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Matters relating to capacity-building for developing countries

Matters relating to capacity-building under the Convention, including enhancing institutional arrangements and the review of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

Matters relating to capacity-building under the Kyoto Protocol

Capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol

Compilation and synthesis report by the secretariat

Summary

This report was prepared to inform discussions to take place at the 8th meeting of the Durban Forum on capacity-building and the 3rd meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building. It compiles and synthesizes information on capacity-building contained in reports published in 2018 by relevant bodies under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Adaptation Fund Board.

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Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Abbreviations and acronyms		3
I. Introduction	1–5	4
A. Mandate	1–2	4
B. Scope of the report.....	3–5	4
II. Key findings and emerging trends.....	6–11	5
III. Capacity-building elements in the work of bodies established under the Convention	12–51	6
A. Adaptation Committee.....	12–17	6
B. Consultative Group of Experts	18–21	7
C. Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts.....	22–26	7
D. Least Developed Countries Expert Group	27–30	8
E. Paris Committee on Capacity-Building	31–36	8
F. Standing Committee on Finance.....	37–39	9
G. Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network	40–51	10
IV. Capacity-building elements in the work of the bodies established under the Kyoto Protocol: Executive Board of the clean development mechanism	52–56	12
V. Capacity-building activities reported by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Adaptation Fund Board	57–73	12
A. Green Climate Fund.....	57–64	12
B. Global Environment Facility	65–69	13
C. Adaptation Fund Board.....	70–73	14

Abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee
AF	Adaptation Fund
AFB	Adaptation Fund Board
BUR	biennial update report
CDM	clean development mechanism
CDM Executive Board	Executive Board of the clean development mechanism
CGE	Consultative Group of Experts
COP	Conference of the Parties
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
DAE	direct access entity
DNA	designated national authority
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
LDC	least developed country
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
NAP	national adaptation plan
NC	national communication
NDA	national designated authority
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NDE	national designated entity
NIE	national implementing entity
non-Annex I Party	Party not included in Annex I to the Convention
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
PPF	project preparation facility
RCC	regional collaboration centre
SB	sessions of the subsidiary bodies
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	small island developing States
TEC	Technology Executive Committee
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP DTU Partnership	Formerly known as the United Nations Environment Programme Risoe Centre, operates under a tripartite agreement between Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Technical University of Denmark and the United Nations Environment Programme
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The COP requested the secretariat to compile and synthesize the reports prepared by the relevant bodies established under the Convention since the most recent meeting of the Durban Forum and to make the resulting report available to the SBI at its sessions coinciding with the meetings of the Durban Forum to facilitate the discussions of the latter.¹
2. COP 21 decided to include the compilation and synthesis report on capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol in the inputs to the PCCB.²

B. Scope of the report

3. This report synthesizes information relevant to capacity-building contained in the following reports published in 2018:
 - (a) Report of the AC;³
 - (b) Report on progress of work of the CGE;⁴
 - (c) Report of the WIM Executive Committee;⁵
 - (d) Reports on the 33rd and 34th meetings of the LEG;⁶
 - (e) Annual technical progress report of the PCCB;⁷
 - (f) Report of the SCF to the COP;⁸
 - (g) Joint annual report of the TEC and the CTCN for 2018;⁹
 - (h) Annual report of the CDM Executive Board to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;¹⁰
 - (i) Report of the GCF to the COP;¹¹
 - (j) Report of the GEF to the COP;¹²
 - (k) Report of the AFB.¹³
4. A compilation of specific capacity-building activities undertaken by bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol is provided in the addendum¹⁴ to this document.
5. Information available to the secretariat on capacity-building activities undertaken by the bodies in 2018 after the publication of the reports referred to in paragraph 3 above was also taken into account in preparing this report to ensure that it was up to date.

¹ Decisions 2/CP.17, paragraph 146, and 1/CP.18, paragraph 78.

² Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 79.

³ FCCC/SB/2018/3.

⁴ FCCC/SBI/2018/20.

⁵ FCCC/SB/2018/1.

⁶ FCCC/SBI/2018/4 and FCCC/SBI/2018/18.

⁷ FCCC/SBI/2018/15.

⁸ FCCC/CP/2018/8.

⁹ FCCC/SB/2018/2.

¹⁰ FCCC/KP/CMP/2018/3 and Corr.1.

¹¹ FCCC/CP/2018/5 and Add.1.

¹² FCCC/CP/2018/6 and Add.1.

