sight of the human rights implications, and recommit to making positive progress with respect to, and protection of all human rights.

We are also deeply concerned by the regression of democratic space, civil and political rights and freedoms. As Cambodia moves towards elections, we urge the Government to embrace open dialogue with civil society, the political opposition and its people.

The UK is committed to working with Cambodia to support activities to promote a human rights-based approach, including through Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022.

Special Rapporteur,

What measures do you believe the Government needs to take to ensure Cambodians can safely and legally participate in activism particularly on environmental topics?

Published 6 October 2021

[Supreme Court rules in favour of UK Government](#)

Press release

The UK Supreme Court today (6 October 2021) determined that parts of two Scottish Government Bills were outside the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament.



The judgment follows the UK Law Officers' (the Advocate General for Scotland and the Attorney General) referral of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill and the European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill.

The UK Government's concerns with the bills were not about their policy objectives, but that they would place legal obligations on UK Government Ministers in reserved areas and affect UK Parliament in its ability to make

laws for Scotland.

It is important that all legislation clearly reflects the competence and roles of Scotland's two parliaments and governments. The UK Government has been clear that it is the responsibility of both governments as lawmakers to propose legislation that is clear and unambiguous.

Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:

I welcome the UK Supreme Court's decision, which provides vital legal clarity on these two bills.

As set out in the Scotland Act 1998, the Scottish Parliament cannot legislate outwith its areas of competence.

As we have been clear, our concerns were never to do with the policy of the Bills, but about whether they are within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament.

We will continue to work collaboratively with the Scottish Government to address any competence concerns with future Scottish Parliament legislation.

Following the Court's judgment, it is for the Scottish Government to consider their next steps if they wish the Bills to proceed to Royal Assent.

The UK Law Officers referred the bills to the UK Supreme Court using powers set out in the Scotland Act 1998. In advance of that, the Secretary of State for Scotland had written to the Scottish Government to highlight our concerns and suggest remedies.

The UK Government is committed to protecting children's rights, and the legal protection for vulnerable children in England is frequently recognised as being amongst the strongest in the world. The UK Government's commitment to the UNCRC is already reflected in legislation. The Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004, for example, set out a range of duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

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[Additional 11 year ban for disqualified director](#)

Derek Milligan (40), also known as Derrek Milligan, from Sunderland was the

sole director of DMNE Limited and of Dockyard Sunderland when the Insolvency Service had begun an investigation into his activities with DMNE. He had failed to deliver up any accounting records of DMNE, in breach of both his statutory duties and a court order.

Following a creditor's petition at court, Milligan was made bankrupt in August 2015 and resigned as director of Dockyard Sunderland.

In September 2015, Derek Milligan signed a 7 year disqualification undertaking that banned him from acting as a director from October 2015 to October 2022.

Despite being advised to seek legal advice, Milligan appointed himself a director of Dockyard Sunderland in July 2017, which had been renamed HCA Litigation Limited. He did not have the permission of the court to act as a director of HCA Litigation or to be involved in its management.

Milligan signed the company's 2017 accounts filed at Companies House in October that year, and he also instructed solicitors about the lease on the trading premises.

Less than a year later, Sunderland City Council learned the company had absconded from the trading premises. The resulting rent arrears led to a winding up order in May 2018.

Following an investigation by the Insolvency Service, the case was heard in Newcastle County Court on 14 September 2021, where Derek Milligan was disqualified for a further 11 years.

The new disqualification order prevents Derek Milligan from directly or indirectly becoming involved in the promotion, formation or management of a company without the permission of the court.

Rob Clarke, Chief Investigator of the Insolvency Service, said:

Derek Milligan knew the restrictions he was under when he agreed to a disqualification undertaking. He couldn't be a director or be involved in managing a company without the court's approval. Yet he still re-appointed himself.

It's imperative that companies' dealings are transparent, so other businesses know exactly who is managing the company. Anyone trying to hide their involvement will be removed from the corporate arena for a lengthy period and could very possibly face criminal prosecution.

Derek Milligan is of Sunderland and his date of birth is in October 1980.

Company HCA Litigation Limited, previously Dockyard Sunderland, (Company registered number 09207482) was incorporated in September 2014.

The disqualification order was pronounced in the Newcastle County Court on 14 September 2021. The ban is effective from 5 October 2021 and lasts for 11 years.

Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of restrictions](#).

[Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct](#).

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[**Iraq: call for human rights projects proposals under International Programme Fund 2021/22**](#)

World news story

The United Kingdom remains committed to a stable and prosperous Iraq by supporting human rights and civil society, good governance, and open societies.



UK Government

The British Embassy in Baghdad is pleased to announce a call for bids for the financial year 2021 to 2022 under the International Programme Fund.

All project bids must aim to promote, protect, and improve human rights in Iraq. Issues on which we welcome bids include:

- media freedom
- freedom of expression
- human rights defenders
- rule of law

Selection criteria

Bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

- project impact: delivering sustainable, meaningful change and a direct impact on the living conditions of beneficiaries
- project viability: including the capacity of implementing organisation to deliver outcomes
- project design: there must be clear links between the proposed activity and the project outcomes
- risk management: robust analysis of key risks, and a plan of action to manage and mitigate those risks
- value for money: including the number of direct beneficiaries and the scale of achievable outcomes

Successful bids will be for innovative activities that will have the greatest

impact and deliver real change on the freedom of expression and human rights agenda in Iraq. We are less interested in proposals which focus purely on seminars, workshops or the production of research reports that end in themselves. Instead, proposals should include action-oriented ideas which will bring about concrete outcomes.

We draw your attention to the below key points:

- the project proposal should include detailed schedule of activities to be carried out, specifying objectives, indicator, and expected results. This must include the deliverables, the stakeholders, the cost and the duration (start and end) of the execution of the deliverables
- a detailed activity budget must be completed
- projects must be completed by 31 March 2022
- proposals should not exceed 65,000 (GBP)

Process

Budget

Project activity must be completed before 31 March 2022. The total amount of funding available is 65,000 GBP. We are unable to fund multiple-year projects. The successful implementer is required to issue quarterly reports.

Projects not eligible for funding

Projects focused on service delivery or projects that support military, religious affairs, construction activities, capital costs, or mainly staff salaries are ineligible.

Assessment

Bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

- alignment with the above mentioned priorities and outcomes
- clear practical focus leading to tangible next steps
- outcomes are achievable within the funding period
- clear monitoring and evaluation procedures
- strong risk and financial management, including consideration of safeguarding risks
- overall value for money

How to apply

For further information, please write to: HRDP.Bids@fcdo.gov.uk

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