

Climate Finance Accelerator Peru: First Cohort of projects announced

The Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA) Peru has announced six innovative low-carbon projects that will support access to finance from investors following a call for proposals that attracted 40 applications. The CFA is part of the UK Government's efforts to support Peru tackle climate change through the UK International Climate Finance.

Projects come from the energy, forest, ecotourism, and waste management sectors and include activities to increase reforested areas in Peru, develop innovative ecotourism experiences and improve production systems using solar energy.

To ensure the selected projects are in the best position to attract investment from Peruvian and international financiers, the projects will receive capacity building support in areas such as blending finance from public and private sources, developing financial models and preparing pitch material, as well as advice on enhancing gender, equality and social inclusion. If they secure funding in the future, in addition to their climate change mitigation outcomes, the projects will benefit communities across Peru through pollution abatement, employment opportunities, increased energy efficiency, improved public transportation, and by supporting gender equality and social inclusion.

By bringing together stakeholders who can develop and finance climate projects at scale, the CFA will support Peru's efforts to meet its commitment under the Glasgow Pact, agreed at COP26 in November 2021, to help keep global warming to within 1.5°C.

The British Chargé d'affaires to Peru, Peter Clements said:

"The UK is proud to support Peru's efforts to address climate change and the Climate Finance Accelerator is a great opportunity to do so. At COP26, we could see Peru's appetite for tackling climate change through increased NDC targets and by joining alliances to protect forests. This cohort of projects will drive innovation in key sectors such as energy, ecotourism and waste management. We cannot wait to see the outcomes."

Libelula CFA Project Lead Peru, Katherine Bocanegra, said:

"We are excited to be working alongside these six projects to strengthen their capacity and help increase their chances of finding investment. CFA support will bring projects and financiers together, generating benefits not only for the individual projects, but in the longer term also for Peru's economy as it builds a climate compatible future."

Technical Director CFA Programme Peru, Florian Eickhold of SouthSouthNorth said:

“Time matters! The CFA programme aims to accelerate the final phase of financial closure for already advanced low-carbon projects from a wide range of sectors. This “last mile facilitation” speeds up the implementation of NDCs and helps build the ground for more ambition. I hope financial institutions and project developers are inspired by the CFA process to replicate viable solutions at scale. Every effort is needed to rapidly close the emission gap towards the global goal of 1.5 degrees.”

The projects have started receiving tailored support ahead of a multi-day event that will be held in May 2022. Support that the projects have received so far has included individual needs assessment discussions as well as financial and technical analysis. The event will allow project proponents to further refine their financial structuring through discussions with interested financial institutions. The event will also provide an opportunity for all participants to network and for policymakers and other initiatives in the climate finance space to learn from the landscape mapping findings and recommendations. The CFA projects include:

- [Carbon Turnaround](#): An innovative project for the treatment of organic waste using the Black Soldier Fly technology. Organic waste will be recovered and transformed into insect protein and an organic fertilizer with high nutritional value. Based in Lima, it is managed in partnership with Christof Industries and Grupo GEA.
- [Grupo Alimenta](#): Lifesoil™ is our regenerative fertilizer, developed to nourish the soil and crops in a balanced way. Replacing mineral fertilizers with Lifesoil™ does not require additional costs and allows the soil to capture 30 tons of CO₂/Ha. We aim to build a network of plants and capture three million tons of CO₂.
- [Marinasol](#): Installation of floating solar panels within the sedimentation ponds of a shrimp farm, generating renewable energy and contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gases.
- [Novum Solar](#): The project aims to develop, build and operate several hybrid energy generation systems (solar, battery and backup diesel) to supply electricity for isolated communities in the Peruvian Amazon. Currently powered by diesel, the communities will have a reliable supply of energy 24/7 and there will be a reduction of 530,000 tons of CO₂.
- [Rainforest Expeditions](#) and [ACCA](#): This ecotourism project will protect primary forest and reduce CO₂ emissions. It will raise awareness among the local population and 35,000-40,000 visitors a year of the need for conservation and the realities of climate change by providing employment and education.
- [Viridis Terra Perú SA](#): This project will create a demonstration and training centre where up to 1,300 people a year will be taught how to restore degraded land, a biotechnology laboratory with the capacity to produce 1.5 million seedlings a year, a solid forest plantation of 1500 hectares, and a natural conservation area of approximately 300 hectares.

