



October 2020

# Capacity-building for recovering better together

Supporting NDC implementation  
and enhancement

Online event summary report



United Nations Climate Change  
PCCB Network

# Capacity-building for recovering better together

## Supporting NDC implementation and enhancement

Online event summary report

© October 2020, UN Climate Change  
All rights reserved

This publication is issued for public information purposes and is not an official text of the Convention in any legal or technical sense. Unless otherwise noted in captions or graphics, all matter may be freely reproduced in part or in full, provided the source is acknowledged.

This online event was organized under the umbrella of the PCCB Network. The summary report is a collaborative outcome, developed by the lead partners, to capture the highlights of discussions. The full recording of the event is available on the event webpage:

<https://unfccc.int/pccb-network/capacity-building-for-recovering-better-together>



**United Nations** Climate Change  
PCCB Network

**Lead partners**  
in the alphabetical order



Climate & Development  
Knowledge Network



Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

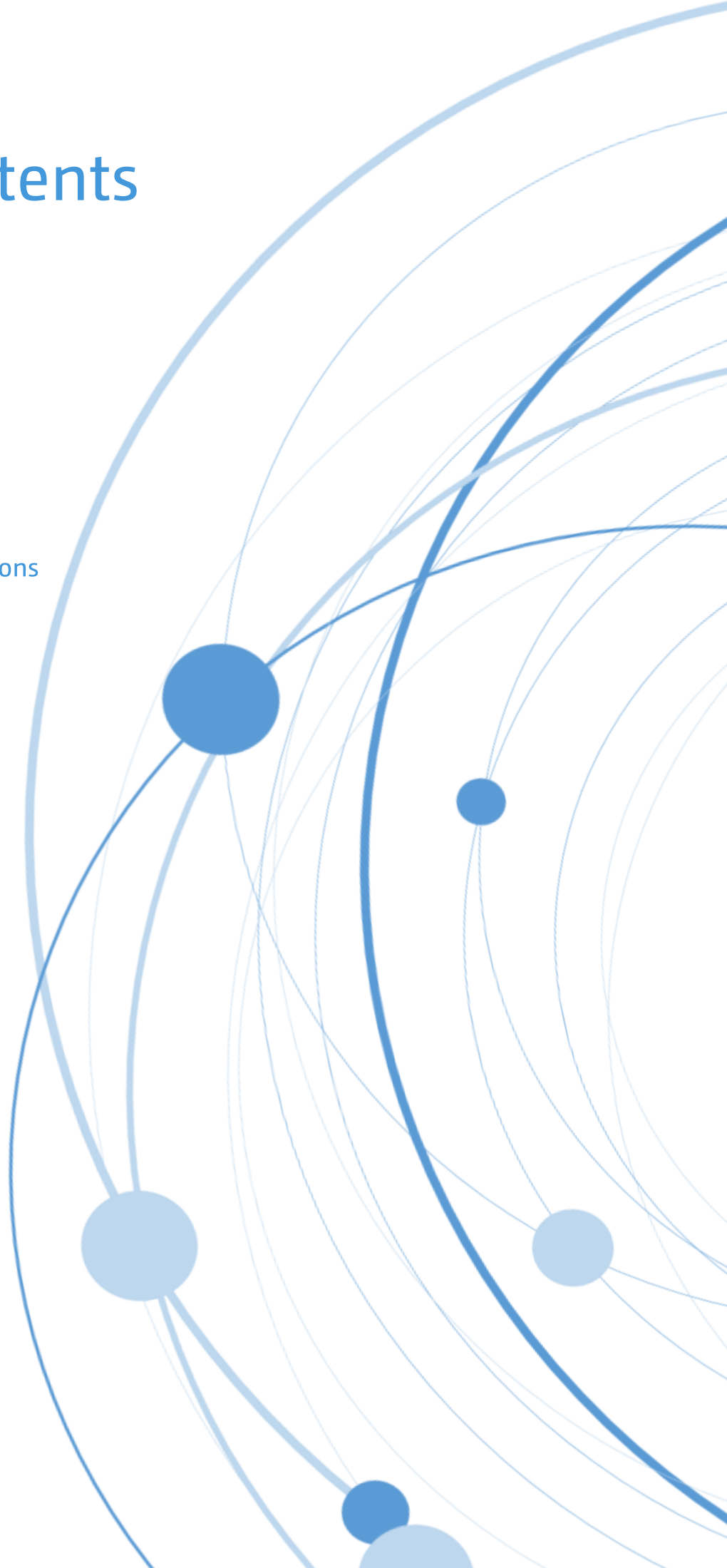


WORLD  
RESOURCES  
INSTITUTE

October 2020

# Table of contents

- 3 List of acronyms
- 4 Event information
- 5 Background
- 5 Objectives
- 6 Agenda
- 8 Summary of discussions
- 12 Looking ahead
- 12 Useful links
- 13 More about partners



