

Speaker Briefing: Towards COP27: African Regional Forum on Climate Initiatives to Finance Climate Action and the SDGs

Your session title: Roundtable 6: Water and Cities

(Day 2: 3rd August 2022)

Session logistics:

- **When:** 3rd August, 2pm-4pm (local time, Ethiopia)
- **Where:** virtual and in-person (at United Nations Conference Centre, UNECA complex, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - room to be confirmed on site).
- **Virtual speaker dial-in:** you will be sent a zoom link and be made a panellist.
- **Session format:** presentations of three projects and panel discussion.

Additional information:

- **Full event agenda:** [here](#)
- **Event page:** <https://tinyurl.com/2md5yvf>
- Useful information for in-person speakers:
<https://www.uneca.org/united-nations-conference-centre-addis-ababa-uncc-aa/information-participants>

Preparation before your session

- **Please register** for the event and you are welcome to listen to other sessions:
 - In-person:
<https://www.uneca.org/content/self-sponsored-participant-registration>
 - Virtual:<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91234567890>
- **Pre-reading:** we will provide you with information on the projects that will be presented at the session in advance and request you familiarise yourself with this.
- **Speaker briefing call:** we do not have a speaker briefing call, but please do contact your session contact points with questions.

Purpose of the regional forums:

- Your session is part of a three-day Africa regional forum, which is part of a regional forum series we are running in the lead up to COP27.
- The forums aim to bring together policymakers and the private sector, particularly private finance, and broader stakeholders to work together more closely on scaling-up capital to emerging markets and developing economies.
- The forums have a particular focus on projects rooted in regional priorities and a compendium of projects will be available at COP27.

- The target audience for the forums and your session include public and private financial institutions, asset owners, asset managers, banks, insurers, development banks, governments and policymakers, private enterprises and innovators seeking funding. The audience includes financial institutions in the Race to Zero and the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero.

Your session objectives:

- This session aims to inspire the target audience to accelerate financing of suitable projects in Africa, with a focus on water and cities.
- It will enhance the discourse on the need for financing to build water-resilient African cities, through sharing examples of potential projects for the continent's urban areas.
- It will also unpack key challenges that new initiatives/projects and financiers face and how these can be overcome.

Session speakers:

Session chair: Hastings Chikoko, Regional Director for Africa, C40.

Project presentations:

- Wanjira Maathai, WRI
- Aklilu Fikresellasie, WRI
- Neil Sandy, Water Impact Unite Fund

Response leads:

- Dr. Frannie Leautier, CEO South Bridge Investments;
- Richard Abel, Managing Director UK Climate Investments, Macquarie Asset Management (virtual)

Session contact points (for questions on the session):

hellenwanjohi@climatechampions.team and sagarikachatterjee@climatechampions.team

Content - background for your session:

- Africa is the fastest urbanising region in the world (OECD, 2020), and most of this growth will be in the continent's less developed intermediary cities.
- The impacts of climate change such as increased drought, more extreme flooding and rising sea levels are all affecting urban water supply. The IPCC projects that this situation will worsen in Africa as extreme heat and precipitation events become more frequent.
- As a result, cities – the nodes of the continent's population growth – will undoubtedly be faced with increasing water-related risks.
- The development of water-resilient cities in Africa is constrained by limited access to finance, in addition to other urban-governance and implementation challenges.
- With public finance solely being woefully inadequate, innovative financial instruments will be the key to unlocking urban water resilience on the continent.

Session flow (90 minutes in total, with 5 minute buffer time)

Section and timing	Session chair	Speaker	Suggested content
Welcome and Introduction 10 minutes	Hastings Chikoko		Introduction to speakers. Session background and purpose.
Project presentations			
Project presentation 10 minutes	The session chair will introduce the presenter, pass to them to present pass to the presenter and may ask a quick follow-up question after the presentation.	The African Cities Water Adaptation Fund (ACWA Fund): Wanjira Maathai and Aklilu Fikreselassie, WRI	Fund rationale and key information.
Project presentation 10 minutes	The session chair will introduce the presenter, pass to them to present pass to the presenter and may ask a quick follow-up question after the presentation.	Neil Sandy: Water Impact Unite Fund	Fund rationale and key information.
Project presentation 10 minutes	The session chair will introduce the presenter, pass to them to present pass to the presenter and may ask a quick follow-up question after the presentation.	Elizabeth Muange: ICRC: Urban Water in Conflict Zones	Fund rationale and key information.
Response leads:			
5 minutes	The session chair will ask Dr Frannie: what work do you have underway in Africa and on this theme? What are	Dr. Frannie Leautier, CEO SouthBridge Investments.	Brief background on your firm and work in the area; reflections on the projects - theme/suitability; and what you look

	your initial reflections on the projects?		for in suitable projects and investments.
5 minutes	The session chair will ask Richard: hat work do you have underway in Africa and on this theme? What are your initial reflections on the projects?	Richard Abel, Managing Director UK Climate Investments, Macquarie Asset Management	
5 minutes		Potential additional speaker - tbc.	
Questions for all speakers/moderated audience Q&A 20 minutes	The session chair could ask each presenter/response lead: <i>What is needed to get these potential projects over the line to financiers? What do you (project presenters) need from financiers? Who needs to take what action towards COP27 and beyond?</i>	[Any speaker]	[Not scripted]
Wrap-up and conclusion 5 minutes	The session chair will highlight key takeaways and call to action for next steps. Please highlight that a compendium of projects will be released towards COP27.	5 minutes	