Director - Climate & Water Finance

Global Climate Finance Centre (GCFC) - Fixed-Term Contract
Department: Global Climate Finance Centre (GCFC)
Location: Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), Abu Dhabi, UAE
Contract Type: Fixed-term, 24 months (Commencing Q3 2026 - Q3 2028)
Reports To: Chief Executive Officer, GCFC
Level: Senior Executive / Director Level (15+ years of experience)

Background

The Global Climate Finance Centre (GCFC) is a UAE-based platform established to mobilise large-scale capital into climate and development opportunities across emerging markets. GCFC operates at the intersection of investment, policy, and innovation, supporting the deployment of catalytic and commercial capital through investment platforms, blended finance vehicles, and strategic partnerships.

GCFC is a strategic partner supporting the UAE's co-hosting of the 2026 UN Water Conference (2026 UNWC) around water financing and investments. This includes the development of high impact investment initiatives designed to accelerate financing for water infrastructure and services, investing in data, innovation and technology solutions, advancing capacity building platforms.

GCFC is establishing a dedicated Water Finance Delivery Team. The Director, Climate and Water Finance will serve as the team's lead, responsible for assessing international water and climate finance developments, identifying opportunities for blended finance, and building the partnerships and structures that can supplement and scale existing efforts.

The role is designed in two phases. Through to December 2026 (Phase-1), the Director will work intensively on developing tangible deliverables for the 2026UNWC water finance and investments track, including building out capital mobilisation strategies, and deployment function for the initiatives launched at the conference, while developing sustained programmatic capability and linking it to the broader portfolio of GCFC activities. Through Phase-2 (December 2026 to Q2 2028), the Director will ensure operationalization and implementation towards the targets and the impact goals of the initiatives announced at the Conference.

Role Summary

This is a senior role for an experienced professional with a demonstrated track record in international water and climate finance, blended finance structuring, and cross-border partnership development. The position is suited to a senior professional with deep familiarity with the international climate/water finance landscape, strong existing relationships with philanthropic capital providers, development finance institutions, and aligned international partners, and the credibility and judgement to engage effectively with government counterparts, sovereign institutions, and private sector entities.

The successful candidate will connect international pools of capital to various climate and water finance initiatives, identifying where and how emerging instruments, including blended vehicles, philanthropic capital, blue bond programmes, and DFI facilities, can support. This requires a sophisticated grasp of the international finance landscape and the credibility to engage with government counterparts, sovereign institutions and private sector entities.

The postholder will lead the development of key flagship initiatives, building credible delivery pathways and maintaining alignment with international water priorities. They will also support in ensuring that partnerships are grounded in global best practices.

Key Responsibilities

Supporting the 2026UNWC Water Finance and Investment Track

- Work closely with GCFC leadership and the 2026UNWC UAE team to understand the water finance priorities, initiatives, and platforms, and ensure all international engagement is in service of strengthening and amplifying these.
- Scope and advance opportunities for blending finance including from philanthropic capital providers, DFIs, and aligned international partners.
- Assess international water and climate finance developments, including philanthropic initiatives, blue bond programmes, blended finance vehicles, and partnership opportunities.
- Represent GCFC at 2026UNWC preparatory meetings and international water and climate forums in support of the conference's finance track.

Blended Finance Structuring

- Design blended finance structures that combine international concessional or philanthropic capital with sovereign, institutional, and commercial financing.
- Apply instruments such as guarantees, first-loss capital, concessional tranching, and revenue support mechanisms to create capital structures that are attractive to investors.

International Partnerships and Capital Linkages

- Build and maintain relationships with international philanthropic capital providers, development finance institutions, and aligned investors.
- Engage with international partners including leading climate philanthropies, DFIs, and bilateral development finance institutions to scope joint vehicles, co-financing arrangements, and partnership structures.
- Identify and pursue opportunities for co-investment and concessional capital for de-risking in priority water and climate sectors.

