



Environment and Climate Change Capacity Statement

Cowater International is the largest and most technically diversified international development company in Canada, with headquarters in Ottawa and offices in Brussel, London, Montreal and Nairobi. The company operates project offices worldwide, including in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Cowater has received recognition as one of **Canada's Best Managed Companies** for the last five years (2017 to 2021) for the quality of our technical work and for effective financial stewardship.

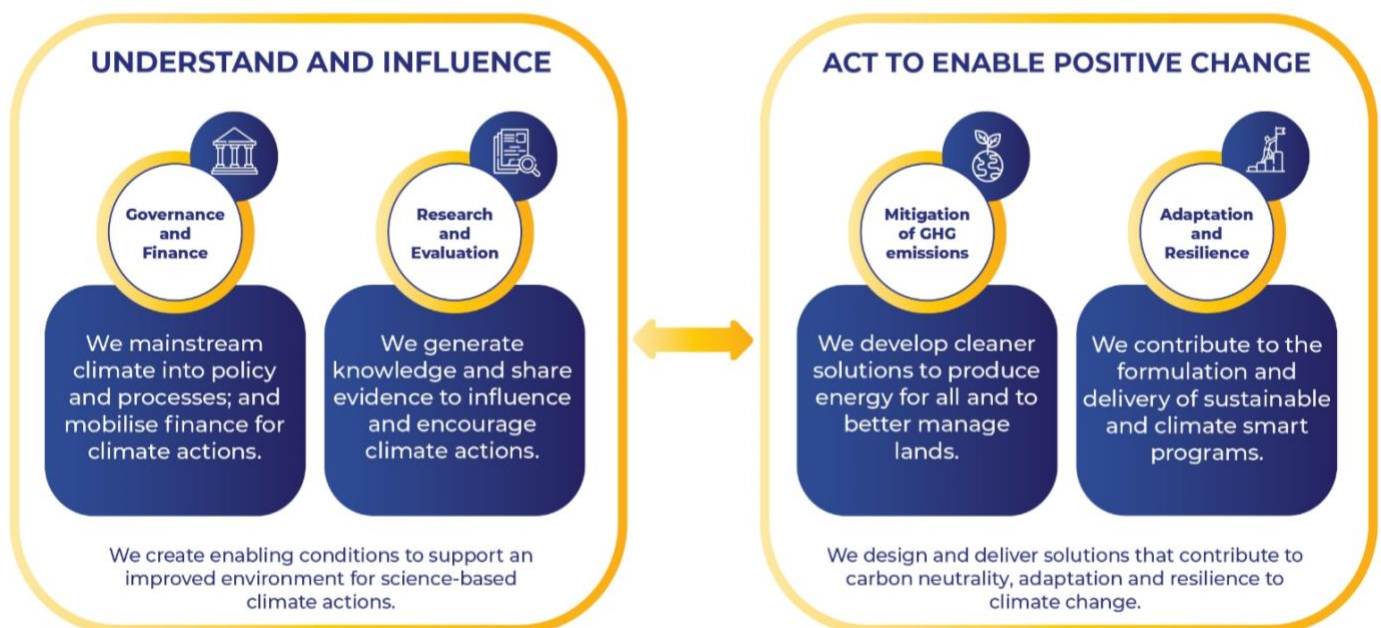
Cowater works with a wide range of partners in emerging and developing countries to develop solutions that are tailored to the unique situation of each context. Our solutions address the needs and challenges of governments, industry, community and non-state actors, ensuring capacity building through a participatory, client-centered approach. Our mission is to help nations and their citizens sustainably improve their economic, social and environmental well-being.



Cowater recognizes the risks that climate change poses – both now and into the future - and how it disproportionately affects the most vulnerable. We work with communities, governments, and businesses become more resilient to the effects of climate change, adopt innovative and scalable solutions to better manage water and other natural resources, and take the necessary actions in order to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We help governments and businesses develop effective policies to reduce climate-related risks and mobilise climate financing to support innovations and scale-up sustainable solutions. We support the shift towards a low-carbon economy by addressing systemic climate change issues and supporting projects that create climate smart jobs.

Our in-house experts in water and sanitation, climate smart agriculture, governance, finance, renewable energy and climate change adaptation take a multi-disciplinary approach to deliver sustainable impacts in a diverse range of sectors.

We tackle climate and environmental challenges using top down and bottom up approaches



Cowater has generated positive change globally, with environmental and climate sustainability at the heart of our actions. We ensure inclusive and transformative change by advancing climate-smart policies and creating an enabling policy environment across **four key pillars**.