¹³ FCCC/KP/CMP/2018/4 and Add.1.

¹⁴ FCCC/SBI/2019/2/Add.1.

II. Key findings and emerging trends

6. As in previous years, bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol undertook a wide range of capacity-building related activities in 2018. They have continued to identify synergies across their work and to translate this into collaboration. Examples include the enhanced linkages between the Technology and Financial Mechanism, promoted, inter alia, through joint activities of the TEC, the CTCN and the GCF; the collaboration of a number of bodies and entities (AC, CTCN, GCF, LEG) on adaptation planning; and the continued collaboration on climate finance, in the context of the joint Adaptation Finance Bulletin, of the AF, the GCF, the GEF, the LEG and the SCF.

7. It is evident that the bodies often apply an incremental approach, whereby their activities build on their previous work in the context of ongoing mandates. Examples include the work of the TEC on endogenous capacities and technologies and South–South cooperation, and the work of the AC on facilitating access to the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for financing adaptation.

8. Besides collaboration with other constituted bodies under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, many activities were undertaken in collaboration or partnership with external stakeholders. United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations and initiatives were mentioned most frequently, as well as multilateral and regional development banks, research institutions and academia, and civil society organizations. Only a few of the reported capacity-building activities were undertaken in collaboration with the private sector or had private sector stakeholders as the primary target group, such as the AC workshop, in collaboration with the International Trade Centre, on fostering private sector engagement in building climate resilience; the collaboration of the SCF with private sector institutions in preparing the 2018 Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows; and the collaboration of the PCCB with a number of private sector organizations in the context of the COP 24 capacity-building hub.

9. In terms of types of activity, most of the activities reported can be categorized as “events/technical meetings/forums” or “web-based seminars/tools/courses”. The former includes many events that are organized on a regular basis, such as the NAP Expo, Adaptation Forum, SCF Forum, Global DNA Forum and CTCN regional forums. Web-based activities include the webinars and e-learning courses offered by the CGE, the CTCN and the PCCB. Web-based tools managed by bodies include NAP Central, managed by the LEG; the Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer, maintained by the WIM Executive Committee; and the digital capacity-building network hosted by the PCCB. Other capacity-building activities reported in 2018 can be categorized under “training/workshops”, “tools/handbooks” or “technical assistance/support”.

10. The capacity-building activities address various topics in response to the bodies’ mandates. In general, the activities are aligned with the 15 priority areas for capacity-building outlined in the framework for capacity-building in developing countries established under decision 2/CP.7. However, a key topic addressed by many bodies in addition is climate finance access and readiness. Other emerging topics include implementation of NDCs, linkages between climate action and the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and South–South cooperation. Cross-cutting issues, such as gender considerations and human rights, are also increasingly being addressed in capacity-building activities.

11. The PCCB is a recently established body with a unique mandate to enhance the coherence and coordination of capacity-building activities under the Convention. During the reporting period the PCCB began to address this mandate by, inter alia, enhancing coherence and coordination and promoting synergies in relation to mainstreaming gender considerations in the work of all the constituted bodies through selected activities. It also made comprehensive information on the capacity-building activities of the different constituted bodies available on the capacity-building portal for the first time in order to enhance access to the tools, methodologies, training and other resources developed by the different bodies. Furthermore, the PCCB hosted a week of events at the capacity-building hub at COP 24, where it collaborated with numerous capacity-building stakeholders under and outside the

Convention to boost coherence and coordination. While these are important initial activities aimed at achieving greater synergies, coherence and coordination, intended in turn to enhance the impact of capacity-building, the PCCB is expected to strengthen and expand this work in 2019, including by conducting a detailed coherence analysis leading to clear recommendations on utilizing synergies.

III. Capacity-building elements in the work of bodies established under the Convention

A. Adaptation Committee

12. In 2018 the AC continued to provide technical support and guidance to developing countries in relation to adaptation action and means of implementation (finance, technology and capacity-building), with a focus on providing technical support and guidance on NAPs, in close collaboration with the LEG and supported by the AC NAP task force.

13. In the context of the technical examination process on adaptation, the AC conducted the 2018 technical expert meeting, with individual sessions led by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Business for Social Responsibility, UNEP, the CTCN and the GCF. The meeting focused on identifying opportunities and options for adaptation planning in relation to vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems and its outcomes were used as input to a technical paper and summary for policymakers on the topic.

