

**SeaTrust Institute Response to
Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)
Call for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders:
*Annual PCCB focus area***

Background

The PCCB aims to address gaps and needs, both current and emerging, in implementing capacity-building in developing country Parties and further enhance capacity-building efforts.

Enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-
building under the Convention;
Identifying capacity gaps and needs, both current and
emerging, and recommending ways to address them;
Promoting awareness-raising, knowledge- and
information-sharing and stakeholder engagement

Current priority areas are:

To learn more about the work of the PCCB, you can access its annual reports and other documents [here](#).

Topics for submissions

The PCCB annually focuses on an area related to enhanced technical exchange on capacity-building. It determined, in its 2021-2024 workplan, to make calls for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders on the annual PCCB focus area.

Submissions form

We thank you in advance for filling out this template with concise, evidence-based information and for referencing all relevant sources. There are 2 sections in this template:

- *Details about your organization*
- *Guiding questions about implementing NDCs and national development plans in developing countries*

How will the inputs be used?

The inputs will feed into the PCCB's workplan activities in 2021, including a focus area day at the 3rd Capacity-building Hub at COP 26, and envisaged regional activities and webinars. The inputs will also inform the design and preparations of the 10th Durban Forum on capacity-building envisaged to be held during the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2021. Responding to the request of the COP for the SBI to align the theme of the Durban Forum on capacity-building with the annual focus area of the PCCB, the PCCB has been working to ensure alignment between discussions at the annual Durban Forum and the work of the PCCB related to its annual focus area.

Further information:

You are welcome to provide any other information that your organization thinks would highlight suggestions made in response to this call for submissions.

Address for submission: pccb@unfccc.int

Please only fill out sections that are relevant to the work of your organization. Please note that no section is mandatory.

Organization or entity name:

SeaTrust Institute

Type of organization:

Please choose as appropriate:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Development bank / financial institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UN and affiliated organization | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International network, coalition, or initiative | <input type="checkbox"/> Research organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional network, coalition, or initiative | <input type="checkbox"/> University/education/training organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public sector entity | <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector entity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropic organization |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) |

Organization Location

City: Port Townsend

Country: USA

Scale of operation:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local | <input type="checkbox"/> Subregional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Transboundary |

City(ies)/Country(ies) of operation (if appropriate):

The annual PCCB focus area

At its fourth meeting in June 2020, the PCCB agreed on the following focus area for 2021:

*‘Building capacity to facilitate coherent implementation of NDCs
in the context of national development plans’*

The Paris Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change through the implementation of NDCs and national development plans, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. This presents ample opportunities for synergies and the PCCB, with its strong mandate to engage with other bodies under and outside the Convention, is well positioned to promote coherence in achieving climate and development objectives.

To foster coherence in the implementation of NDCs and national development plans, an enhanced understanding of the key barriers and capacity-building gaps and needs hindering their coherent implementation, as well as of existing solutions is needed.

In implementing NDCs and national development plans in a coherent manner, in your experience, what are:
<i>the key interventions?</i>
<i>the enabling conditions?</i> 1) Increased focus on the community level to ensure that improved public participation mechanisms are implemented before passing policies and legislations. Instance/COVID-19: COVID-19 economic containment measures being made unilaterally without considering people’s living conditions. 2) Increase real and perceived transparency in developing countries by explicitly adding factors that show community level participation that engages community members in direct dialogue with leaders, holding leaders to a new level of accountability. This visible and measurable action to be considered as a high-level measurement of implementation success. 3) Ensuring that discussions at higher levels are guided by intervention of the rule of law. Instance/COVID-19: Fairness to all regarding COVID-19 policies can be used as precedent for a politically acceptable reason to make other suggestions for larger level changes that embody equality and fairness.
<i>the key institutional barriers?</i> 1) Staffing; the need for policy-makers and negotiators to have a more intersectional view on climate change and its various issues, for instance by receiving “multi-sectoral training to understand the implications and cross-linkages of climate change on various sectors including collaboration, education, legislative inadequacies in both drafting and implementation, and corruption. These needs are not new and have been discussed for a long time with similar problems remaining in 2021. See

IUCN. (2007). Removing barriers to capacity building in Least Developed Countries: Transferring tools and methodologies for managing vulnerability and adaptation to Climate Change Project Reference: CBA2007-01CMY- Bambaradeniya. Retrieved from <https://www.apn-gcr.org/archive-resources/files/original/e7a449503e8e9ffc1ca073b99888a0f0.pdf>
Final Report submitted to APN

the capacity gaps and capacity-building needs?

In part because the common situation particularly in developing countries is that community serves government rather than government serving community, this leaves many places out of meaningful community capacity building required for implementing their NDCs.

