REGIONAL TRAINING AGENDA

Climate Risk Informed Decision Analysis (CRIDA) and Climate Finance for Water Sector Adaptation

31 August-3 September 2026 | ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal | English

Day 1: Monday, 31 August 2026 | Foundations of CRIDA and Climate Finance

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY
09:00-09:30	Registration of Participants
09:30-10:00	General Introduction to the Training Agenda and Participants
10:00-10:15	**Opening Session** **Remarks** Jaco du Toit, UNESCO Representative to Nepal Dr Maheshwor Dhakal, Chief, Climate Change Management Division (CCMD), Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Environment (MoAFE). Dr Pema Gyamtsho, Director General, ICIMOD
10:15-10:45	**Technical Session** Session Chair: Dr Dhiraj Pradhanaga, UNESCO Chair, Mountain Cryosphere and Water. Introduction to CRIDA **Fundamental of CRIDA** **Why CRIDA?** Siying Tan, UNESCO IHP **How CRIDA supports climate finance - Ad Jeuken, Deltares** Q&A
10:45-11:10	Group photo and coffee break.
11:10-12:05	Country introductions (5 min per country) on national climate policies - Participants
12:05-12:20	**How CRIDA supports climate finance in Uganda** Eng. Anthelem Iragena, Principal Water Officer, Ministry of Water and Environment (Virtual) Q&A
12:20-12:40	**Inside the GCF: water sector priorities and what makes an adaptation proposal succeed (Virtual)** Bapon Fakhruddin, GCF Q&A
12:40-13:00	**Climate-resilient hydropower and dam investments in South Asia: approaches to sustainable hydropower development in the Himalayas** Pravin Karki, World Bank Q&A
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:15	**Fundamental of CRIDA cont.…** CRIDA Step 1: Defining the Decision Context and the Stakeholder Engagement Process; CRIDA Step 2: The Climate Stress Test; CRIDA Step 3: Formulating Alternative Plans Professor Ray, University of Cincinnati and Ad Jeuken Deltares
15:15-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-17:00	**Fundamental of CRIDA cont.…**

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY
	CRIDA Step 4: Evaluating and Comparing Plans; CRIDA Step 5: Institutionalizing Decisions - Professor Babel, AIT Overview of 2-3 applications of CRIDA (Colombo, Bangkok, and Nairobi) each for 15 min Q&A
17:00-17:10	Wrap-up of Day 1 – Chair

Day 2: Tuesday, 1 September 2026 | Climate Finance Essentials and Parallel Sessions

TIME	PLENARY SESSION / ACTIVITY
09:15-09:30	Plenary: recap and questions from Day 1 - Chair
09:30-10:15	**The climate finance architecture for water adaptation** Siying Tan, UNESCO IHP *Four categories of funding sources; positioning of GEF (incl. LDCF/SCCF), GCF, the Adaptation Fund and the FRLD (5 min: the boundary between adaptation and loss & damage);* *MDBs as delivery channels and co-financiers; bilateral and domestic finance in brief.* *Cross-cutting concepts: Accredited Entity; NDA / National Focal Point; direct vs. international access; co-financing and concessionally*
10:15-11:00	**Zoom in: GCF and the Adaptation Fund** Siying Tan, UNESCO IHP *Side-by-side comparison: who can submit, project scale, approval timeline, co-financing expectations, adaptation/mitigation focus, concept note depth. The generic anatomy of a funding proposal. Climate rationale - the minimum concept (CRIDA stress-test outputs as direct evidence). The six GCF investment criteria and the AF criteria named with one-line differences (details on Day 3).*
11:00-11:20	Coffee break
11:20-11:50	**An HKH climate project from idea to financing** Ms Neha Rai, Head of Strategic Results, Partnerships and Business Development, ICIMOD
11:50-12:15	**Open floor: Q&A on climate finance**
12:15-12:50	**Group work briefing: the country template** Siying Tan, UNESCO IHP *Day 4 deliverables (one-page project idea + workplan + analysis plan); which track owns which fields; how the two country representatives work - separate tracks on Days 2-3, joint sessions on Day 3 and Day 4 morning;)*
12:50-13:00	Groupwork assignments and logistics for the parallel sessions - UNESCO / ICIMOD
13:00-14:00	Lunch - parallel Session begin at 14:00

TIME	Parallel Session on Technical	Parallel Session on Institutional and Finance
14:00-15:30	14:00-14:50 **What a climate stress test requires: data and methods** Professor Babel, AIT *Defining the problem and decision, performance objective (with example problem statement), system failure and break points, drivers of change or stressors.* *CRIDA Step 1 case: Lower Bhavani Irrigation Project, India* 14:50-15:00	14:00-14:45 **GCF and AF project cycles and approval processes** *Concept note to AE submission to Secretariat review to iTAP to Board; per step: responsible party, typical duration. AF cycle side by side* Siying Tan, UNESCO IHP 14:45-15:30 **The institutional landscape of climate finance access** *The actors and their roles at each step: NDA, Accredited Entity (international vs. national), line ministry, Ministry of Finance, basin organizations; the*