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Notes to editors:

- UK's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS): The CFA is funded by International Climate Finance in BEIS. BEIS is the UK government department responsible for business, industrial strategy, science, research and innovation, energy, clean growth and climate change.
 - UK International Climate Finance is the UK government's commitment to support developing countries to respond to climate change. The UK has committed to spend at least £11.6 billion of International Climate Finance between 2021 and 2025. This is the UK's contribution to the developed country goal of mobilising \$100 billion per year in climate finance by 2020, which underpins the Paris Agreement.
 - The local delivery partners for CFA Peru are Libélula and SouthSouthNorth.
 - Libélula is a consulting firm founded in 2007 in Peru that specializes in climate change management and communication. Libélula works closely with a wide range of public and private actors at local, regional and international level to identify risks and opportunities in the face of climate change in order to inspire and deliver solutions at all levels towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient and climate resilient future.
 - SouthSouthNorth supports national and regional responses to climate change through policy and knowledge interventions, partnerships and deep collaboration, connecting people and information, enhancing capacity and mobilizing resources to respond in innovative ways to the challenges and opportunities that climate change presents.
 - The global CFA programme is delivered by PwC UK, in collaboration with Ricardo Energy & Environment.
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[UK steps up support as famine looms in Somalia](#)

- Minister for Africa Vicky Ford has announced a £25 million aid package for Somalia, supporting almost a million people.
- Somalia facing prospect of widespread famine, with 350,000 children's lives at risk if no action is taken.
- Ford did a virtual visit to Baidoa in Somalia yesterday [Monday] and announced new funding at UN event in Geneva today.

Minister for Africa Vicky Ford has announced a new £25 million aid package to provide vital services to almost a million people across the country, including food and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) support, as the country teeters on the brink of widespread famine.

Speaking at a roundtable event organised by UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Ford announced the package of lifesaving food, water,

nutrition and emergency health support and called on other international donors to step up.

After three failed rainy seasons, approximately half the population require life-saving aid due to the ongoing drought. Forecasts suggest a fourth failed rain is likely. The UN estimate that there are pockets of famine in the country now, with more than one million people on the edge.

The Minister also announced a groundbreaking partnership with Qatar, which will see the Qatari government invest \$1.5 million with the UK towards the emergency response and resilience-building in Somalia.

Minister for Africa Vicky Ford said:

We should be in no doubt of what will happen if we fail to support the people of Somalia – 350,000 children will die and many more will have their lives ruined.

The UK is stepping up our support with an additional £25 million, taking our support to almost £40 million in 2022 alone. It will mean life-saving food, water and healthcare support for more than a million people.

After a quarter of a million people needlessly died from hunger in Somalia in 2011, we said never again. Now is the time for the international community to fulfill that commitment and stand with the people of Somalia.

Yesterday [25 April], the Minister conducted a virtual visit to Baidoa in Somalia where the UK is supporting almost 120,000 people with food and water support. She met with representatives from the Norwegian Refugee Council, a UK partner on the ground, and heard from communities affected.

Norwegian Refugee Council's Somalia Country Director, Mohamed Abdi said:

The scale of the crisis in Somalia, and the level of human suffering, is truly staggering. More than three-quarters of a million people have been forced to flee their homes, millions more face life-threatening food and water shortages, and people are on the brink of famine.

To avert a tragedy and save lives the world must act now – Somalia requires a massive injection of support.

A perfect storm of events is behind the current situation in Somalia. Extreme weather events associated with climate change are ruining harvests. Poor governance and conflict across the country continue to displace vulnerable communities, destroy livelihoods and limit access to humanitarian assistance.