Mitigation of GHG Emissions

- Support the transition to a low carbon economy by designing and implementing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects
- Raise awareness and build capacity on renewable energy, increasing access to green jobs
- Facilitate the development and scale-up of sustainable solutions in agriculture, energy, forestry, and other land use sectors to reduce GHG emissions
- Support the introduction of GHG accounting tools to better assess emission reduction in the energy, agriculture, forestry and land use sectors



Adaptation and Resilience

- Raise awareness and build capacity of communities around green economic growth, climate-smart livelihoods, sustainable water use, and food security
- Produce climate risk and vulnerability assessments and profiles to understand who is vulnerable, where and how to increase resilience
- Deploy innovative information and communication technologies (ICTs) for improved water and sanitation service delivery, including mobile technologies and GIS mapping
- Strengthen enabling environment for low-carbon economy in which women can thrive, through employment and entrepreneurship
- Design programs that build infrastructure resilience in the context of the post-COVID-19 recovery



Governance and Finance

- Develop and implement policies that facilitate investments in climate resilience and adaptation
- Mobilize climate finance and other financing mechanisms to catalyse country transitions to low-carbon economy, and assist public and private sector entities to access finance for climate action
- Support international financial institutions through programme design and technical assistance to increase and manage the flow of climate finance
- Support the design, implementation and evaluation of national and sub-national climate change Strategies and Action Plans



Research and Evaluation

- Address knowledge gaps to support donors and governments in the design, delivery and scale-up of climate-smart programs
- Create an enabling environment for policy dialogue and facilitate stakeholder engagement in advancing and monitoring sustainable climate actions
- Support knowledge sharing and uptake of research results to inform evidence-based climate change actions
- Design and implement rigorous research and evaluation, using both quantitative and qualitative methods, to address climate change



Mitigation of GHG Emissions

Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Jordan – Global Affairs Canada (2016-2023)

SEED promotes sustainable and inclusive economic growth for disadvantaged groups in Jordan, through the uptake of low-carbon renewable energy technologies. SEED's achievements to date include: financing 1,517 households to install rooftop PV systems and solar water heaters; supporting 11 schools and health centres install renewable energy systems and refurbish their buildings to improve their energy efficiency; and enabling the construction of two 1 megawatt solar farms through blended finance. SEED is also building a skilled workforce for the green jobs by training 1,500 men and women technicians in installation, repair and operations of renewable energy systems; enrolling over 500 engineers in internship programs with private sector companies; and developing three vocational training curricula that are now used across government vocational training centres in the country.

[Read more](#) about how we support champions and low carbon economy in Jordan.

Generating Revenue Opportunities for Women and Youth in the West Bank (GROW) Palestine – Global Affairs Canada (2018-2023)

GROW uses an inclusive, climate-smart and systemic approach to value chain development, with a focus on low-income women and youth empowerment. The project aims to reduce barriers to entrepreneurship faced by women; enhance opportunities for women entrepreneurs to successfully establish and/or grow sustainable businesses, and enhance opportunities for female entrepreneurs, particularly youth, to support the adoption of renewable energy in the olive, goat and sheep dairy and agro-food processing value chains. Some unique achievements of the GROW programme include: supporting 34 female engineers to obtain jobs in the workforce; creating the first cohort of internationally certified energy auditors in the West Bank; and conducting a hackathon to support the incubation of renewable energy innovations. [Read more](#) about female students on their journey to becoming the first renewable energy technicians in the West Bank.

Sustainable Energy and Economic Growth in the Boucle du Mouhoun Burkina Faso – Global Affairs Canada (2017-2023)

The project generates inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the Mouhoun region by improving livelihoods and employment opportunities for women and youth through electrification of rural communities, and by strengthening the enabling environment for sustainable development. The project interventions aim to support climate change mitigation through the use of renewable energy, including the use of solar panels to power remote health centres, private sector companies, schools and public institutions, expanding the grid to 18,000 people. Local economic development is made possible through better access to finance and electricity for local entrepreneurs, businesses and institutions. Targeted training programs are implemented to increase the capacity and skills of entrepreneurs, women and youth, to enable them to harness the power of renewable energy and to promote the development of economic activities in the region.

Empowering Women's Leadership and Participation in Cuba's Renewable Energy Sector (FORMER) Cuba – Global Affairs Canada (2021-2025)

FORMER aims to enhance the social and economic well-being of women and vulnerable communities through the use of renewable energy. Specifically, the project enables increased productivity of women in Holguin through the use of renewable energy technologies, and will directly benefit 7,300 people through the installation of solar panels that will provide energy to close to 1,050 homes, with priority given to women-headed households. The project works to increase involvement of women in the renewable energy educational sector by developing and delivering gender-responsive academic curricular and training materials on renewable energy and establishing internship opportunities. FORMER also strengthens the enabling environment by providing technical assistance to the Cuban Ministry of Mines and Energy to integrate a gender-sensitive approach to developing the renewable energy sector.