# List of acronyms

In alphabetical order

CB	Capacity-building
CDKN	Climate and Development Knowledge Network
COP	UNFCCC Conference of the Parties
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
NDC	Nationally determined contributions
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
Q&A	Questions and answers
SPA	Support Project for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WRI	World Resources Institute



October 2020

# Event information

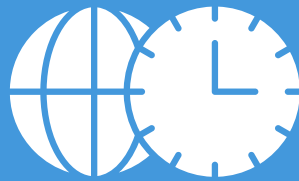
Hosted by the PCCB and UNFCCC  
Organized by CDKN, GIZ, WRI

Date



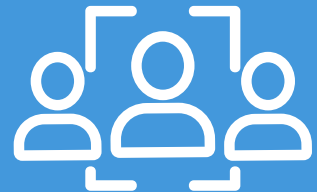
01 October

Time



15:00-16:30 CET

Venue



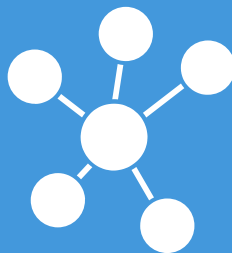
Virtual-MS Teams

Attended by



91  
representatives

From



36  
organizations

Located in



24  
countries

Featured



Ignite-style  
presentations  
& roundtable  
discussions

Enriched by



50+ written  
interventions

Joined by



8 collaborating  
organizations

# Background

The impacts of COVID-19 crisis have been widely experienced to varying degrees, around the world, across sectors, and among different groups. In many cases, they have added a layer of distress on top of previously existing crises, thereby jeopardizing the stability of social and economic circumstances, particularly for the most vulnerable. On a brighter side, this crisis has also brought to light encouraging stories of resilience, solidarity, and leadership among local communities, businesses, networks, cities, and nations.

In moments of uncertainty like now, it is of paramount importance to make sure we do not lose the sight of our common goal: a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future. As asserted by António Guterres, UN Secretary General, recovery from the coronavirus crisis must lead to a better world. The UNFCCC and PCCB, and members of the PCCB Network, are determined to do their bit by keeping the momentum going and encourage all climate actors collaborating in capacity building efforts to join this endeavor.

After concluding an inspiring project titled [#Recover\\_Better\\_Together](#), the PCCB Network has taken another step in sharing experiences, good practices, and lessons learned from climate-related capacity-building efforts in 2020 by different climate actors. This year is a defining moment for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and many believe that the widespread efforts for an economic recovery is a window of hope to alter the path of development for the better, towards a climate-resilience new normal.

# Objectives

This online event looked deeper into capacity-building related experiences, approaches and lessons learned by members of the PCCB Network, particularly in the context of the implementation of NDCs and the process for revising and updating them in 2020. The event brought together a diverse range of stakeholders—capacity-building providers, entities in charge of NDC planning and implementations, and representatives from non-state actors. Bringing in various experiences and perspectives, capacity-building practitioners provided insights in response to three main questions:

- 1** What are existing and emerging capacity-building expertise, needs, and approaches for effective contributions to a more sustainable recovery?
- 2** What have been success and failure stories of capacity-building efforts in adapting to the COVID-19 context across different sectors and regions?
- 3** How have the adjustments associated with COVID-19 changed the way capacity-building programmes and activities will be designed, delivered, and assessed in the months to follow?

# Agenda

15:00-16:30 CET

Moderator: Crispin d'Auvergne, OECS | PCCB

## Opening | Introduction

- Marzena Chodor, PCCB

## Panel Discussions

Changes and modifications in type and modes of delivery for capacity-building efforts: Experiences and good practices from government, capacity-building providers, and non-state actors

- Yamide Dagnet, WRI
- Anna Schreyoegg, GIZ
- Michelle Du Toit, CDKN

## Open Discussions & Interactive Session

## Moderated Roundtable

An overview of opportunities and challenges for capacity-building activities in 2020 and beyond

Moderator: Jeniffer Hanna, PCCB

Discussants:

- Noriko Tamiya-Hase, Japan
- Agripina Jenkins Rojas, Costa Rica
- Mizan R. Khan, ICCCAD-LUCCC
- Robi Redda, CDKN

## Wrap-up & Closing

- Juliet Meredith, UK COP 26 Presidency Team
- Roberta Ianna, Italy Pre-COP Summit Team | PCCB



The Paris Committee on Capacity-Building has a unique mandate to help countries identify needs and gaps in capacity-building and, since last year, it also serves the Paris Agreement goals. To achieve this mandate to support capacity-building, we need to unlock the power of collective action. We see the PCCB Network as a capacity-building multiplier that enables all of us to join forces, have a stronger voice, and make a greater impact.

Marzena Chodor, PCCB Co-Chair

# Summary of discussions

## Panel Discussions



**Yamide Dagnet, WRI**

Presentation: [Emerging Capacity-building Expertise, Needs, and Approaches for a more sustainable recovery.](#)



**Anna Schreyoegg, GIZ**

Presentation: [Insights and Learnings from the GIZ Support Project for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement \(SPA\).](#)



**Michelle Du Toit, CDKN**

Presentation: [Insights and Learnings from the Climate and Development Knowledge Network \(CDKN\).](#)

### Impact of COVID-19 on climate action

A survey from the NDC Partnership found that countries are experiencing reduced climate spending, threats to the quality, ambition, and revision timelines for 2020 NDCs, opportunities to include NDCs are part of stimulus packages, a need for technical assistance, and a desire for peer learning and sharing.