Driven in part by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Somali people have also faced sharp rises in the price of rice by almost 15%, the price of oil by 40% and the price of wheat by 45%.

The food insecurity crisis extends across the Horn of Africa. Some 14 million people across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are at risk of severe hunger and water shortages.

The Minister witnessed the impact of the crisis in the region first-hand on a visit to Kenya and Ethiopia earlier this year. The UK Government committed an initial £14.5 million of support for Somalia earlier this year, which is expected to support almost 500,000 people to access clean water and afford food supplies.

Minister Donelan addresses Policy Exchange

Good morning, and thank you for inviting me here to speak today. We have gathered today in support of freedom of speech – the cornerstone of Western democracy.

But supporting free speech is no longer enough. Free speech is now something that has to be defended.

It is a change of mindset for most of us who have grown up taking it for granted that we could express ourselves freely. After all, Britain is the home of free speech. Free speech is the beating heart on which all of our other freedoms rest.

And we are a country with a proud democratic history, where we settle differences of opinion through honest, open debate and the ballot box.

And we could not be in a more fitting setting to discuss these issues. Policy Exchange rightly prides itself on its independent, evidence-based research, whether on the pupil premium and free schools, to the importance of history, to our topic today – free speech and academic freedom.

I want to take a moment to thank you for all that you do to advance research, promote new ideas and deliver a stronger society. And I would also like to thank Lord Godson for his personal championing of this important issue.

You have, for many years raised alarm at the growing, real threat, that academic freedom in these institutions is being undermined in a way that endangers our entire democracy.

For hundreds of years, universities have been instrumental in promoting our

traditions and our values. They have played a role in fostering debate, sharing ideas – even if contentious – and they have advanced society in the process.

Many of the fundamental ideas that helped to build today's society were once considered controversial, fringe ideas that only reached prominence through open debate on the campuses of universities up and down the country.

Where would we be now if the views of 100 or 200 years ago had never been challenged? As a woman, I doubt I would be an MP, let alone Minister for Higher and Further Education.

But, sadly, where once we found critical debate and arguments were won on their merits, today we see an upsurge in physical threats and complete intolerance of opposing ideas.

We witness examples of professors being harangued and hounded out of their jobs. We see prominent, well-respected, guests no platformed. We find academics self-censoring themselves out of fear.

Progress is no longer considered progress unless it conforms to an increasingly narrow ideology. And let's be honest for a moment, successive governments have not put up enough of a fight. There has been a lot of talk and warm words, but not nearly enough solid action.

I am here today to tell you that this government is different. We are putting pen to paper in legislative action to once and for all challenge the forces that shut debate down. We are standing up for free speech and the open exchange of ideas in our universities like never before.

I will make sure each of our universities remains a fortress of ideas, putting an end to the nonsense of cancel culture by wielding the crucial majority that the British people gave us, and fulfilling their wishes for a more open, fairer and freer Britain. But before I go onto the specifics of this ground-breaking Bill, let me tell you why this is so important to me personally.

Like many people who were the first in their family to go to university, for me university was about more than learning. It was an experience that gave me the confidence to go out into the world knowing I had a world-class, high-quality education under my belt. And something I ask myself now is: would I be able to say that if free speech was not such an intrinsic element of our universities?

Look at the list of the Top 100 universities in the world. Overwhelmingly the world's best universities are in countries that rank highly on the free speech index.

In fact, the entire top 10 on this list are found in countries with strong free speech scores. It is absolutely no coincidence that what keeps the United Kingdom and United States so dominant in higher education is our commitment to academic freedom.

Authoritarian countries limit their students to a narrow view of the world and teach their students what to think rather than how to think. And they pay a hefty price for it in the long run.

Who would you rather employ? An inquisitive, critical, open minded graduate, or a self-constrained cookie cutter graduate who is afraid to be challenged or confront new ideas?

The answer for me, and I am sure you too, is obvious. But I worry that if we allow ourselves to drift toward a more narrow definition of free speech, we risk going down that same dark path as those other countries and compromising what makes our universities world class.

