



## Submission from the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) on the Paris Committee on Capacity Building

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The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) welcomes the opportunity to the Paris Committee on Capacity Building information on:

- capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions in the context of the Paris Agreement
- the capacity-building web portal

This submission highlights the need for a long-term approach in developing countries to promote developing country ownership, strengthen capacity at the national, regional and subnational level to implement nationally determined contributions in the context of the Paris Agreement.

This submission also suggests improving the capacity-building web portal by improving the weblinks in the activity details dialogue box.

### **The gaps and needs in the existing climate change capacity-building regime**

Climate change is a long-term issue - the impacts of climate change and the need to transition to a low carbon pathway will increase as we move from one generation to the next. Capacity-building, a means for implementing adaptation and mitigation strategies will therefore need to be designed to continue in the long-term as well. Addressing climate change requires long-term systems, mechanisms and capacity suppliers at the national, regional and local levels that sustainably carry out capacity-building functions.

Capacity-building activities in both the development and climate sectors have been, for the large part ad-hoc, project-based and short-term in nature. Despite the numerous initiatives, finance dedicated to capacity-building globally is still modest. The dominant methodology of flying in and

flying out consultants from the North to conduct workshops and training leaves behind little in the South. Oftentimes, the only proof of capacity-building is a report submitted to the donor. This has led practitioners and researchers to conclude that the impact of capacity-building activities is not clear and the current capacity building is inadequate to meet the long-term capacity needs of developing countries (Khan et al 2016, Nakhoda 2015, Huq 2016, UNFCCC 2015, Wood 2011).

### **Ownership of building and maintaining capacity over time and space**

Although developing country ownership of capacity building projects has increased in the past, to truly take ownership of building and maintaining capacity over time and space, in-country mechanisms, systems and capacity suppliers need to be targeted in all capacity-building initiatives. This means that all capacity building efforts need to utilize the "expertise, systems, structures and institutions already existent in developing partner countries to ensure that capacity-building is sustainable, continuous, retained and replenished. The mechanism that delivers the capacity need to be indigenous and endogenous and continue after consultants have completed their tasks" (Haque et al 2017 forthcoming).

A long-term approach to climate capacity-building starts with a plan lead, executed and monitored by developing countries. The mechanisms or systems in developing countries that build long term capacity, need to be identified through continuous engagement/involvement with multiple stakeholders, especially women, indigenous populations, youth and local communities to understand the ways that capacity can be built sustainably over time. "A qualitative, systems approach to monitoring and evaluation is more effective than rigid quantitative indicators which may not be met in a complex system. Since capacity-building is an "emergent combination of attributes, capabilities and relationships that enables a system to exist, adapt and perform," (Watson 2006, vi) a systems approach helps us understand the interconnectedness and complexities of a capacity-building system" (Ibid).

### **Opportunities to strengthen capacity at the national, regional and subnational level**

Universities, civil service training academies, training academies, networks and community level organizations hold tremendous potential to be the long-term mechanisms in developing countries that will ensure that capacities are enhanced and sustained over time.

The oldest capacity-building institutions in the world, universities have trained and educated a pool of qualified and capable professionals for a millennia. Both degree and non-degree granting

programs and courses are effective means of building capacity of professionals directly involved in tackling climate change.

Similar to universities, embedding climate change curricula in training academies for civil servants ensures that all civil servants and future policy makers receive the knowledge they need on climate change, its impacts in their country the low carbon energy and adaptation options most appropriate for their development.

Networks bring actors together in collaboration and solidarity with one another to network, share knowledge, build consensus, leverage funding, and form partnerships all of which strengthen and grow a sector. Networks such as the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) is an excellent example of a collaboration that aims to build long-term research capacity.

The role of community groups and local government cannot be overlooked as most are on the front lines of climate impacts and energy access. Supporting local actors with direct finance and technical assistance through local community groups such as local savings groups, local NGOs, community organizations and local government will ensure that capacity-building efforts are inclusive of the needs of those most affected and marginalised by climate change.

In order to fully realize the goals of the NDCs and the Paris Agreement by large, long-term capacity-building efforts need to target state actors and non-state such as researchers, communities, academics, private sector, civil society, local government authorities etc.

### **Capacity-building web portal**

The capacity-building web portal on the UNFCCC website offers a useful visualisation of activities happening around the world as well as information on various projects. However, when we try to look for further information on each of the activities, the website given for the individual project is generic and not specific to the project in question.

This is illustrated in the diagram below:

The screenshot displays the UNFCCC Capacity-building Portal interface. A modal window titled 'Activity details' is open, showing the following information:

Activity title	Fifth operational phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Brazil
Purpose/Target	Conservation of the Cerrado and Caatinga biomes of Brazil through community initiatives on sustainable resource use, and actions that maintain or enhance carbon stocks and increase areas under sustainable land management
Starting date	15 Sep 2011
Region(s)	Latin America and the Caribbean
Global activity	No
Currency	USD
Web link(s)	http://www.undp.org

A red circle highlights the web link 'http://www.undp.org', with a note next to it stating 'Website not project specific'. The background of the portal shows a map of South America and a pie chart titled 'Activities by priority area'.

## References

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