



Climate & Development
Knowledge Network

Challenges and Opportunities for Capacity Building in the Africa Region

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Overview

Definition of Capacity Building

Examples from Africa

Challenges

Opportunities

Capacity Strengthening

Strengthening Capacity is the process of collaboratively enhancing the ability of individuals, organizations/institutions to articulate and achieve a set of goals, through suitable and appropriate interventions including those in knowledge, skills and systems, that are aimed at meeting a set of agreed upon needs. It must be medium to long-term in focus, and must take into account and harness the potential, as well as seek to identify and mitigate the limitations of the stakeholders.

Examples from the last ten years:

Climate and Development Network (CDKN)

Future Climate for Africa (FCFA)

Southern Africa Climate Finance Partnership (SACFP)

Support to the Africa Group of negotiators

Capacity Strengthening Approach

Demand led: work with recipient to determine needs or where needs are not yet clear develop an approach to identify with recipient.

Bottom up and local ownership: using a co-produced approach where feasible

Low ego approach: that is often not branded as capacity building

Manage power dynamics: these are often at play and need to be actively managed

Capacity needs to be built iteratively and a once off intervention does not lead to capability

Institutional capability: activities should not focus only on individuals but ensure that capability is spread within the institution to ensure longevity.

Promote Southern leadership: preparing individuals with the necessary skills, attitude and functional knowledge to operate within a complex system to maintain or advance the capacity of an institution



CDKN climate finance workshop. Credit: CIDT



Using games to build capacity in climate change, Ethiopia. Credit: Thomas White



Presenting the latest IPCC science to African journalists. Credit: Kiara Worth, IISD.



Strengthening capacity of women farmers in Maharashtra, India. Credit: Swayam Shikshan Prayog.



Teaching African researchers how to contribute their knowledge to Wikipedia. Credit: CDKN & FCFA



BANGLADESH

- ↳ LEARNING (E.G. CHECKLIST, PROJECT ES) FROM OTHER NDAS OF GCF
- ↳ HOW PPP & GOVT COMMITMENT TO CC CAN MAKE AN OTHERWISE UNVIABLE PROJ. VIABLE
- ↳ SHARED RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN PUBLIC & PRIVATE SECTORS IS THE WAY TO ALLOW FOR MASS SCALE DEPLOYMENT OF CC PROJ.

KEY WORD, "ENABLING ENVIRONMENT"
ACCESS TO INFORMATION
RISK SHARING.
DESIGNING APPROPRIATE FIN INSTR. & FISCAL INCENTIVES.
IMPROVED COLLABORATION AMONG LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS & CC AGENCIES

Next steps
follow up w/ participants for more info on their initiatives
how methodologies can be applied to different countries (ie spaghetti diagram)
- Methodologies
- info on system based adaptation projects
- details on what can be shared + not shared + what are the implications to presentations
- implications on comparison of funds (GCF, others)

PERU Ministerio del Ambiente

SOUTH-SOUTH LEARNING EXCHANGE WORKSHOP ON BANKABLE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT- LIMA, PERU

- What are the 3 key messages away from this workshop?
 - When developing bankable projects, what changes will make the biggest difference in your context?
- What are the next steps for your workshop?

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South-South learning exchange in Lima, Peru. Credit: CDKN



Southern African Climate Finance Partnership learning exchange. Credit: SouthSouthNorth.



A Future Climate for Africa early career researcher presenting her work. Credit: Gregor Rohrig.

Challenges

- 1. There is a largely unidirectional flow within capacity-building activities from the North to Africa:** This doesn't take into consideration the vast and rich expertise within Africa and it means that these activities are often not suited to the context and are inappropriate
- 2. African experts do not have the same access** to networking opportunities and and therefore it is more to find African experts.
- 3. The way in which capacity-building activities are performed:** One-day training workshops or even once of week long training workshops are not always the most effective means of capacity building. Capacity building is often a process and should be embedded within processes. They are built on trust and on relationships. Oftentimes not enough research is done into the existing capacities of the participants in training resulting in participants being talked down to and being told things they already know which wastes time (and wastes precious resources - see Suzanne's point 2).
- 4. A divergence of priorities between the North (donors etc) and developing countries on what areas should be prioritised for capacity building activities and what are overall priorities for the two areas**

Opportunities

- 1. Utilising the knowledge already existing within Africa and African experts and peers** for capacity building activities: this will result in assistance and support that is more appropriate for the region, it keeps more money within Africa and grows the knowledge, expertise of southern experts. Furthermore it enables the climate change world to be more exposed to southern experts who can often not afford the costs to attend international conferences which are key networking arenas. You can talk here about our Southern Experts database and our commitment at CDKN to working within the region e.g. our CELs.
- 2. Working collegially and as equal partners between the North and South:** Climate Change is a wicked problem that affects us all, we need to combine forces, intellectual ability and creativity to meet these problems in the North and in the South. Africa has many valuable lessons for Europe and the US as has Europe and the US for Africa however in order for the exchange to be useful it must be multi-directional and premised that all partners have value and expertise to give.