14. In line with the focus of the 2017 technical examination process on adaptation conducted by the AC and with a view to disseminating key messages from the resulting technical paper, the AC hosted its 2018 Adaptation Forum, held on the margins of the 2018 Adaptation Futures conference, on the topic of integrating adaptation with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework. Furthermore, the AC organized an expert meeting on national adaptation goals and indicators and their relationship with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework, which was aimed at providing technical support and guidance to Parties on monitoring and evaluating adaptation action and mobilizing knowledge and experience in the context of relevant international frameworks for national adaptation planning and implementation.

15. Building on an information paper on the experience of countries in accessing the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for financing adaptation prepared in collaboration with the GCF and other contributors in 2017, the AC organized a workshop on accessing the GCF Readiness Programme for financing adaptation. The SBI drew on the report on the workshop in its assessment of progress on NAPs, and relevant recommendations were forwarded to the SCF in the context of its provision of guidance to the GCF.

16. The AC also advanced work aimed at enhancing private sector engagement in adaptation. A survey and literature review on this issue, conducted in 2017, served as input to a workshop organized by the AC, together with the International Trade Centre, on fostering private sector engagement in building resilience to climate change. The report on the workshop and potential recommendations and next steps will be considered by the AC at its 15th meeting, in March 2019.¹⁵

17. Other reported capacity-building related activities of the AC include the continuation of its Adaptation Finance Bulletin, issued in collaboration with the AF, GCF, GEF, LEG and SCF to inform about recent developments in adaptation finance; and the preparation of two technical papers on long-term adaptation planning and on various approaches to adaptation to support stakeholders in their implementation of adaptation action.

¹⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/event/fifteenth-meeting-of-the-adaptation-committee-ac15>.

B. Consultative Group of Experts

18. During the reporting period the CGE, in line with its mandate, continued to respond to the need to enhance the capacity of non-Annex I Parties to prepare their NCs and BURs, and of experts nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts to conduct the technical analysis of BURs.

19. Following similar workshops for the African, Asia-Pacific and Eastern European regions conducted in 2017, in 2018 the CGE conducted a regional training workshop to enhance the capacity of national experts from non-Annex I Parties in the Latin American and Caribbean region to report mitigation actions in their countries' NCs and BURs. In addition, the CGE organized hands-on training workshops on identifying and reporting on adaptation action in NCs for national experts from Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Furthermore, to enhance expertise on the technical analysis of BURs, the CGE continued its training programme for teams of technical experts, which was rolled out in 2014–2015.

20. Web-based capacity-building activities of the CGE undertaken in 2018 include the continuation of its e-learning course for national experts on the preparation of NCs, and the organization of 11 webinars, reaching a total of 448 participants, that enabled practitioners to focus on specific methods and tools in relation to, for example, greenhouse gas inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessment, and reporting information on financial support in NCs and BURs.

21. After updating the training materials on the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* in 2017, the CGE, in cooperation with the Global Support Programme for Preparation of NCs and BURs by non-Annex I Parties, translated the materials into Portuguese and made them available on the UNFCCC website in 2018.

C. Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

22. During the reporting period the WIM Executive Committee continued its capacity-building related activities in the areas of the strategic workstreams of its five-year rolling workplan.

23. The Executive Committee continued to improve the repository of information on risk transfer and insurance and interactive features of the Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer, which was launched at COP 23 to support Parties in developing and implementing risk transfer solutions in the context of comprehensive risk management. Furthermore, it continued to make information available on organizations working on slow onset events and the scope of their current efforts with a view to enhancing data and knowledge on the risks and impacts of such events.

24. In addition, as requested at COP 23,¹⁶ the Suva expert dialogue was organized in conjunction with SB 48. The event, which convened more than 200 governmental and non-governmental experts, was aimed at exploring a wide range of information, inputs and views on ways of facilitating the mobilization and securing of expertise, and enhancement of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

25. To increase the visibility of capacity-building needs and gaps in relation to loss and damage, including gaps related to risk assessment and retention emerging from the Suva expert dialogue, the Executive Committee actively participated in the 2nd meeting of the PCCB. The two committees intend to collaborate in 2019 to contribute to addressing those gaps.

26. In addition, the task force on displacement, which was operationalized by the Executive Committee in 2017 as mandated at COP 21,¹⁷ conducted an extensive analysis and

¹⁶ Decision 5/CP.23, paragraph 9. See also document FCCC/CP/2017/11, paragraph 81.

