

UNFCCC

EXPERT GROUP ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
FIVE YEARS OF WORK



BACKGROUND

Within the UNFCCC process Parties have taken decisions **to promote the development and transfer of technologies**. At the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2001, Parties reached agreement on the implementation of a technology transfer framework. The Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) was established with the aim to enhance the implementation of this framework and to advance the technology transfer activities under the Convention. Over the last five years, the work of the EGTT has become results oriented, with the production of targeted and instructive products that Parties can use as they formulate their specific climate change mitigation and adaptation technology strategies.



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FRAMEWORK

Since the adoption of the Marrakesh Accords, work on the development and transfer of technologies under the UNFCCC process has focused on the implementation of activities identified under each key theme of the technology transfer framework: technology needs and needs assessments, technology information, enabling environments, capacity-building, and mechanisms for technology transfer.

Technology needs and needs assessments are a set of country-driven activities that identify and determine the mitigation and adaptation technology priorities particularly of developing countries. The EGTT has collaborated with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Climate Technology Initiative (CTI) on providing technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties to conduct technology needs assessments (TNAs) and currently more than 25 non-Annex I Parties have completed their TNAs. The secretariat has published a synthesis report on technology needs identified by non-Annex I Parties, which highlights priority technology needs identified in various sectors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change.

For more information: <http://ttclear.unfccc.int> >> [section needs assessments](#)

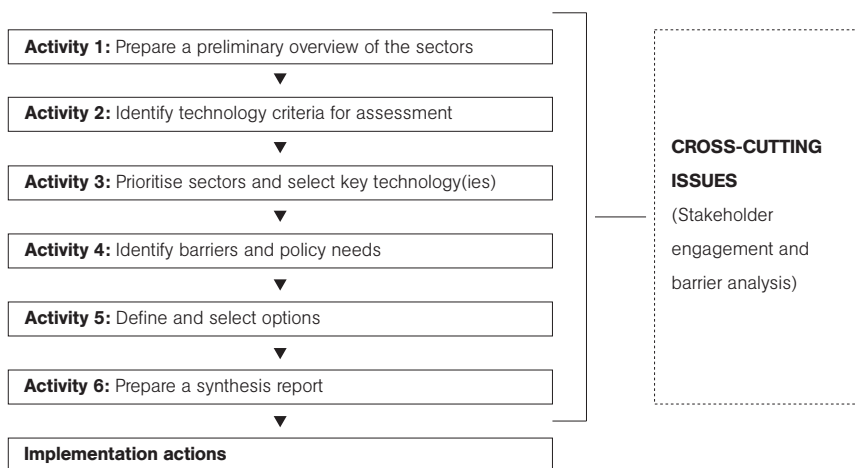
Theme: Technology needs and needs assessments

EGTT activities

- Collaborated with the GEF, UNDP, UNEP and CTI on providing technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties to conduct TNAs.
- Cooperated with CTI, UNDP and UNEP in organizing three regional workshops in conducting TNAs.
- Assisted the secretariat in organizing a workshop on TNAs and technology information for the Caribbean region.
- Contributed to the improvement of the quality of the TNA process and TNA reporting, including facilitation of the implementation of activities identified in TNAs.

Results/products

- GEF provided funding to 94 non-Annex I Parties to conduct TNAs.
- More than 25 non-Annex I Parties have completed their TNAs.
- Synthesis report on technology needs identified by non-Annex I Parties.
- UNDP/GEF Handbook on conducting technology needs assessments for climate change.
- Report of the expert meeting on methodologies for TNAs.

Figure: Activities in the Technology Needs Assessment Process

The **technology information** component of the framework defines the means, including hardware, software and networking, to facilitate the flow of information between the different stakeholders to enhance the development and transfer of technologies. The secretariat implemented its pilot project on the establishment of a technology transfer information clearing house (TT:CLEAR) in September 2001. At present, TT:CLEAR acts as a gateway to technology information that enables users, including practitioners and private sector users, to find information on many issues related to technology transfer.

