

## Climate Finance Access Network Launches Inaugural Advisor Training Program

*February 1, 2022* – The **Climate Finance Access Network** (CFAN), coordinated by RMI, has onboarded its first cohort of advisors for the Pacific region. Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu will be receiving advisors specifically trained and placed to unlock critical climate finance. Funded with an initial CAD \$9.5 million contribution from the **Government of Canada**, CFAN is a demand-driven initiative tasked with unlocking climate finance in developing countries.

Developing countries have indicated an urgent need for support in accessing finance to meet their climate goals and build community resilience to worsening climate impacts. For Small Island Developing States (SIDS), human capacity constraints and reliance on external expertise are the most immediate challenges hindering progress in developing pipelines of bankable projects. CFAN's advisor training program has been designed to directly respond to this need by cultivating a community of financial expertise. This network of advisors, experts, and regional and international organizations will support countries in attracting investments, utilizing innovative financing instruments, and improving project approval rates, ultimately increasing climate finance flows to developing countries.

CFAN's inaugural cohort of Pacific-based advisors have been recruited both regionally and internationally to provide in-country support – aligned with country priorities – over the next two years. Advisors will participate in CFAN's state-of-the-art advisor training program, where advisors undergo rigorous, cohort-based, multi-week training to ensure they are equipped to deliver on their mandates to unlock climate finance in developing countries. The advisors, who have been recruited and hired with the support of CFAN Member the **Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)**, will provide countries with the technical and financial expertise and opportunities they need to build climate resilience. *"We've seen firsthand the benefit of embedded support when it comes to developing high quality climate projects,"* said Nathalie Andre, Regional Technical Lead for the Pacific at GGGI. *"These advisors will work specifically to a mandate of building national capacity for accessing climate finance – a critical need for island nations."*

CFAN's training program was designed in collaboration with **Bankers Without Boundaries, E Co.**, and the **Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC)**. CFAN worked closely with regional member PCCC to ensure the training has a regional lens and is customized to each nation's specific needs. PCCC has led the development of one of the program's five modules, guiding advisors through communication and facilitation training from a Pacific perspective. PCCC has also supported CFAN throughout the curriculum development process to ensure that modules are appropriately contextualized for the Pacific region. *"We want to make sure that support is fit for purpose, rather than generic technical assistance,"* said Alex Milano, CFAN Training Lead. *"Our goal is for advisors to be able to both access and provide needs-specific support."*

A "training of the trainers" approach has been integrated across CFAN's curriculum, wherein advisors will be trained both in the subject matter and how to teach the same material to others. By the time they complete their training, CFAN advisors will be comfortable presenting essential climate finance, project finance, and design concepts to key national stakeholders. Moreover, CFAN is opening the training program to government officials within the member countries to expand its benefits.

*"It is not just about posting advisors for a year or two in an entity or ministry and then losing that resource when they leave,"* said Laetitia De Marez, Director of CFAN. *"The idea is to build lasting capacity. Lasting capacity means lasting impact, and that means survival for countries on the frontlines of climate change."*