In addition to the rule of law and transparency as mentioned above, a recommendation is to emphasize sub-national and sub-regional knowledge generation and transfer systems in national development plans, potentially as a way to bring the left-out communities back into the conversation not just as burdensome areas in need of constant government assistance, but as local and indigenous sources of knowledge and resilience that are unable to contribute to the two-way exchange of capacity-building and adaptation.

Further, in most developing countries, capacity building projects are launched based on social-political affiliations of the community. Following a scientific approach in designing and implementing these projects would promote equity in resource distribution and capacity building.

the knowledge and skills priorities?

More specific methods and guidelines for country-level capacity building for countries need to include developing meaningful measurement of their NDCs at different scales beyond aggregated SDG indicator measures, including the community level measures as defined by that community. An approach to this explicit monitoring and evaluation defined as specific, measurable and scalable using community referencing could be through providing a scenario as guided by the IPCC AR6 approach to demonstrating successful progress.

The role of M&E is vital in facilitating management and accountability of capacity-building efforts (as it links to transparency as mentioned above); coherent implementation of the NDCs requires a coherent and objective M&E strategy at scale.

Supporting evidence from the capacity building presentation on monitoring and evaluation of capacity building on 27 November, 2020: Reminders were given that bad M&E comes with an opportunity cost and is actively slowing down progress; a one-size-fits-all approach is no longer valid; and M&E will always produce imperfect information so a convention is required through which to use the information wisely rather than as an agenda-building tool. Mr. Rosetti from the African Evaluation Association pointed out that national development plans rarely specify how capacity will be built or measured. While Parties are quite good at coming up with the results they want to see, this is rarely backed up with plans for what is needed to get there. CLEAR Anglophone Africa's points Dr. Rogers suggestion regarding single loop and double loop learning and on addressing this issue as priority for capacity building.

- Dugan (CLEAR Anglophone Africa)
 - Will only comment on space he has experience with; sees similarity with Rosetti in terms of their work (fragmented, uncoordinated, lacks clear framework for assessment, not reaching potential)
 - A lot of work done on M&E is not based on proper needs analysis; no clear integrated CB plans; when there are plans, not rooted in specific individual country contexts; CB initiatives not well resources (finance & human resources not made available); interventions are self-monitored and thus little is achieved in terms of assessment
 - Need to be building capacity across sectors and not just national centres; need to take context into account more;
 - Clear M&E challenges; very low capacity in studied countries that could generate technical information; not strong culture of sharing info and knowledge; M&E systems are designed around compliance and accountability rather than learning and improvement
 - Recommendations: integrate interventions into NDPs and existing national strategies; more collaborative learning platforms; build more country institutions; strengthen country M&E systems; era of shift into partnerships and collaborations; look beyond data collection (put in place response mechanisms and "...” is what we need to look at)

To enhance coherent implementation of NDCs in the context of national development plans, who should be the target recipients of capacity-building (e.g. national government officers, local government officers, environmental agencies, civil society)?

To support NDC implementation and planning in developing countries, what are your suggestions on how to improve capacity-building efforts?

At the national level:

Training is needed for policymakers at the national level to be able to effectively fulfil their roles in translating higher-level dialogue into specific responses to problems at the national, regional, and sectoral levels. This training should strive to go beyond the political dynamics emergent in national level discourse and instead consider capacity building as also being a social science and part of policy development.

At the regional level:

Regionally, a focus needs to be on building systems that cross ministries and national priorities to further implementing capacity building programs at the community level. This requires cross-community collaboration and engaging liaisons from communities to work directly with regional and national levels. Without direct community engagement and ownership of the process, top-down regional and national plans will not be appropriately implemented and sustained.

Good case studies, best practices, tools and methodologies, lessons learned, or examples of support:

Please describe any that build capacity to align NDC implementation with national development plans and/or to mainstream NDCs into national development plans

It might be a wise practice to change the focus from providing answers to enabling countries to ask catalytic questions as part of their methodological thinking on adaptation in general and capacity building in particular. Using current models such as the following offered by SEI could be used to start the questioning process, allowing countries to iteratively ask deeper and more meaningful questions that can be frameworks for adaptive design policies. See SEI’s example (there are many that could work in question design but this could serve as a start) at

<https://www.sei.org/publications/designing-transformative-development-interventions/>

Useful sources:

Please give examples of useful sources relevant to this topic

(e.g. webpages and portals, publications, fora, organizations working on this issue)

<https://www.apn-gcr.org/archive-resources/files/original/e7a449503e8e9ffc1ca073b99888a0f0.pdf>

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Clear%20ME%20Capacity%20report-V4b.pdf>