¹⁷ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 49.

stocktake of the current landscape under the following themes in the context of human mobility and the climate change nexus: policy and practice at the national and subnational level, policy at the international and regional level, data and assessment, and framing and linkages.

D. Least Developed Countries Expert Group

27. In 2018 the LEG continued to provide support to the LDCs and the SBI on the formulation and implementation of NAPs. The LEG, in collaboration with various other actors, including United Nations agencies and the GCF, organized the 2018 NAP Expo to promote exchange of experience and to foster partnerships between a wide range of actors and stakeholders in relation to advancing NAPs. This was the fifth NAP Expo since 2013 and attracted 260 participants. In addition, three regional NAP Expos were held in 2018 as part of regional events in Gabon, Malawi and Panama to strengthen partnerships and provide space for regional collaboration.

28. In the context of providing technical guidance and support to countries in order to advance their formulation and implementation of NAPs, the LEG created Open NAP case studies for select countries. The Open NAPs hub is used by the LEG to support developing countries that are formulating NAPs, enabling them to experiment and build on the best available expertise. The Open NAP case studies provide a quick practical overview of how the process to formulate and implement NAPs can be rolled out at the national level and contributed to the development of the integrative framework for NAPs and the SDGs.

29. In addition, the LEG supported the SBI in its assessment of progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs by supporting the development of terms of reference for the assessment; the mobilization of relevant stakeholders; and the organization, in collaboration with the AC, of a meeting of Party experts to assess progress.

30. Furthermore, the LEG continued to maintain NAP Central as the main hub for pertinent information and resources on NAPs. It currently contains 13 NAPs from developing countries and houses various technical materials and publications that serve as valuable resources for countries embarking on the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

E. Paris Committee on Capacity-building

31. The PCCB, in its second year of operation, undertook a number of capacity-building activities in line with its various mandates.

32. At COP 24 the PCCB hosted a one-week capacity-building hub that featured more than 35 events with a clear focus on capacity-building in developing countries for enhanced climate action. The events were either co-hosted or co-organized by the PCCB and covered a wide range of topics, such as communicating climate change, tools for linking climate policies to sustainable development, tools to facilitate NDC implementation, capacity-building for energy transition, innovative climate finance sources, risk transfer solutions, gender-responsive climate action and indigenous peoples' knowledge. The PCCB collaborated with, inter alia, the NDC Partnership, the CGE, the CTCN, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee, European Union member States, ecbi, Ikea, verico SCE, 3 Ideas Ltd, the Climate Development and Knowledge Network, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and UNEP DTU Partnership in the context of the hub. It also collaborated with various partners on the 2nd official Capacity-building Day, which was led by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development and integrated into the capacity-building hub. The hub provided stakeholders with the opportunity to exchange experience, knowledge, success stories and lessons learned on how best to support capacity-building in developing countries.

33. In line with its mandates to enhance synergies through cooperation among constituted bodies and to consider cross-cutting issues, the PCCB, together with the secretariat, organized a Gender 101 webinar and a technical workshop for members of constituted bodies

under the Convention. The objective of the webinar was to enhance the capacity of members of constituted bodies to integrate gender considerations into their work in support of the goals of the Lima work programme on gender and its action plan. The subsequent workshop built on the webinar, aiming to enhance understanding and knowledge in relation to conducting a participatory and inclusive capacity-building needs and gap analysis, integrating gender considerations into climate policy and action, and raising awareness about and enhancing access to knowledge products on and tools for integrating gender considerations.

34. Furthermore, the PCCB, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, organized a side event in conjunction with COP 24 aimed at building the capacity to integrate human rights into climate action, including in the process of developing and implementing NDCs. Reaching more than 120 participants, the event helped to enhance understanding of existing capacity gaps and enabled the sharing of success stories, good practices and lessons learned. Its outcomes have been captured in a summary report, which will feed into the preparations for a joint technical workshop of the PCCB and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to be held at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in June 2019.

35. A second PCCB side event held in 2018 aimed at raising awareness of the importance of climate change capacity-building and enhancing knowledge and understanding among Parties and non-Party stakeholders of key capacity gaps and needs with regard to NDC implementation. Capacity-building recipients and providers, including the NDC Partnership, UNEP and the German Agency for International Cooperation, shared lessons learned and presented best practices and tools. The outcomes of the event have been captured in a summary report and will feed into a PCCB assessment report on capacity gaps and needs in NDC implementation to be published in 2019.