Adaptation and Resilience

Agricultural Support Services Project Niger – Millennium Challenge Account (2019-2023)

This project is increasing the productivity and profitability of agricultural activities and the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices, particularly horticulture, in newly irrigated areas. The project is building the capacity of producers, cooperatives, savings and credit groups, and the private sector to improve the economic growth, especially of women and youth. Our approach promotes the establishment of cooperatives and associations; enables the increased agricultural production capacity of men, women and youth through improved climate smart production practices, adoption of new low-cost climate smart technology and economic diversification; and improves production planning and efficient market linkages. Key results to date include: 245 farm field schools; installation of 40 agro-processing units; coaching of circa 100 women saving groups to increase their capital for investment; delivering literacy and numeracy trainings to 6,250 producers, leading to a revenue increase of up to 50 percent for some crops.

Cities and Infrastructure for Growth Zambia (CIGZambia) Zambia – UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (2019-2023)

CIGZambia is a demand-driven facility that provides high-quality independent technical assistance to Zambian government bodies and private sector organizations engaged in projects that will help harness the potential of cities to act as drivers for climate-resilient economic growth and job creation. CIGZambia has four workstreams: energy; urban planning; infrastructure, including water, sanitation and hygiene, waste management and transportation; and project preparation and finance. Given the high dependence of hydropower and the need to increase energy production to meet national demand, CIGZambia provides technical assistance around project design for solar projects, expected to total 25 megawatts in renewable power; to update the national grid code and building the capacity of the national utility ZESCO to connect large-scale variable renewable energy projects to the grid, and to the Ministry of Energy, to develop Zambia's first 30-year Integrated Resource Plan for the energy sector, with climate adaptation and resilience as cross-cutting focus area.

Learn more about CIGZambia's work to improve access to water in [Lusaka](#), and how we create safer and climate resilient cities [here](#).

Provision of Project Preparation Services (PPF) Global – Green Climate Fund (2020-2024)

PPF assists Green Climate Fund (GCF) Accredited Entities in the preparation of full funding proposals for consideration by the GCF Board. PPF works with Accredited Entities to develop funding proposals, and build robust business cases for project concepts, including through: pre/feasibility studies; gender, environmental and social assessments; climate-smart technology options analysis; project baseline studies, including site-specific technical appraisals; technical assistance to costing and budgeting according to GCF standards; development of logical frameworks; project assessments against the GCF Investment Criteria; market assessments; economic and financial analysis; and environmental and social safeguard studies.

Water and Sustainable Economic Growth in the Sahel Burkina Faso – Global Affairs Canada, IAMGOLD, One Drop Foundation (2015-2019)

This project was implemented in a fragile and arid conflict prone region in Northern Burkina Faso where water is scarce for both economic activities such as livestock rearing and agriculture as well as for domestic use. Together with our partners, Cowater developed a programme to improve water supply and sanitation through the construction of a water treatment plant, as well as targeted support to increase agricultural and livestock production; increase awareness around sanitation and hygiene, including through participatory theatre, and strengthen local governance to enable economic growth and improved water management. The project has resulted in an additional 85,000 people accessing clean drinking water. Key to the project's success was a high degree of involvement of women, and a collaborative working relationship between partners with distinct – but complementary - approaches to development and the local government. Learn more about the project [here](#).



Governance and Finance

Holistic Support to the Nationally Determined Contributions (Adapt'Action) Global – United Nations Development Programme / Agence Française de Développement (2015-2022)

Cowater is providing technical assistance to seven African governments for the development of its intended Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). This includes guidance in the elaboration of the NDCs for submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat in 2015, before the COP21, and support to their revision before the COP26. Additionally, through Adapt'Action, Cowater aims to operationalise the Paris Agreement by contributing to the implementation of NDCs in 13 partner countries, in Africa and Latin America, and two regional organisations (Indian Ocean Commission and Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States). This process involves integrating the NDC into sectoral policies, strategies and associated investment plan; and facilitating the formulation of climate-smart programs.

Improving Environmental Management of Mining and Energy Activities (MEGAM) Peru - Global Affairs Canada (2016-2023)

MEGAM seeks to increase sustainable economic and environmental development for communities affected by mining and energy activities in Peru. To do so, Cowater is providing technical assistance to Peruvian authorities, at national and provincial levels, to increase effectiveness, inclusiveness, and efficiency of the mining and energy sectors' governance. MEGAM enables the creation and/or improvement of government policies, regulations, procedures and practices; and promotes environmental compliance of mining activities, to align with international best practices. Cowater provides policy support to multiple government agencies and line ministries, to ensure policies are inclusive of women and vulnerable groups. MEGAM collaborates with the government to improve the effectiveness of environmental impact assessment process and regulatory frameworks, and provides technical assistance to ensure institutionalisation. One key achievement is the digitisation of the environmental impact assessment process, at national and regional levels, reducing processing time and increasing efficiency of the monitoring process.