For more information:

<http://ttclear.unfccc.int> >> [section information](#)

Theme: Technology information

EGTT activities	Results/products
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studied the needs, logistical implications and institutional arrangements associated with networking international technology clearing houses and networks of regional and national technology centres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot network of national and regional technology information centres.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considered ways and means to enhance the capabilities of clean technology centres in developing countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial report on the pilot project on networking between TT:CLEAR and regional national technology information centres.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted in designing and implementing an outreach programme for TT:CLEAR, and identified and analysed ways to facilitate access to technology information by intended users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of the survey on the effectiveness of the use of TT:CLEAR. Web based technology transfer information clearing house (<http://ttclear.unfccc.int>)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted the secretariat in organizing an expert workshop on technology information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of the technology information expert workshop

The **enabling environment** component of the framework focuses on governmental actions, such as fair trade policies, removal of technical, legal and administrative barriers to technology transfer, sound economic policy, regulatory frameworks and transparency, all of which create an environment conducive to private sector and public sector technology transfer. Barriers to technology transfer and ways to overcome them were addressed through several means by the EGTT and the secretariat, including a technical paper on enabling environments for the development and transfer of technologies, a workshop on enabling environments, and a senior-level round table. These activities resulted in a better understanding of the definition and means to enhance enabling environments to support technology transfer.

For more information:

<http://ttclear.unfccc.int> >> [section enabling environments](#)

Theme: Enabling environment

EGTT activities

- Organized a side event on issues surrounding the transfer of publicly owned technologies and those in the public domain.
- Analysed the interaction of climate and environmentally related legislation and policies on national technology choices and transfer.
- Cooperated with business and industry and public-private partnerships in the organization of sector-specific workshops.
- Organized a workshop on enabling environments for technology transfer.

Results/products

- Informal paper on issues surrounding publicly owned technologies and those in the public domain.
- Summary of the senior-level round-table discussion on enabling environments for technology transfer.
- Cooperation with business and industry non-governmental organizations for the organization of the side event "Technology transfer and the UNFCCC: practical approaches for responding to developing country priorities".
- Technical paper on enabling environments for technology transfer.
- Report of the UNFCCC workshop on enabling environments for technology transfer.

Within the context of enhancing the implementation of the technology transfer framework, **capacity-building** is a process which seeks to build, develop, strengthen, enhance and improve existing scientific and technical skills, capabilities and institutions particularly in developing countries, to enable them to assess, adapt, manage and develop technologies. The EGTT considered capacity-building a cross-cutting issue; hence many activities in this area were conducted as integrated activities with other themes, such as the organization of a series of workshops on TNAs, technology information, innovative financing and technologies for adaptation, and the publication of a handbook on conducting TNAs for climate change and a guidebook on preparing technology transfer projects for financing.

For more information:

<http://ttclear.unfccc.int> >> [section capacity-building](#)

Theme: Capacity-building

EGTT activities

- Investigated the relationship with all capacity-building activities under the UNFCCC.
- Identified possible prioritized capacity-building activities on technology transfer.
- Analysed ways to strengthen institutional capacities and to promote closer regional cooperation of national focal points.

Results/products

- Technical paper on capacity-building in the development and transfer of technologies.
- Note: The EGTT considered capacity-building a cross-cutting issue; hence many activities in this area were conducted as integrated activities with other themes.

Mechanisms for technology transfer are to facilitate the support of financial, institutional and methodological activities: (a) to enhance the coordination of the full range of stakeholders in different countries and regions; (b) to engage them in cooperative efforts to accelerate the development and diffusion, including transfer, of technologies, know-how and practices to and between countries, particularly developing countries, through technology cooperation and partnerships; and (c) to facilitate the development of projects and programmes to support such ends. Under this theme, the EGTT was established as an institutional arrangement to facilitate the implementation of the technology transfer framework.

