

Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)

Call for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders:

‘Tools and methodologies for assessing and addressing capacity gaps and needs related to accessing climate finance’

Background

Identifying capacity gaps and needs, both current and emerging, and recommending ways to address them has been a core part of the mandate of the PCCB, since its establishment, and was made one of three priority areas of the PCCB under its 2021–2024 workplan by the COP.

Under this priority area, COP 25 mandated the PCCB, inter alia, to continue efforts to gather and promote the development and dissemination of tools and methodologies for implementing capacity-building activities.

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

Topics for submissions

As part of addressing the above-mentioned mandate, the PCCB agreed to issue in 2023 a call for submissions on tools and methodologies for assessing and addressing capacity gaps and needs related to accessing climate finance. Capacity gaps and needs can be at the individual, institutional or systemic level.

Who can submit?

The call is open to all Parties, bodies, entities and processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as well as to all UNFCCC non-Party stakeholders, including public and private sector entities, government and non-government organizations, philanthropic organizations, academic and research organizations and regional and international organizations and initiatives.

How will the inputs be used?

The inputs will feed into the [2021–2024 workplan](#) activities of the PCCB for 2024, including an analysis and synthesis of the submissions and a technical session at the 6th Capacity-building Hub at COP 29. Relevant tools, methodologies and other resources submitted will be widely disseminated by the PCCB and will be integrated into the list of resources accompanying [the PCCB toolkit to assess capacity gaps and needs to implement the Paris Agreement](#).

Submissions form

Please complete the template with concise and evidence-based information, reference all relevant sources and send the completed form to pccb@unfccc.int. Please note that a submission form should contain one tool, methodology or resource only. If you wish to submit several resources, please use a separate submission form for each. The template has two parts:

Part 1: Details about your organization

Part 2: Guiding questions about implementing NDCs and national development plans in developing countries in a coherent manner, while supporting a sustainable recovery

Further information:

Comments, suggestions and any other information in response to this call for submissions are welcome.

Address for submission (and comments, suggestions, other information): pccb@unfccc.int

Deadline for submissions: 10 November 2023

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

PART I

Name of organization or entity:

Fundación Avina

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) <small>Click or tap here to enter text.</small> |

Organization Location

City: Ciudad de Panamá

Country: Panamá

Scale of operation:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global | <input checked="" 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):

Global South (Latin America & the Caribbean, Asia and Africa)

PART II

1. Title/name of resource

Methodology and lessons learned from BASE and Impulsouth

2. Year of publication

2022 and 2023

3. Resource developer(s) and/or owner(s) (i.e. institution)

Fundación Avina (Impulsouth & BASE)

4. Target group(s)/audience(s)

Global South (local communities, youth & governments)

5. Type of resource

Tool(kit) or methodology (incl. handbooks, manuals and guides)

Other (please select from list below)

Technical assistance/support offers
 Other relevant online resources (e.g. webinar recordings, portals, platforms or databases that help assess or address capacity gaps relating to climate finance access)

E-courses/training
 Case studies and technical reports/publications (showcasing lessons learned and good practices)

6. Short description of the scope and objectives of the resource and how it can be used to assess or address capacity gaps related to accessing climate finance

On the basis of the experiences from Impulsouth and BASE, Fundación Avina highlights the need for urgent development and dissemination of comprehensive resources to empower stakeholders at all levels, including international, national and local, and in particular non-governmental in the global south. The lack of these resources represents one of the main obstacles in the access of climate finance. In this context, the following inputs are presented:

7. Geographical scope of resource

Global

Regional (please select from list below)

Asia and the Pacific
 Africa

Middle East and North Africa
 Latin America and Caribbean
 Other (please specify)

Click or tap here to enter text.

National (please specify) Click or tap here to enter text.

Subnational/local (please specify) Click or tap here to enter text.

