TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Position Title:** CDKN Finance Thematic Lead

**Name of Project/ Programme:** Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)

**Start Date:** Immediate

**Remuneration:** R65,000-85,000 gross per month (commensurate with experience)

**Location:** Cape Town, South Africa, with the option to work remotely

**Contract type and duration:** Negotiable. This role can be configured as a full or part-time position (but a minimum three days per week), as well as a consultant post or SSN employee arrangement. At least a two-year commitment is required, with the possibility of renewal.

Work arrangement if based in Cape Town: Hybrid with two days in the Cape Town office per week.

**About SouthSouthNorth**

SouthSouthNorth (SSN) supports national and regional responses to climate change through policy and knowledge interventions, partnerships and deep collaboration. We do this by connecting people and information, enhancing capability and mobilising resources to respond innovatively to the challenges and opportunities that climate change presents. In particular, we enhance developing countries’ access to climate information by brokering climate knowledge through formalised exchanges among various stakeholders. We assist decision makers in delivering climate compatible development by informing policy formulation and implementation and bringing good governance to management of donor funds, technical assistance and project management. Being positioned in the Global South affords SSN a deeper understanding of, and connection to, the climate and development challenges facing the region.

Full details of the projects that SSN currently implements are available at www.southsouthnorth.org.

**About CDKN**

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) works to enhance the quality of life for those most affected by climate change. The programme was founded in 2010 to help countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America design and deliver climate-resilient development. CDKN collaborates with decision-makers nationally, regionally and globally in support of locally-owned and managed climate-resilient action. We are an alliance of non-profit organisations based in the global South. Since 2018, the programme has been led by South Africa based SouthSouthNorth (SSN), working closely with partners Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA) in Quito and ICLEI South Asia in Delhi. CDKN is funded by the International Development Research Centre and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Over the past four years, CDKN has been implementing a second phase, called the ‘Knowledge Accelerator’, focussed on furthering knowledge-into-climate action. It has achieved this through tailoring information on climate change to meet the needs of countries in the global South, facilitating collaboration and learning, and empowering climate leaders and champions. The work has generated significant momentum through over 40 projects implemented in 10 focal countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

CDKN is implementing a third five-year phase (2022-27) focussed on mobilising knowledge, climate leadership and capacity to accelerate inclusive climate action in three priority action areas: (1) Supporting integration of gender equality and social inclusion in climate policies and practice (‘Gender equality and social inclusion’);
(2) Enabling access to appropriate and equitable finance for locally-led adaptation solutions (‘Finance for resilience’); and (3) Strengthening implementation of equitable and locally-appropriate ecosystem-based adaptation (‘Ecosystem-based adaptation’).

CDKN’s focus on finance for resilience

Finance remains central to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and scaling up local climate action. Despite this, finance for adaptation remains substantially lacking and an estimated mere 10% of climate finance reaches the local level and, when it does, the mechanisms are often not contextually appropriate.\(^1\)\(^2\) The gap between the estimated costs of adaptation and the tracked finance allocated to adaptation is widening.\(^3\)\(^4\) The Copenhagen target to leverage US$ 100 billion per year in climate finance for developing countries for mitigation and adaptation by 2020 has not been met – reaching only 79.6 billion USD in 2019.\(^5\)

A lack of supply and access to finance for local resilience solutions are impeding the ability of poor and vulnerable communities (including the grassroots organisations who operate within these communities) to respond to crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and other climate-related disasters, such as floods, cyclones and droughts. Local actors who are marginalised from broader public decision-making processes do not have access to the relatively modest funds that would make a transformational difference to their and their communities’ resilience.

A radical new approach is needed to finance adaptation and locally-led action. As such ‘Finance for resilience’ will be a priority theme for CDKN in its new phase of work, with a specific focus on finance for locally-led adaptation.

Role summary

Given the importance and focus on finance for resilience, the role of the CDKN Finance Thematic Lead is critical to the programme’s successful implementation. The Finance Lead will further develop and drive forward the finance theme across the programme, ensuring this priority area is embedded across CDKN’s work and reflects the latest insights, developments and opportunities in this fast-evolving arena.

The Finance Lead will report to the CDKN Director: Knowledge and Global Engagement and be supported by a project manager.

Responsibilities will include but not be limited to:

- Developing a thematic finance strategy for CDKN.
- Playing a leadership and coordinating role for the finance theme across the programme as a whole, including identifying and delivering knowledge synthesis, outreach and engagement opportunities at the

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\(^3\) IPCC. (2022). Chapter 17, Executive Summary
global level; and encouraging and supporting the leadership of others and acting as a sounding board for the development of opportunities at regional levels (Africa, Asia and Latin America).

- Representing CDKN and sharing outputs and messages from the finance theme in national, regional and international fora.
- Contributing to CDKN and global learning on the effective approaches to financing resilience and locally-led adaptation.
- Translating and sharing pertinent global knowledge and evidence related to finance for relevant country and regional audiences.
- Supporting country teams to ensure that finance as a ‘priority action area’ is well integrated in all the country programmes, providing advisory support and quality assurance (where appropriate) (CELS are nationals based in CDKN’s focal countries who lead CDKN’s country programmes.)
- Championing and integrating the finance priority action area into the CDKN grant programme. This may include ensuring the finance area is reflected appropriately in the relevant CDKN documentation (e.g. call for proposals) and providing ad-hoc support to grantees on how to incorporate a finance focus into their projects where needed and as requested.
- Integrating finance into CDKN’s other two priority action areas: Gender equality and social inclusion, and ecosystem-based adaptation.
- Providing quality assurance on CDKN’s finance-related outputs and knowledge products. Should the content be outside of their area of expertise, helping to identify suitable expert reviewers for the specific outputs.
- Managing technical consultants working under the finance priority action area.
- Regularly engaging and supporting the two CDKN Directors (Director: Knowledge and Global Engagement and Director: Africa and Regional Programmes) to ensure alignment across the programme, and support CDKN outcomes.
- Producing annual thematic work plans that clearly align with CDKN’s Theory of Change.

**Competence and personal qualities**

- Tertiary qualification in a relevant field.
- At least five years’ work experience in adaptation/resilience finance.
- An excellent understanding of the financial sector in general, and international climate finance, adaptation finance and local access to finance in particular.
- Demonstrated ability to work in multicultural settings and with a variety of stakeholders as well as institutions such as government, civil society, international organisations and donors.
- Strong networking and communication skills.
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written.
- French and/or Spanish language skills are an added advantage.
- Willingness to travel internationally.

**Application process**

To apply complete this [application form](#).

Applications will close on 23 September 2022. No late applications will be permitted and we will contact shortlisted candidates within two week of the closing date. If you are not contacted within this time period please consider your application unsuccessful. Unfortunately we are not able to offer feedback on any application made for this job posting. SouthSouthNorth reserves the right not to make an appointment.