Imagine the harm to aspiring young people if they grow up seeing their universities drop out of the top rankings, or find themselves unable to conduct world-leading research because the funding is going to more open countries. And the damage that the erosion of free speech causes goes well beyond the classroom.

It hits our communities, where ingenuity and diversity of ideas have flowed from throughout our country's history.

It stifles creativity, where some of our greatest artists and composers have made their name challenging the accepted wisdom of the day. The implications for our economy and our public life are catastrophic.

I find it completely deplorable that, last year, balaclava-clad protestors forced a female academic, Kathleen Stock to stay off campus under threats of physical violence.

Nor was this an isolated event. Just a few weeks later, the Israeli Ambassador was hounded by an intolerant mob outside an LSE event – facing threats and insults that no other foreign diplomat faces in the UK.

We are not talking here about peaceful protest, the right to which is sacrosanct. We are talking about threats, intimidation and harassment; the shutting down of free speech by violence and threats of violence.

Activities which, too often, university leadership turns a blind eye to and does not do enough to stop. Here at Policy Exchange, you know as well as anyone does, about this change in the culture in our universities over recent years.

Policy Exchange polling shows that a number of current and retired academics choose to self-censor. The survey found that 32% of those who identify as 'fairly right' or 'right' have refrained from airing views in teaching and research.

This is not a party-political issue: around 15% of those identifying as 'centre' or 'left' have also been self-censoring.

In addition, 200 academics reported last year that they were receiving death threats and abuse, simply for expressing views and crucially, that they did

not feel supported by their universities.

This intolerant few have decided that protecting people from offence is more important than advancing human knowledge. They have decided that violence is a justifiable response to words. And ultimately, they have decided that their freedoms are more important than the freedoms of those sitting across from them.

It is sadly ironic, that humanity has never had greater access to a diverse range of opinions than we do today, yet we have to take action against people trying to limit that diversity. So let me take a moment to inform the intolerant few that their brief period of power is over.

I have no hesitation in saying that diversity of opinion is just as important as diversity of background. Freedom to disagree is just as important as freedom to agree.

And democracy does not end at the gates of your echo chamber. As a government we have taken unprecedented steps to protect students' welfare, whether it is by stamping out sexual harassment and antisemitism, by tackling poor mental health and by supporting the most disadvantaged through opportunity.

We believe that exposing students to robust exchanges of views doesn't harm their welfare, it helps make them strong, confident and engaged citizens, with curiosity and intellectual drive.

It gives them the education that I benefitted from when I went to university. As I started with today, we have a long tradition of free speech in this country, and legal protections are already in place.

But the evidence shows those protections are not strong enough – there is no effective means of enforcement.

We need to enhance and extend them, as one part of changing the wider culture.

Attempts to erode free speech need to be challenged head-on, which is what the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill will do. Yesterday, a motion was passed to enable it to be carried over to the next session of this Parliament – a restatement of this government's intention to legislate on this hugely important issue, fulfilling our manifesto promise to the British people.

The Bill will put a duty on universities to promote free speech and academic freedom, not just protect it. It will put a duty directly on Students' Unions to protect free speech.

And it will establish a new Director for Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom on the Office for Students Board – with the power to fine universities, colleges and students' unions and recommend real redress for those who have had their speech unlawfully restricted. And it will provide a new legal tort as a critical backstop, offering a direct route to redress for individuals who have suffered loss due to a breach of the freedom of speech

duties.

It is a Bill that is already, being improved and honed by freedom of speech in Parliament as we speak. From ensuring a wide definition of academic freedom, to being explicit that constituent colleges of higher education providers are bound by it, this is going to be a Bill that the rest of the world will take note of.

Our friends in the House of Lords know first hand how important free speech is, and I know that they will have much to say on this subject – I look forward to hearing the expertise they will bring.

But let's not kid ourselves, this is not just about what happens in Parliament or what happens in lecture halls.