For more information:

<http://ttclear.unfccc.int> >> section expert group

Theme: Mechanisms

EGTT activities	Results/products
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessed initiatives on technology transfer related to subregional, regional and international climate change related mechanisms and institutions.Identified ways to facilitate the development of regional and subregional projects on research and development.Identified linkages and possible collaboration with other constituted bodies under the Convention and other global conventions and processes where technology transfer are considered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">EGTT was established as an institutional arrangement to facilitate the implementation of the technology transfer framework.Annual reports of the EGTT.Enhanced cooperation with other constituted bodies under the Convention.Dialogue with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Cross-cutting issues

An emerging area of work of the EGTT is related to **innovative options for financing** the development and transfer of technologies. This work aims to improve access to financing from a wide range of available sources given the limited capacity of public financing sources, in order to realize the increasing number of technology transfer projects. Two workshops on innovative financing have been organized by the secretariat in collaboration with the EGTT, which generated critical learning and common understanding on means of financing technology needs in developing countries, as well as possible innovative ways to engage the private sector in technology transfer activities under the Convention. Based on the outcomes of the workshops, the secretariat in collaboration with the EGTT published a guidebook on preparing technology transfer projects for financing aimed at assisting project developers in developing countries prepare project financing proposals which meet the standards of international finance providers. Additional technical assistance for project developers in developing countries is provided by the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN), an initiative by CTI in collaboration with the EGTT.

For more information:

<http://ttclear.unfccc.int> >> [section innovative financing](#)

Theme: Innovative financing

EGTT activities

- Cooperated with the secretariat to organize a workshop on innovative options for financing the development and transfer of technologies.
- Cooperated with UNEP, UNDP, the GEF, CTI and the secretariat to organize a workshop on innovative options for financing the results of the TNAs
- Supported the secretariat in preparing a practitioners' guide to assist project developers in developing countries in preparing project proposals.
- Cooperated with CTI to initiate a network of financing experts, and to provide technical assistance to project developers in developing countries in the preparation of project proposals.

Results/products

- Report on the UNFCCC workshop on innovative options for financing the development and transfer of technologies.
- Report on the UNFCCC workshop on innovative options for financing the results of the technology needs assessments.
- Technical paper on innovative options for financing the development and transfer of technologies
- Guidebook on preparing technology transfer projects for financing
- Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN).
- Engagement of the private finance community.

Another emerging area of work of the EGTT deals with **technologies for adaptation** to climate change. This work aims to improve the current knowledge and understanding of adaptation to climate change, including the assessment of technologies for adaptation to climate change, the process of technology development and transfer as relevant to adaptation, and its implications for climate policy. The technical paper on the application of environmentally sound technologies for adaptation to climate change contains comprehensive information and presents lessons learned in specific sectors (coastal zones, water resources, agriculture, public health and infrastructure) with case studies, and highlights potential policy recommendations to strengthen the transfer of technologies for adaptation.

For more information:

<http://ttclear.unfccc.int> >> [section adaptation](#)

Theme: Technologies for adaptation

EGTT activities

- Supported the secretariat in organizing a seminar on the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies for adaptation.
- Presented the work of the EGTT in this area through a side event.
- Considered possible activities that could enhance or be responsive to the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Results/products

- Improved understanding of the role of technologies for adaptation to climate change.
- Report on the seminar on the development and transfer of technologies for adaptation to climate change.
- Technical paper on the application of environmentally sound technologies for adaptation to climate change.
- Brochure on technologies for adaptation to climate change.

FUTURE

Much of the work of the EGTT to date has provided understanding of technology transfer at a conceptual level. More recently, this has been complemented by work at a more practical level, such as that on innovative financing and technologies for adaptation. Recently the EGTT was requested to provide recommendations to enhance the implementation of the technology transfer framework. The EGTT recommended that the existing structure of the technology transfer framework continue to provide a solid basis for implementing the provisions of the Convention and that future work in this area should evolve to a more practical and results-oriented level by promoting actions in specific sectors and regions.





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