

IMPACT STRATEGY OFFICER

The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) is an International financial institution, established within the UN ecosystem, currently with 101 member states. With poverty alleviation as its core mission, the CFC operates as an impact investment fund working towards easing the commodity dependence trap in the developing world. With its headquarters in the innovation rich Amsterdam, since 1989, the CFC have been instrumental in bringing over a billion US dollars' worth of investments for Small and medium Enterprises (SMEs) and smallholder farmers, while acting as a bridge between developed and the developing world following the sustainability roadmap.

With the alleviation of poverty as our mission, the measurement of impacts is the core of our credibility. Impact measurement is also the key driver of the CFC to uncover inefficiencies and potential avenues of improvement and innovations to serve our beneficiaries, smallholder farmers and SMEs, better.

The CFC's Impact Strategy Officer is responsible for systematic reporting, monitoring, measurement and presentation of impacts across the CFC's project portfolios. This includes impact-based assessment, measurement and prioritisation of project proposals, including the analysis of social and environmental risks. The projects predominantly cover Agribusinesses, Agro-processing, Agri-tech, agri-ecology, regenerative agriculture etc. with some portfolios in metals and minerals as well. The Impact Strategy Officer should be a passionate impact agent to bring, both qualitative and quantitative, changes in the lives and livings of people at the margin.

The ideal candidate is expected to have extensive experience in a project and/or analytical role as an Impact Officer with a financial institution, fundraising, consulting company, NGO or large corporation, additional experience in agribusiness and commodity value chains and/or with impact management would be an advantage. Excellent writing and communications skills are essential as the Impact Strategy Officer is expected to present and write with clarity about CFC's project impact stories.

The CFC pays an attractive compensation based on United Nations grade levels, including a tax-exempt salary and additional benefits. This is a full-time job with residence in Amsterdam, remuneration is being offered at the ICSC P-2 /P-3 level with the level of appointment based on existing qualifications and experience, this is a fixed term, renewable, appointment of 2 or more years.

DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

This a position with senior level growth potential working under the supervision of Strategy and Development Advisor. The Impact Strategy Officer will take primary responsibility for:

Continuous development of impact view of CFC portfolio

- Maintain, in due consultation with the Operations Unit, an up-to-date portfolio-wide assessment of CFC project impacts using most current metrics methodologies and aligned with the regulatory requirements.
- Monitor timely impact reporting for all CFC Investments in consultation with the relevant Project Managers (PM's).
- Assist Communication team to keep the website and social media platform duly updated with the Impacts stories.
- Provide CFC impact progress report per quarter to the Managing Director to help her/him to follow CFC's zero tolerance for impact washing.

Implementation and further development of CFC impact strategy towards achieving SDGs

- Exceptional strategic thinking and problem-solving abilities, proven track record of success in solving complex and dynamic situations involving smallholders and SMEs.
- Strategically synthesizing information from both the community and funders experience.
- From time-to-time review and update, in consultation with the Operations Unit (OPS), the due diligence checklist to assure that CFC projects contribute towards the CFC's mission and vision.
- Support PMs in identifying and managing potential Social and Environmental risks of CFC projects and supervise the application of CFC's Social and Environmental Risk Management System (SEMS).
- Determining and prioritizing areas of focus for impact control and validation with internal and external stakeholders. Support PMs in identifying and collecting relevant impact data.
- Contributing to the negotiation of impact deliverables by projects seeking CFC financial support.
- Contribute towards CFC's strategic work on commodity value chain governance to improve impact on income and welfare for smallholders and SMEs, e.g., making the value chain as "green", short and transparent as possible.
- Provide necessary training/guidelines to PMs for effective impact data collection, including sources and processes, such as baseline studies, learning assessment, etc.

Connecting CFC Impact strategy with global partnerships

- Provide the necessary support for development and implementation of an impact strategy of CIIF (Commodity Impact Investment Facility).
- Create and maintain strong, collaborative network with key outside colleagues, donors, funders, impact funds and other relevant stakeholders.
- Encourage input from OPS towards improvement of CFC's impact strategy by including relevant scientific innovations that might come to the attention of PMs at any stage from due diligence to outcome assessment after completion of the investment period.
- Representing the CFC in relevant UN and other international fora, public and private impact events as well as coordinating and liaising with external partners on technical issues.