36. To foster dialogue, coherence and collaboration, as well as to facilitate access to and the sharing of information, the PCCB launched a digital capacity-building network on Facebook and further developed the capacity-building portal. Additional resource pages on the portal provide easy access to information on recent capacity-building activities of the constituted bodies as well as of the GCF, the GEF and the AFB, and on capacity-building stakeholders outside the Convention, as well as to global portals and region-specific information on climate change capacity-building.

F. Standing Committee on Finance

37. One of the main functions mandated by the COP to the SCF¹⁸ is directly addressing capacity-building issues mainly in the context of SCF forums, which provide a platform for a wide range of stakeholders to discuss topics of interest related to climate finance and promote linkages and coherence in the mobilization and delivery of climate finance.

38. The 2018 SCF Forum, entitled “Climate finance architecture: enhancing collaboration, seizing opportunities”, was attended by about 130 participants representing national and subnational governments, civil society, academia, think tanks, multilateral and national banks and the private sector. The event aimed at enhancing participants’ understanding of both the global and national climate finance architecture and the linkages between the two. It also aimed to identify trends, developments and challenges with a view to improving climate finance flows from the international to the national level and enhancing collaboration between the UNFCCC climate funds and other actors through exchange of information and experience.

39. In 2018 the SCF launched its third Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows. The Biennial Assessment contributes to better knowledge on and understanding of the geographical and thematic balance of climate finance flows and how adaptation and mitigation needs can be met most effectively by climate finance. The technical

¹⁸ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 121.

report contains actionable recommendations for consideration by the COP and is accompanied by a succinct summary for policymakers.

G. Technology Executive Committee and Climate Technology Centre and Network

1. Joint activities

40. The TEC and the CTCN intensified their collaboration in 2018 in order to enhance the work of the Technology Mechanism. They advanced their work on research, development and demonstration, focusing on identifying ways to catalyse finance for climate technology incubators and accelerators for the innovation of climate technologies in developing countries. To inform financiers and policymakers of existing opportunities for catalysing finance, the TEC and the CTCN, in collaboration with the GCF, organized a thematic dialogue and published a technical report and a policy brief on the issue.

41. Furthermore, the TEC and the CTCN stepped up their engagement in the technical examination process on mitigation and co-hosted various regional technical expert meetings, organized in conjunction with the Africa and Latin America and Caribbean Climate Weeks. At the meetings, organized in collaboration with the secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, actionable ways to address barriers and needs in the context of energy and material efficiency in industry, waste-to-energy technology and circular economy models were discussed. Work of the TEC and the CTCN on identifying and promoting policy and technology options for climate change mitigation through energy efficiency in the industry sector was also presented. The regional technical expert meetings were attended by members of the TEC and representatives of Parties, United Nations organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

2. Technology Executive Committee

42. Building on its work on endogenous capacities and technologies in 2017, the TEC carried out a stakeholder survey on the topic and reached out to other constituted bodies to seek relevant information. On that basis the TEC prepared a report on developing and enhancing endogenous capacities and technologies, which contributed to enhancing stakeholders' understanding of what endogenous capacities and technologies are and what developing and enhancing them might involve.

43. The TEC continued its work on South–South and triangular cooperation initiated in 2017 and, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for South–South Cooperation, conducted an analysis of the potential application of South–South and triangular cooperation on adaptation and mitigation technologies to assist countries in implementing their NDCs and NAPs. The TEC and the United Nations Office for South–South Cooperation also jointly organized two workshops on South–South and triangular cooperation for climate action and sustainable development in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific and Latin America and Caribbean Climate Weeks. They also prepared a joint publication providing insight into good practices and lessons learned that may be useful to countries seeking to benefit from South–South and triangular cooperation when implementing their NDCs and NAPs.

44. The TEC participated in the 2nd meeting of the PCCB and provided an update on its work relevant to capacity-building. In addition, it continued its collaboration with the WIM Executive Committee: the two bodies agreed to work together on developing a policy brief on technologies for coastal zones.