- Advise GCFC leadership on international capital dynamics, partnership positioning, and blended finance structuring.

Post-Conference Legacy

- Lead the post-Conference phase of GCFC's water and climate finance work, ensuring the successful operationalization of the initiatives, partnerships, structures, and relationships established through the preparations for the 2026UNWC.
- Develop replicable frameworks and partnership models that allow GCFC to scale its capital mobilisation work across other anchor workstreams, including Carbon Markets and Article 6, and the TNFD UAE Consultation Group.
- Support GCFC's engagement with philanthropic capital providers across the broader portfolio of GCFC activities, including the design and articulation of programmatic propositions, theory of change, and outcome reporting.
- Provide senior leadership to the GCFC Water Finance Delivery Team and ensure high-quality outputs including partnership briefs, concept notes, and investor materials.

Qualifications & Experience

Education

- Bachelor's degree in Finance, Economics, Engineering, Science, Business Administration, or a closely related discipline from a leading institution (Essential).
- Master's degree (MBA, MSc Finance, MSc Economics, or equivalent) from a top-tier institution (Strongly Preferred).

Professional Certifications

- Recognised investment or finance qualification such as the CFA Charter, FRM (Financial Risk Manager), CAIA (Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst), or chartered accountancy designation (ACCA, ICAEW, CPA) - at least one is Strongly Preferred.
- CFA Institute Certificate in ESG Investing, GARP Sustainability and Climate Risk (SCR) Certificate, or equivalent sustainable finance credential - Preferred.

Experience - Essential

- Minimum 15 years of relevant experience in international climate or water finance, development finance, blended finance, or philanthropic capital with a strong track record of cross-border engagement.
- Demonstrated experience designing or structuring blended finance vehicles that combine concessional or philanthropic capital with sovereign, institutional, or commercial financing.
- Proven ability to build and leverage relationships with international philanthropic capital providers, DFIs, and aligned international partners.
- Strong familiarity with the international water and climate finance landscape, including awareness of relevant initiatives, capital pools, instruments, and emerging programmes.
- Experience engaging with and advising government counterparts on international capital strategy and partnership positioning.

GCFC

- Strong commercial judgement and analytical capability across structured and blended finance instruments.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.

Experience - Preferred

- Direct experience in the water sector, including water infrastructure finance, blue bonds, water compacts, or related programmes.
- Prior experience with leading climate philanthropies, bilateral development finance institutions, or a climate finance institution comparable to the Green Finance Institute or Climate Policy Initiative.
- Experience working in or with the UAE or wider GCC, and familiarity with capital platforms and sovereign institutions in the region.

Core Competencies

- Deep familiarity with the international water and climate finance landscape and the ability to rapidly assess relevance to the 2026UNWC water finance and investment track and international water priorities.
- Existing relationships with philanthropic capital providers, DFIs, and international partners.
- Experience in designing credible blended finance structures
- Sound judgement in complex, multi-stakeholder settings involving both government and private sector counterparts.
- Strong analytical and written communication skills, including the ability to produce high-quality partnership briefs, concept notes, and briefing materials.
- Ability to combine public purpose objectives with financial rigour.
- Leadership presence suited to a lean, high-performance platform.

Contract Details

This is a fixed-term position under a UAE-based contract with the Global Climate Finance Centre (GCFC), headquartered within Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), Abu Dhabi. The successful candidate is expected to be primarily based in the UAE during Phase-1 with potential for hybrid (partial remote) work in Phase-2. International travel may also be required.
The contract runs through June 2028 under current confirmed funding. Extension or longer-term leadership opportunities may be considered subject to GCFC mandate expansion.
Compensation will be competitive and structured to attract high-calibre international investment talent.

Application Process

We are seeking candidates that can join us promptly. Please submit your application including a resume and a written work sample to: **info@gcfc.com.** Only applications meeting the outlined requirements will be considered.