We need to effect a culture change that will reverberate through the sector, from the SU bar right up to the Vice Chancellor's office. And let me be clear, this is not an issue for Vice Chancellors to shy away from. Frankly, this is not an issue that they will be allowed to shy away from.

And many are already joining us on the path to progress.

I would like to thank Universities UK for how constructive they have been in bringing together Vice Chancellors and sharing their insight with us. And In March this year, Professor Antony Long, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost at the University of Durham, rejected calls by students to dismiss an academic and made clear that everyone is welcome to speak on its campus.

And at Cambridge University, a grass roots campaign by staff led to the rejection of an attempt to impose a restrictive speech code on the university and instead upheld our country's proud tradition of free speech.

So Vice Chancellors, university staff, and students: do not be on the wrong side of history. Do not allow the history books to record your name as part of the small cabal of the intolerant.

Look ahead and be part of a freer, fairer and more tolerant future. Because we do have further to go. The high profile cancellations and dismissals are just the tip of the iceberg in a broader culture of self-censorship.

Now more than ever, it is imperative that we ensure our universities are free from dogma and undue influence from states that wish to curb our freedoms. The war in Ukraine is a conflict between democracy and autocracy. It is the result of a criminal, barbaric invasion of a sovereign country, by one ruled tyrannically.

It is a reminder to all of us of the ancient liberties that we in Britain hold dear and that underpin our freedom. In the Commons, the opposition to this Bill has been fractured and incoherent.

They have veered from saying it's unnecessary and bureaucratic in one breath, to claiming in the next that it doesn't go far enough. Others have tried to attack the idea of free speech itself, pointing to the most extreme examples

of its misuse.

So let me be clear: there is nothing in this legislation which will give anyone the right to harass, intimidate, abuse or promote violence or terrorism.

And I am thankful that the sector as a whole has been so supportive of this issue. Getting this right has a direct impact on many of the issues this Government wants to address.

Freedom of Expression is integral to our proposals for the reform of the Human Rights Act – a strong British tradition that we are determined to uphold in our own laws.

We've committed to legislating to prevent public bodies shutting down freedoms through politically motivated boycotts and sanctions.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Justice Secretary Dominic Raab has already outlined plans that will protect against free speech being "whittled away" by what he rightly calls "wokery and political correctness".

These are the important issues that the public has entrusted this Government to tackle.

So, I am sure you will share my frustration that when there are so many real problems to address: from abuse on campus; to the use of NDAs to silence victims of sexual harassment and bullying; to poor quality outcomes; that we then hear about reports of staff time going into putting 'trigger warnings' on Harry Potter and 1984 or earnest working groups discussing whether to cancel historical figures such as Isaac Newton, Francis Drake or William Gladstone.

Instead of silencing the views of those who we disagree with, I go back to my view that each university should be a marketplace of ideas.

A place where we assess arguments on their merits, not on their popularity. A place where it is not just safe to debate, but where students and academics are encouraged to do so. A place where we advance our society by challenging ourselves and our views.

And ultimately a place where we live by the words of Evelyn Beatrice Hall, namely, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it"

I am confident that this Bill strikes the right balance, that it is a proportionate and necessary step to tackle the emerging culture that will otherwise threaten our higher education system and hold people back.

Like the British public, I believe that students and lecturers should not be silenced. This is not about the right and left.

The people who suffer when free speech is restricted are those without power. The poorest, most disadvantaged, minority groups.

History tells us that whatever short-term gains can be gained from suppressing free speech they do not last.

To quote Frederick Douglass, he called free speech, 'the great moral renovator of society and government,' and, 'Of all rights, the dread of tyrants – it is the right which they first of all strike down.'

Which is why this Government is one that is prepared to stand up for free speech. And why I remain committed to this Bill, and I am looking forward to its return to the Commons in the next session, and its passage through the House of Lords.

Thank you.

[New investigations into imports of fibre optic cables from China](#)

Press release

The TRA has opened an anti-dumping investigation and a countervailing investigation into imports of fibre optic cables from China.