3. Climate Technology Centre and Network

45. In 2018 the CTCN conducted 46 capacity-building activities at the global, regional and national level.

46. At the global level the CTCN Secondment Programme continued to provide early- and mid-career professionals with the opportunity to contribute to the strategic and operational work of the CTCN while enhancing their understanding of climate technology

implementation and knowledge transfer. The CTCN supported capacity-building activities for the development of GCF concept notes through its ‘vision to concept’ programme in six countries. Furthermore, the CTCN, in collaboration with Radboud University in the Netherlands, organized a week-long summer school for 28 participants from 23 countries, including many LDCs, to build their capacity for climate change mitigation. The CTCN also hosted nine webinars, delivered primarily by Network members and reaching a total of 386 participants from different stakeholder groups, on a wide range of topics, including technical assistance bidding, carbon capture and storage, vulnerability reduction credits, wastewater management, agricultural carbon markets, carbon emissions trading schemes, climate technology transfer, and Chinese carbon market and green finance deployment.

47. At the regional level the CTCN convened meetings for interested Network members and regional NDEs on the margins of the regional climate weeks, including a one-day regional technical expert meeting at each climate week. It organized three regional NDE forums, reaching more than 230 participants, to, inter alia, build the capacity of NDEs, share information on CTCN services in the region, and share national and regional experience and best practices from the implementation of CTCN technical assistance. In collaboration with UNEP, the CTCN held an event at the 2018 NAP Expo to promote new approaches to adaptation planning.

48. The CTCN organized a CTCN clinic at the GCF structured dialogues with Asia, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia with the aim of strengthening linkages with the Financial Mechanism, creating awareness of CTCN support for the GCF and highlighting work undertaken with the support of the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. A similar clinic held at the fifth AF climate finance readiness seminar for NIEs aimed at strengthening collaboration on adaptation technologies, creating awareness of CTCN activities and promoting South–South learning and exchange. To develop working relationships and to intensify existing partnerships, the CTCN organized a meeting in Central Asia to bring together relevant focal points, including from the CTCN, the GCF and the GEF, and officials responsible for technology needs assessments, nationally appropriate mitigation actions and NAPs.

49. Other activities included providing support to Network members for organizing capacity-building events and workshops featuring the participation of NDEs, and organizing week-long training for representatives of NDAs and university educators from five African countries on design thinking for national climate change technology innovation.

50. The CTCN conducted joint capacity-building activities on climate financing with regional development banks in Africa in 2018 and has started to forge partnerships with other regional and global technology initiatives, including the Technology Bank for the LDCs and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre.

51. At the national level the CTCN Request Incubator Programme for the LDCs continued to enhance the capacity of participating LDCs to develop high-quality requests for technical assistance, attract investment and strengthen institutional capacities related to climate technologies. The Programme has been expanded to cover SIDS and now places stronger emphasis on the identification and prioritization of technological innovation in support of NDC priorities. Furthermore, the CTCN provided technical assistance in four countries in 2018: Algeria (establishment of a laboratory for accreditation and quality control of photovoltaic modules), the Gambia (recycling of organic waste for energy and smallholder livelihoods), Bangladesh (development of a certification course for energy managers and auditors) and Costa Rica (knowledge management system for tropical forest management and ecosystem services).

IV. Capacity-building elements in the work of bodies established under the Kyoto Protocol: Executive Board of the clean development mechanism

52. During the reporting period the CDM Executive Board provided capacity-building support under the Nairobi Framework Partnership, support to forums and other stakeholders, and support to regions, including in the context of official side events at UNFCCC sessions.

53. Activities related to the Nairobi Framework Partnership included CDM-related events during the regional climate weeks in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The focus of the events was on discussing the past, present and future of CDM projects, the development of standardized baselines and RCC support for CDM projects. A total of 32 DNAs received updates on the outcomes of the negotiations on the CDM and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, as well as an overview of support available to them from the RCCs.

54. Under its provision of support to forums and other stakeholders, the CDM Executive Board hosted the 19th Global DNA Forum and a technical workshop on new approaches to carbon crediting. These activities, aimed at sharing information and building the capacities of DNAs, attracted more than 90 participants. The CDM Executive Board also organized a range of activities targeting designated operating entities, including information meetings to keep them abreast of decisions taken by the CDM Executive Board and to clarify new CDM regulations. Furthermore, it organized calibration workshops to strengthen the capacities of designated operating entities and lead assessors. In addition, an RCC Global Forum meeting was held to enable exchange of ideas and to receive feedback from the Chair of the CDM Executive Board on future RCC activities.

55. Regional activities were aimed at providing governments and project developers with RCC support in the form of capacity-building, technical assistance and strategic networking opportunities. A total of 14 activities (6 in Asia, 4 in Africa and 4 in Latin America), reaching more than 1,200 participants, were conducted. While most focused either on standardized baselines or voluntary cancellation of certified emission reductions, others focused on climate finance and green investment, for example.