Learning and Leveraging Results

- Provide continued education and support to PMs and OPS to view the CFC project impact as part of global effort towards sustainable development.
- Providing the content for CFC's impact "Dashboard" to be used on website, social media, newsletter, annual report and documents provided to the CFC Governing Bodies.
- Support the publication of newsletter and annual report.
- Support CFC networking with other impact funds and donors.
- Supervise the work of the CFC's media and communications Consultants.

Other Functions

- Participating in the future development of the CFC framework for selection and prioritization of projects to enhance the impact of CFC portfolio.
- Acting as Secretary of the Consultative Committee and other Governing Bodies of the CFC as required.
- Support the Technical Assistance Facility department in managing impact related projects.

COMPETENCIES

Empathy. An ability to have a deep understanding and sympathy for the needs of others, especially for those people living at the margins of the developing world.

Communication and Teamwork. Demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed, solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others. Commitment to CFC's policy on Additionality, Partnerships and Innovations (API)

Structured and analytical thinking. The successful candidate should demonstrate the capacity and skill to obtain and analyse complex information from multiple sources, producing a clearly structured interpretation reflecting the key relevant points.

Strong functional and operational understanding and proactive attitude. In addition to analytical skills and communications experience, the successful candidate must possess a clear understanding of how individual projects combine to create a high-impact project portfolio. Proactive attitude to addressing shared challenges is a strong advantage.

Understanding of sustainable development. The successful candidate will have strong practical experience in the impact investing sector based on the UN SDGs, as well as familiarity with one or more global impact reporting systems, e.g., IRIS+.

Commitment to good governance and ethical business practices. The successful candidate is expected to have the commitment to ethical business practices, diligence and good governance. Understanding of the UN Global Compact principles will be an advantage.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Advanced University degree with major in either sustainable development, economics, Communication/Fundraising or business.
- 5 to 7 years' experience in a project and/or analytical role with a financial institution, consulting company, NGO or large corporation required; experience in agribusiness and commodity value chains is an advantage.
- Work experience in a financial institution, fundraising, NGO, government, corporation and/or private foundation environments.
- Experience in working for underserved communities is highly desired.
- Excellent writing and communications skills; capable of speaking and writing with clarity about CFC's project impact stories.
- Ability to communicate compellingly about impact investing to a lay audience; ability to support development of appropriate messaging of study outcomes.
- Capacity to listen, mediate and facilitate discussions on complex and/or divisive issues.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, communication and presentation skills, capacity to undertake training, experimentation, dialogue and partnerships.
- Experience in fomenting, leading and creating substantial impact from public-private partnerships – direct experience in financial interventions preferred.

- Experience of working in compliance with SEMS (social and Environmental management systems) and ESG (environmental social governance) would be a distinct advantage for this role.
- Experience and proven ability in the use of databases, apps, spreadsheet programs, word processing and financial analysis software.
- Proven ability to discern critical issues, to prepare concise and insightful analyses, and to propose solutions to problems.
- High level of attention to detail.
- Strong team player with openness to feedback and new ideas.
- Always on the look out to contribute to the team through additionality and innovation.
- Subject matter experience in economic development, particularly in the developing world, is preferred.
- Experience of traveling, and ideally living in, developing countries: Africa, Latin America and Asia is preferred.
- Ability to simultaneously manage multiple, complex projects in a deadline-driven and high-achieving environment.
- Willingness and capacity to work effectively in a young, dynamic, unstructured and entrepreneurial work environment.
- Ability to work independently and autonomously.
- Advanced skills in SPSS, STATA or related statistical programming are desirable.
- Prior experience with Adobe InDesign and/or GIS is helpful but not required.
- Excellent team management skills.
- Proven skill of written and spoken communications in English. Fluency in other UN languages, particularly Spanish or French, is an advantage.
- It is important to note that the CFC can only employ Nationals of its Member States, for a full list of Member States please refer to the “About us” section of the CFC website.

TO APPLY

Applicants should complete [this short form](#) and send a brief cover letter (max 500 words) and concise curriculum vitae, in English, to recruitment@common-fund.org. The closing date for applications is **18.00hrs (CEST) on Friday 29 July 2022**.

Kindly note that only shortlisted candidates shall be contacted.