The [Trade Remedies Authority](#) (TRA) has today (26 April) opened two new investigations into imports of fibre optic cables from the People's Republic of China.

Fibre optic cables are used in the delivery of broadband services to homes and businesses.

The TRA will carry out two investigations – an [anti-dumping investigation](#) to determine whether imports of these products are being dumped in the UK at prices below what they would sell for in their home country and a separate [investigation](#) to determine whether the Chinese imports entering the UK market are also benefiting from subsidies which lower their production costs. The

investigations will also consider whether these imports are damaging the UK industry for fibre optic cables .

The new investigations are in response to an application from a UK manufacturer to the TRA to investigate whether these imports are causing injury to UK industry. The TRA will conduct an Economic Interest Test (EIT) as part of its investigation to assess whether a new trade remedy measure would be in the UK's economic interest.

Oliver Griffiths, TRA Chief Executive, said:

Fibre optic cable is broadband's workhorse. These investigations will examine whether fibre optic cable from China is being traded unfairly and assess its impact on the UK economy.

The TRA will now seek information from all interested parties to establish whether imports of fibre optic cable from China are being dumped in the UK at prices below their normal value, whether they benefit from government subsidies, whether these imports are causing injury to UK industry and whether it would be in the UK's interests for measures to be put in place to mitigate any injury. The period of investigation is 1 January – 31 December 2021 while the injury period is 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2021.

[View further information](#) on how to contribute to the investigation and on the TRA's current case load, including its investigation into aluminium extrusions and transition reviews into steel safeguard measures, iron and steel Wire Rods and heavy steel plate.

Background information:

- The Trade Remedies Authority is the UK body that investigates whether new trade remedy measures are needed to counter unfair import practices and unforeseen surges of imports.
- The TRA is an arm's length body of the Department of International Trade (DIT) launched on 1 June 2021. Before its launch, it operated as the Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate (TRID) of DIT.
- UK industries concerned about imports have been able to submit applications for a new trade remedy measure since January 2021. These applications are considered by the TRA to see if there are grounds for an investigation.
- This is the third new case (not a transition review) that the TRA has opened and follows an investigation into potential dumping of Aluminium Extrusions that opened in June 2021 and a case involving ironing boards from Turkey which began earlier this month.

- Anti-dumping remedies address imported goods which are being dumped in the UK at prices below what they would be sold for in their home country.
- Countervailing remedies deal with imports which benefit from subsidies in their home country which lower their production costs. Not all government subsidies are countervailable (can be countered using trade remedies) – the TRA’s guidance on subsidy investigations explains this in detail.

Published 26 April 2022

[Charity Commission announces statutory inquiry into Jamia Hanfia Ghosia Mosque](#)

Press release

The Charity Commission has opened a statutory inquiry into Jamia Hanfia Ghosia Mosque and Princess Street Resource Centre, over concerns about potential misconduct and/or mismanagement in the charity’s administration.



The charity was established to promote the Islamic religion and operates in Burton-on-Trent.

The regulator has been in contact with the trustees since March 2020 in efforts to address regulatory concerns and resolve a dispute about whether the current trustees were validly appointed. The ongoing dispute has had a negative impact on the charity’s governance and administration and its beneficiaries and has resulted in many members of the community not accessing the charity’s services.

The Commission issued the charity with an action plan which outlined the timeframe and steps required to ensure an election was held by 31 March 2022. The charity's failure to implement the action plan and hold an election by the advised date has contributed to the Commission's decision to escalate its engagement with the charity to an inquiry. The inquiry will examine:

- The administration, governance, and management of the charity and whether or not its trustees have complied with, and are fulfilling their duties and responsibilities under charity law, in particular by examining the ongoing attempts to regularise the charity's governance and trustee board through an open and fair election.
- Whether and to what extent there has been misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity by the trustees

The Commission may extend the scope of the inquiry if additional issues emerge.

It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were.

Reports of previous inquiries are available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

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Notes to editors:

1. The Charity Commission is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. Its purpose is to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that people can improve lives and strengthen society.

Published 26 April 2022