Support to the African Development Bank's Paris Alignment Africa – GIZ (2020-2021)

The assignment provided support to the African Development Bank's (AfDB) activities with respect to six building blocks, jointly agreed by the Multilateral Development Banks: alignment with mitigation goals; adaptation and climate-resilient operations; accelerated contribution to the transition through climate finance; engagement and policy development support; reporting to demonstrate; and alignment with internal activities. The advisory services provided by Cowater have identified both institutional and operational actions and priorities, to feed into the joint work of multilateral development bank. The services have allowed the AfDB to extend its contribution to the Paris Alignment Working Group for all the building blocks, including its leading role for conducting works on the alignment of internal activities.

Technical Assistance Programme for the Implementation of the Environment and Climate Strategy of the West African Development Bank Western Africa – Agence Française de Développement (2019-2022)

Cowater is strengthening the West African Development Bank's strategic approach to climate finance and the deployment of dedicated procedures and tools. This includes helping to structure a portfolio of climate finance projects and promoting climate finance opportunities across West Africa. Activities completed to date include a re-design of the Environment and Climate Strategy for the Bank; the development of tools to integrate climate considerations into the Bank's operations; capacity building on climate finance; and strengthening of the Bank's environmental and social risk management system. Cowater International is also helping to build a pipeline of climate projects, including providing guidance on how climate funds should be structured. All this work is being done using a gender lens to ensure more equitable outcomes.



Research and Evaluation

Our research and evaluation expertise range from large-scale surveys, in-depth policy analysis, randomized control trials, operational research, impact evaluations, experimental and quasi-experimental evaluations, process evaluations, systematic and rapid evidence reviews. We apply both a quantitative and qualitative methods to assess results, to measure impacts, and to identify lessons and best practices. We then work to ensure effective communication and uptake of the knowledge generated from our research and evaluation.

Supporting Pastoralism and Agricultural in Recurrent and Protracted Crisis (SPARC) Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East – UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (2020-2026)

SPARC is a research initiative focused on supporting livelihoods in the world's most vulnerable, conflict and climate affected countries. The program aims to advance research on livelihoods, climate change, agriculture and pastoralism that can be used by FCDO and other agencies to better design programs that have a positive impact at scale. Through research and evidence, SPARC develops knowledge to enhance the ability of FCDO, the donor community, non-government organizations, local and national governments to assist pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and farmers in the context of climate change. SPARC is addressing knowledge gaps and generating evidence to help people cope with crises and meet their basic needs. Find out more about SPARC [here](#), and [read more](#) about SPARC's research on building climate-resilient livelihoods.

Comparative Analysis of Practices in *ex-post* evaluation studies on Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Global – Agence Française de Développement (2018-2019)

The purpose of this review was to conduct a benchmarking study of institutions with experience implementing *ex post* evaluations of climate change projects in order to inform AFD in the design of future evaluations of their own climate investments. The study was carried out to catalogue good practices used by 12 development institutions in the evaluation of climate change adaptation and mitigation projects. The analysis has helped consolidate effective tools for use in future evaluations of climate change projects. The review identified five best practices tools for *ex post* evaluations to effectively measure the impact of climate change projects. It provided recommendations for AFD to apply in strengthening its capacity to enhance the effectiveness of evaluation of climate change projects through the project cycle.

Cowater also offers a suite of research and evaluation services

Some recent works completed by Cowater in the climate change space include:

- **Exploring the conflict blind spots in climate adaptation finance (2021):** Comprehensive review of the barriers to increasing adaptation finance in fragile and conflict-affected regions. Its purpose was to inform FCDO positioning on climate finance in FCAS in the lead to COP26 and beyond. Findings from the review include best practices from both donors and countries in protracted crises. A closed-door policy roundtable and events at the COP26 Resilience Hub, the UN Climate Security Mechanism and AfDB pavilions also featured presentations of the report findings.
- **Ex-post evaluation of the Support Program to Building Resilience to Climate Change (Comoros, 2021):** The evaluation contributed to strengthen the country's resilience to climate change, by increasing awareness of national and local actors, and informing strategy and project planning and monitoring.
- **Mid-term evaluation of the Support Program to Protected Areas (Democratic Republic of Congo, 2020):** This assignment comprised evaluations of national policy for the conservation and management of forests and biodiversity; public-private partnerships in conservation; and sustainable agriculture for the safeguarding of biological sites. The assignment has contributed *inter alia* to revise the interventions approach to reach the program objectives.
- **Ex-post evaluation of the Support to Reforms Environmental Governance (Lebanon, 2020):** This evaluation contributed to reforming environmental governance and increasing capacity of the Ministry of Environment to plan and execute environmental policies.



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