TIME	Parallel Session on Technical	Parallel Session on Institutional and Finance
	Worked example: a complete climate stress test *Decision-relevant climate and hydrological data; method options by capacity tier; system model requirements; common pitfalls* UCRI **CRIDA Step 2 case: Lower Bhavani Irrigation Project** Dr. Ambili AIT **From input data to response surface to a risk statement usable as climate-rationale evidence, on a real basin** Professor Babel of AIT, with Dr. Ambili 15:00-15:30 **Worked example on CRIDA Step 2: a complete climate stress test** Professor Ray, University of Cincinnati	*no-objection procedure. One worked country example: a complete institutional map. Closing: typical gaps and the readiness instruments that respond to them (GCF Readiness / PPF, AF readiness support, EDA) –* Siying Tan, UNESCO IHP
15:30-15:50	Coffee break	Coffee break
15:50-17:00	Hands-on I: country data and model inventory Decision question, available data (sources, record length, quality), existing models, gaps - populating the first fields of the country analysis plan mentors circulate Professor Ray, University of Cincinnati	Framing your country's project idea (working session) (1) Draw your own institutional map - who initiates, who approves, who the NDA is, whether an accredited NIE exists (~30 min); (2) Mapping out existing projects in your country (3) Fund and fund window
Evening	Optional: self-directed country teamwork	Optional: self-directed country teamwork

Day 3: Wednesday, 2 September 2026 | Parallel Sessions and Country Team Reunion

TIME	Parallel Session on Technical	Parallel Session on Institutional and Finance
09:15-09:30	Recap and questions from Day 2 (in each track) - Chairs	Recap and questions from Day 2 (in each track) - Chairs
09:30-11:15	**Climate impact analysis: from stress-test outputs to impact statements** Professor Ray, University of Cincinnati, *using hands-on Excel spreadsheets to illustrate Reliability, Vulnerability, Robustness, Resilience, Sustainability, and cost-effectiveness, essential to communicate the projected performance of the proposed investment*	**Climate rationale and Theory of Change: an introduction** Ad Jeuken and Viviane Malveira Cavalcanti (Virtual), Deltares 9:30-10:30 *Why a climate rationale is needed (the spectrum; two test questions; why funders require the development baseline and the climate signal written separately - climate additionality at GCF, full cost of adaptation at AF)? What are the main elements of the CR and how can it be supported by a chain of evidence; What it is the relation between climate-driven from development problems; What tools exist: evidence sources (IPCC Interactive Atlas, WB Climate Change Knowledge Portal, ICIMOD data products); CRIDA stress-test outputs as rationale evidence; GCF and AF templates and guidance.* 10:30-11:15 **Task 1: Problem dissection group exercise (worksheet-driven)** *Guide participants through the relationship between development problems and climate-related problems, the underlying climate drivers, and direct and indirect impacts.*

TIME	Parallel Session on Technical	Parallel Session on Institutional and Finance
11:15-11:35	Coffee break	Coffee break
11:35-13:00	**Evaluating adaptation options under uncertainty** Comparing and selecting plans under uncertainty Comparison procedures - Comparison against baseline and different future scenarios - avoiding bias - Incremental evaluation for robust and/or flexible plans - Adaptation pathways - comparing and recommending - Score card with costs, benefits and co-benefits CRIDA Step 5 - Institutionalization Institutional responsibilities/Governance - Financing and funding - Institutional capacity - Implementation challenges - Integrated Monitoring arrangements CRIDA Step 3, Step 4 and Step 5 case: Lower Bhavani Irrigation Project, India	11:35- 12:00 **Debrief and Q&A I** 12:00-12:30 **Theory of Change** *illustrating the standard ToC structure; the rationale and ToC of a successful proposal as illustration. Closing: one-page map of ToC elements onto the investment criteria – Deltares* 12:30-13:00 ***Group exercise and discussion on ToC***
13:00-14:00	Lunch	Lunch
14:00-15:45	**Hands-on II:** *drafting the country analysis plan Analytical questions; data needed, sources and gaps; chosen methods; who does what; external support needed; timeline. Per-country mentor review in the final stretch. Closes by 15:45 with each analysis plan ready to present to the institutional counterpart*	**Investment criteria in depth** Ad Jeuken and Viviane Malveira Cavalcanti (Virtual) 14:00-14:45 **The six GCF criteria -** *impact potential, paradigm shift, sustainable development potential, needs of the recipient, country ownership, efficiency and effectiveness - and the AF differences: vulnerability argumentation, full cost of adaptation, consultative process as a hard requirement, no-duplication check Demonstration: reviewer's perspective and criteria examples* 14:45-15:30 **Exercise Investment criteria** 15:30-15:45 **Mentor debrief and Q&A II**
15:45-16:10	Coffee break (joint - both tracks together)	Coffee break (joint - both tracks together)
16:10-17:00	**Country team reunion for groupwork** Finalization on Day 4 morning - all mentors circulate	
Evening	Optional: self-directed country teamwork	

Day 4: Thursday, 3 September 2026 | Consolidation, Presentations and Follow-up

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY
09:15-09:30	Recap and instructions for the morning - Chair
09:30-10:45	**Country team consolidation** Each country pair finalizes: the workplan (from yesterday's joint draft), the one-page project idea, and a 7-min presentation
10:45-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-13:00	**Country presentations on potential project ideas - Part 1** 7-min presentation + 3-min immediate feedback per country - Chair + mentors
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:15	**Country presentations on potential project ideas - Part 2** Same format - Chair + mentors
15:15-15:45	Coffee break

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY
15:45-16:15	**ADB Perspectives: Asian Water Development Outlook and Financing Mechanisms and Requirements (Virtual)** Vivek Raman, ADB
16:15-16:30	**Next steps: Follow-up arrangements - UNESCO**
16:30-17:00	**Certificates and closing remarks - UNESCO / ICIMOD**