56. At its three side events in 2018 the CDM Executive Board presented and discussed on-the-ground climate initiatives undertaken by the RCCs, experience and lessons learned from the CDM, and the CDM tool box, which contains various tools for assessing and quantifying internationally recognized mitigation action. The around 250 participants in these events increased their awareness of potential future uses of the CDM and of the regional support provided by the RCCs.

V. Capacity-building activities reported by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Adaptation Fund Board

A. Green Climate Fund

57. In the reporting period the GCF continued to provide capacity-building and support through the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme and through projects and programmes.

58. The GCF, through its Readiness Programme, as a strategic priority, continued to strengthen and build enabling environments to allow developing countries to access GCF resources. The Programme provided support to NDAs and focal points for preparing their strategic frameworks, including country programmes, and for developing GCF programme pipelines on mitigation and adaptation using a coherent approach.

59. In line with decisions of the GCF Board, readiness resources are used to provide support for accreditation for DAEs, the formulation of NAPs and for developing strategic frameworks for national engagement with the GCF, building on existing strategies and plans, including low-emission development strategies, nationally appropriate mitigation actions,

NAPs and national adaptation programmes of action. At its 22nd meeting, in February 2019, the GCF Board decided to improve the strategic impact of the Readiness Programme and allocated a further USD 122.5 million for capacity-building and technical assistance, bringing the total funding envelope to USD 312.5 million.

60. During the reporting period the GCF provided financial support to developing countries through its Readiness Programme in the following seven UNFCCC-defined priority areas: institutional capacity-building, including the strengthening or establishment, as appropriate, of national climate change secretariats or national focal points; the enhancement and/or creation of an enabling environment; national climate change programmes; vulnerability and adaptation assessment; capacity-building for the implementation of adaptation measures; education, training and public awareness; and information and networking, including the establishment of databases.

61. The GCF, through the Readiness Programme, has committed a total of USD 140 million for initiatives in 122 developing countries. This includes USD 43 million in funding to 109 countries to establish NDAs and build their capacity, and USD 11 million to 40 countries for technical assistance and capacity-building to enable direct access to climate finance. The GCF has provided USD 66 million in readiness funding to help 25 countries to develop NAPs and/or undertake other adaptation planning processes. In addition, the Programme organized regional and global workshops that contributed to building the capacity of NDAs and DAEs, including for developing their pipelines of GCF investments.

62. Additionally, the GCF has been providing technical assistance through the PPF to accredited entities for project and programme preparation, especially targeting DAEs and micro to small-sized category projects. Currently the pipeline has 35 active PPF applications with associated project concepts and no objection letters from the respective NDAs. As at 31 December 2018, 23 PPF applications had been approved or endorsed (16 approved and 7 endorsed for approval pending final conditions) to develop project or programme concepts into full funding proposals. Of the 35 active PPF applications, 26 (74 per cent) have been submitted by 12 different DAEs to date. The current value of the approved PPF applications is USD 10.8 million, of which 77 per cent is for DAEs and 23 per cent for international access entities.

63. In the context of its projects and programmes, the GCF provided support for capacity-building under its adaptation and mitigation thematic windows when capacity-building was identified by countries as critical to achieving the results of GCF-supported projects and programmes. In most cases support was provided in the form of financial support for capacity-building and technical assistance components of projects and programmes approved to receive financing from the GCF.

64. Financial support provided for capacity-building and technical assistance components of GCF projects and programmes cut across the following five UNFCCC-defined priority areas for capacity-building: institutional capacity-building, including the strengthening or establishment, as appropriate, of national climate change secretariats or national focal points; the enhancement and/or creation of an enabling environment; capacity-building for the implementation of adaptation measures; research and systematic observation, including meteorological, hydrological and climatological services; and education, training and public awareness.

B. Global Environment Facility

65. Capacity-building is embedded in the design of both climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation projects and therefore a key theme of GEF projects. Additionally, many GEF projects include capacity-building for enabling activities and the fulfilment of Convention obligations as a distinct objective.

66. In 2017 the portfolios of the GEF Trust Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund supported 82 stand-alone and multi focal area projects, of which 69 focused on mitigation and 13 on adaptation. A total of 33 of the projects provided

support to 45 SIDS and LDCs with capacity-building activities amounting to USD 67.1 million. Total GEF support for the projects amounted to USD 166.2 million.

