Dr. Gloria Maimela

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30 March 2023

Research Office

Faculty of Health Sciences

Phillip Tobias Building Offices 301-304, 3rd Floor

Cnr York Road and 29 Princess of Wales Terrace

Parktown, 2193

Dear Members of the Research Office at the Faculty of Health Sciences,

**Subject: Request for Approval of South African Aspect of the Project: The Use of the Aga Khan Development Network Carbon Management Tool to Evaluate Climate Mitigation Interventions on Health Facilities in Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe**

I am writing to seek your approval for the South African aspect of the project titled "The Use of the Aga Khan Development Network Carbon Management Tool to Evaluate Climate Mitigation Interventions on Health Facilities in Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe," funded by HIGH HORIZONS – D5.7[GRANT NO. 101057843]. As the principal investigator and the Director of Climate and Health at Wits RHI, I am working with a team of investigators from various institutions to assess the carbon footprint of healthcare facilities in Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe and implement strategies to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change.

Climate change poses a significant threat to global health, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where its impacts on health are not well understood. The healthcare sector is a major contributor to carbon emissions, and it is crucial to reduce its carbon footprint for climate change mitigation. In this project, we will use a three-phased approach to measure, optimize, and evaluate carbon footprint reduction in healthcare facilities cost-effectively. We will employ the Aga Khan Development Network's (AKDN) Carbon Management Tool to assess the carbon footprint of eight healthcare facilities, including three in South Africa.

The project will provide critical insights on the carbon footprint in healthcare facilities and guide policy decisions regarding the interface between climate change adaptation and mitigation. Our phased approach will yield a comprehensive assessment of the carbon footprint in healthcare facilities before and after mitigation interventions across the three sub-Saharan African countries.

We respectfully request your approval of the South African aspect of this project. Your endorsement will enable us to proceed with the study in South African healthcare facilities, contributing valuable data to help develop effective policies and interventions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the impact of climate change on health in the region.

Please find attached the full protocol and supporting documents for your review. We look forward to your feedback and approval, and we are ready to provide any additional information required.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gloria Maimela Director of Climate and Health Wits RHI