8. Information on the context in which the resource has already been used/applied and by which stakeholder(s) (if available)

Submission by Fundación Avina on tools and methodologies for assessing and addressing capacity gaps and needs related to accessing climate finance

Insights from Impulsouth Project and BASE Initiative on accessing climate finance

November 2023

Background

1. Impulsouth is an alliance of organizations working collaboratively to increase knowledge and capacities on climate action in developing countries. The initiative is funded by the International Development and Research Centre and implemented by Fundación Avina in partnership with FLACSO Ecuador, United Nations University (UNU-ViE) and has been implemented in 6 countries since 2021?: Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Uganda, Zambia, Madagascar and Niger.
 1. In that context, [Impulsouth](#) has organized a series of exchanges between global and national stakeholders regarding capacity building for climate action with an emphasis on youth and gender. From June 2023 onwards, Impulsouth has been gathering feedback from its stakeholder network to identify gaps and needs among capacity builders in the global south, with a particular emphasis on highlighting the challenges related to accessing finance.
2. BASE is an initiative currently coordinated by Fundación Avina and made up of a series of partners that include Brainforest, Forest Trends, GFLAC, Hivos, Pawanka Fund, Reos Partners, and United Nations University - ViE, and implements a series of projects in the Global South with financial support from Skoll Foundation.
 1. BASE was designed as a task force to work collaboratively with partners and associated initiatives with the aim of promoting more and better access to climate finance for local communities, through the design of simplified the ways to develop a climate rationale and report on the impact that the solutions implemented have on mitigation or adaptation.
 2. BASE conducted a wide consultative process in 2023 in order to identify, systematize and address challenges and gaps in accessing finance in the local level which led to the development of alternative ways in which project proponents could develop their projects and an initial approach to climate rationale, through a form/checklist. Selected projects would further refine their climate rational through their implementation and the assessment of a researcher for each project, that would support the local implementers in the capacity building related to monitoring and reporting, as well as to the development of a climate base. Currently, BASE is supporting the implementation of projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

On the basis of these experiences Fundación Avina highlights the need for urgent development and dissemination of comprehensive resources to empower stakeholders at all levels, including international, national and local, and in particular non-governmental in the global south. The lack of these resources represents one of the main obstacles in the access of climate finance. In this context, the following inputs are presented:

Inputs by Fundación Avina, Impulsouth and BASE on enhancing the capacity of developing country Parties to implement the Paris Agreement, through the simplified access of climate finance.

3. The ambitious implementation requires a continued participation of non-governmental stakeholders in the design, execution and reporting of national and global commitments, in particular, that of underrepresented groups, which include but are not limited to youth, local and indigenous communities and women. However, access to finance and capacity building is an enabler for this democratization of the climate agenda.
4. Impulsouth initiative mapped the common challenge of accessing finance for capacity building programmes, mostly for youth and local-led initiatives. **The lack of human capacities and the lack of networks to access information on suitable financing to promote and scale their actions are highlighted in this context.**
 1. A recurrent potential solution that has been identified is the creation of an online platform for capacity builders that can showcase good practices of other capacity building initiatives, as well as make materials and tools available so that a network can be strengthened and facilitate the leverage of funds by small and medium size projects led by youth.
5. Lessons from Impulsouth also show the **importance of coherence between the different stakeholders**. It emphasizes the need for a mechanism that acts as a community of practice or an exchange channel, utilizing lessons learned and best practices from existing tools and methodologies. This mechanism could serve as a valuable platform for sharing insights, ensuring coherence, and fostering continuous improvement for tools and methodologies. A closer coordination between the PCCB and initiatives that are closer to the ground and youth like Impulsouth could be beneficial to the development of such a space.
6. Moreover, BASE led a [consultative process](#) with different actors about challenges and gaps in building a climate rationale in order to access climate finance. This consultation led to key recommendations and conclusions on building capacities in the global south, mostly in the local level, to guarantee the possibility of accessing the funds.
 1. Part of the main conclusions of this process is that the development of a climate rationale is one of the largest obstacles in the conception of a project proposal and the subsequent access to climate finance. A locally led climate rationale in itself requires resources and capacities that may not be available and therefore, it becomes the reason for resources not being able to reach the most vulnerable, instead of a guarantee that the adverse effects of climate change are being addressed. This is contradictory to the precautionary principle of the UNFCCC, because despite having better and more detailed internationally accepted scientific data on the impacts of climate change by region and the actions needed to address those impacts, the level of rigor of climate rationale that financial sources are demanding continues to increase, instead of becoming simpler in the face of improved scientific information.
 2. One key recommendation to address these issues is **to build trust within the financing community with regards to credibility of local and traditional knowledge as valuable evidence in understanding climate rationale**. Extensive literature analysis and views gathered during the process highlight that both scientific and traditional knowledge, along with people's perceptions, constitute legitimate sources of information. This focus goes beyond merely focusing on physical changes; it also delves into the social,