67. The projects covered 13 of the 15 UNFCCC-defined priority areas for capacity-building, with the majority addressing institutional capacity-building, development of national reports such as NCs and BURs and other enabling activities, enhancement and transfer of technology, and enhancement of enabling conditions. Adaptation projects mainly focused on institutional development and strengthening, vulnerability and adaptation assessment, development of national climate change programmes, implementation of adaptation measures, research and systematic observation through climate information systems, and public awareness or education programmes.

68. The GEF continued supporting the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention and the Doha work programme. This included the provision of financial resources to non-Annex I Parties, in particular African countries, LDCs and SIDS and a minimum of USD 13 million spent on education, training and public awareness through the GEF regular climate change mitigation and adaptation programming. In addition, components in many NC projects provide support to the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention and the Doha work programme. During the reporting period the GEF provided targeted support to countries to strengthen their capacity to meet their commitments under the Rio conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements. This support was provided under the GEF cross-cutting capacity development strategy for the sixth replenishment period. Cross-cutting capacity development was, however, discontinued in the seventh replenishment and the GEF, in its report to COP 24, noted that capacity-building support would be provided through other means, including regular GEF programming and country engagement by the GEF secretariat.

69. The GEF manages the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, which was established at COP 21 to help strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of non-Annex I Parties to meet the enhanced transparency requirements defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. Between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018 the GEF secretariat approved one global project and 29 national projects.

C. Adaptation Fund Board

70. In October 2017 the AFB approved the AF medium-term strategy,¹⁹ which presents new opportunities for enhancing the delivery of readiness and capacity-building support to developing countries, including capacity-building support during project and programme implementation. Through its Readiness Programme for Climate Finance, in the reporting period the AF continued to promote its direct access modality and to increase the capacity of national institutions in developing countries to access funds and to implement quality projects, in line with its medium-term strategy and Article 11 of the Paris Agreement.

71. Readiness and capacity-building support to developing countries from the AF remained needs based and country driven. Through its Readiness Programme, the AF provided a technical assistance grant to an accredited NIE in Morocco, the Agency for Agricultural Development, to enhance its institutional capacity to screen, assess and manage environmental and social risks and take into account gender considerations in adaptation projects and programmes in line with the AF environmental and social policy and gender policy. Moreover, three developing countries received South–South cooperation grants to facilitate the delivery of capacity-building support for accreditation through the AF direct access modality. The AF also launched new learning grants and project scale-up grants under its medium-term strategy to build the capacity of NIEs to develop and disseminate their knowledge and knowledge products to peers and to the wider climate change community, and to be able to prepare projects and programmes funded by the AF for scale-up by other funders, including in the private sector.

72. Other activities under the Readiness Programme during the reporting period included providing capacity-building support for accreditation and project development through a regional climate finance readiness workshop for the Caribbean, organized in collaboration

¹⁹ AFB decision B.30/42.

with the Caribbean Development Bank. Two climate finance webinars were held and implementation of the readiness support package pilot commenced with the hosting of two workshops, in Kenya and Senegal, to enhance understanding of the challenges and capacity gaps developing countries face in accessing AF resources. The readiness support package is intended to address these challenges and capacity gaps through a suite of tools and instruments delivered by an intermediary to a developing country requiring readiness support, and also includes direct engagement by the AFB secretariat. In addition, the AF held its fifth annual climate finance readiness seminar for accredited NIEs to enhance learning among peer NIEs and to strengthen NIE capacity to access, deliver and report on climate finance through the Fund's direct access modality.

73. To support NIE capacity-building through more regular and enhanced dialogue and exchange, the AF, under its Readiness Programme and in partnership with the World Resources Institute, contributed to further development of the community of practice among NIE practitioners. The community of practice is an initiative of the Fund's accredited NIEs and is driven by the NIEs with limited support from the AF. During the reporting period, NIEs established a committee for the community of practice that would work closely with members to develop an action plan for the community. To further support the community of practice, the knowledge management team of the AFB secretariat has produced a quarterly newsletter with information from NIEs on their knowledge activities and tools and other knowledge products. Furthermore, in partnership with the Climate and Development Knowledge Network the AF revamped the Climate Finance Ready website,²⁰ where entities, climate finance practitioners and others with best practices can share and access readiness-related content such as news articles, research papers, case studies and publications.

²⁰ <https://climatefinanceready.org/>.