economic, and cultural consequences of climate change, offering what can sometimes be a more holistic perspective than that of traditional western methodologies. Again, we see a potential role of the PCCB to focus its work on traditional knowledge as well.

3. A second key issue that has been identified is the potential that the integration of **firsthand observations of climate-related effects on local communities**, ecosystems, and infrastructure, can have in terms of the valuable insights that can be gained. Identifying patterns and trends from these observations provides a common ground for informed decision-making at the national level, as well as a guarantee of the ownership of local actors.
4. Thirdly, when showcasing the effectiveness of implemented climate solutions, the conventional metric used for adaptation is "the number of direct or indirect beneficiaries". However, it is imperative to broaden the scope and incorporate additional indicators that should not only quantify the beneficiaries but also shed light on the **specific actions undertaken by communities and how they are successfully adapting to climate change impacts**. Enhancing the understanding of what is deemed as success in community-driven efforts is essential for a more comprehensive assessment of adaptation strategies that are closer to the ground and the most vulnerable. Alignment with existing monitoring schemes, available indicators and governance or decision-making mechanisms is crucial, for instance.
5. Lastly, an essential methodological aspect to consider is the need for funds to support experiential learning, enabling local communities to actively engage in and lead their own climate actions. There is insufficient recognition of the extent to which capacity building can depend on theoretical training, and how at the end, local communities are struck with the need to hire consultants that are farther to the problems the community is facing. Alternatively, by fostering hands-on experiences, communities and other actors in the global south can gain practical insights into climate-resilient practices and develop innovative solutions tailored to their specific needs, but what is even more important, local stakeholders can continue to develop and refine the climate rationale of their project and initiatives through their implementation, which implies that only a simpler rationale is required in the first stage, so its completion becomes part of a hands-on implementation. Therefore, incorporating regular feedback loops and impact assessments into these **learning-by-doing initiatives** ensures continuous improvement and the refinement of approaches, creating a sustainable cycle of climate adaptation. This may be a focus for the work of the PCCB as well, as further information is needed on the importance of learning through experience with regards to climate rationale and climate finance.
7. Both of these initiatives led by Fundación Avina also **recognize the importance of the intermediary organization in the level of building effective solutions to access climate finance**. Although the ideal scenario is for the beneficiary to directly access climate finance opportunities, there is an indication that this arrangement could help coordinate research efforts, promote efficiency and avoid the need for every project proponent to generate microscale evidence.
8. Finally, both alliances **acknowledge the need to reevaluate the guidelines of existing funds**, ensuring they are genuinely adaptable to the context of the global south. So far, information suggests that funds are aimed at larger beneficiaries, such as national governments (who

struggle as well), but little to no resources take into account the capacities or information available for locally led or youth led solutions. Funding guidelines should be tailored to address the specific needs and capacities to develop proposals, especially in scenarios marked by a lack of centralized data, human capital, and financial resources necessary to access available climate finance and therefore, tools, formats and methodologies should be developed to this end and aimed at these stakeholders. Otherwise, the most vulnerable are being kept from the possibility of implementing climate actions through the access of climate finance.

9. Type of access (open or limited access; free or paid)

N/A

10. Link to resource (if none is available, please attach a pdf copy of the resource to the submission email)

BASE:

https://www.adaptationresearchalliance.org/fileadmin/uploads/ara/Documents/ConsultativeProcess_EN.pdf