### Technical assistance and peer learning

Both technical assistance and peer learning provide opportunities for enhancing capacity building. On peer learning, the PCCB Network represents one example while countries will seek to learn from each other through the NDC Partnership Green Recovery Network and Japan's Platform for Redesign 2020.

### Complexity of climate change and capacity- building

Climate change is a complex problem. As the pandemic has demonstrated, climate change is interconnected with environmental, societal, and economic challenges. While it is important to learn from past experiences, we must also adapt our approaches to new and evolving circumstances.

### Ideas for new modes of delivery

Building from a recently-hosted meeting, there are several ways to think about adapting capacity-building projects in the time of COVID-19, including engaging finance ministries, leaving more freedom for projects to evolve over their time period, utilizing hybrid co-learning models (e.g., combination of offline and online events), and embedding technical expertise by building "funding hooks" (integrating economic decisionmakers in climate projects).

### Relationship building

Capacity-building efforts are not nearly as successful as they can be without building from relationships and trust. Partners in South Asia have shared lessons about the importance of centering relationship building in capacity-building activities. Ongoing collaboration and growth extend beyond single capacity-building activities because of the relationships created and developed. Relationship building is hampered as the pandemic limits in-person interaction and the shift to the virtual world can reinforce existing power dynamics.

### Expertise from the Global South

Global South experts have the expertise, knowledge, and contacts to lead capacity-building efforts. However, experts in the Global South may lack access to the same international conferences, networks, and funding as others.

# Summary of discussions



Moderator: Crispin d'Auvergne, PCCB

## Open Discussions

Participants were invited to respond to questions posed by the three panelists using an online tool, Padlet. The following summarizes the participants' inputs.

### Especially during the COVID-19 context, what innovative tools and methods are you using to engage stakeholders and support capacity-building efforts?

- Shifting to the virtual world. Participants noted their experience in using online virtual formats, such as Zoom. Others flagged their experience with social media, such as Instagram, and other live-streaming services.
- Capitalizing on existing networks. Participants are utilizing existing networks, especially those engaging community-based groups.
- Making the most of the "offline." One participant is using green courier services to share "hard-copy" newsletters with partners and stakeholders.

### What can we learn from the COVID-19 disruption in terms of delivering better capacity development?

- Shifting to the virtual world. Virtual engagement is now recognized as possible, where it was always deemed impossible before. Moving activities online has allowed for some efficiency gains in terms of travel and time, but there are still challenges with virtual engagement as technical challenges remain and not all have effective access to the internet. Time zones, time constraints, and virtual fatigue all pose challenges for effective online engagement.
- Valuing in-person interactions. Some activities are not suitable for virtual replacements and are best conducted in-person or in-field settings. Participants noted the value of in-person engagement related to baseline assessments, stakeholder consultations, and forest inventories.

### How has the approach to capacity-building activities implemented prior to the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the continued implementation of these and related activities during and (likely) post the pandemic?

- Expanding perspectives. Participants noted that the pandemic has made capacity building "more interdisciplinary, holistic, and multidimensional." The systems-thinking required by COVID-19 should be retained and applied post-pandemic.
- Blending approaches. Participants noted virtual engagement is most effective when building from an existing relationship. One noted that having met partners before the pandemic has allowed for more effective virtual engagement.
- Changing donor priorities. Some donor policy and funding priorities have changed in light of the pandemic with an impact on capacity-building activities.

# Summary of discussions



Moderator: Jeniffer Hanna, PCCB

## Roundtable Discussions



- Inclusiveness is crucial to face both the pandemic and the climate global crises.
- Platform for Redesign 2020 – Japan’s online tool to foster capacity-building. The platform has two objectives:
  - a) to share information among relevant actors on efforts to address environmental degradation and climate change in the context of recovery; and,
  - b) to provide opportunities to express and exchange views in online ministerial dialogue to enhance climate actions. (<https://platform2020redesign.org/>). Three timeframes are considered in the platform:
    - 1) Response (emergency measures in the short term);
    - 2) Recovery (socioeconomic measures in the medium term); and,
    - 3) Redesign (paradigm shifts and measures in the long term).
- Key takeaways from an online Ministerial Meeting hosted by Japan and the UNFCCC Secretariat (Sep. 3, 2020), focused on the key horizontal issues for recovery, include the concept of society redesign through three different transitions: transition to a decarbonized society, transition to a circular economy, and transition to a decentralized society.

Presentation: [Platform for Redesign 2020: COVID-19 & Climate Change](#)

**Noriko TAMIYA-HASE**  
Deputy Director, Office of Market Mechanisms and Office of Director for International Strategy on Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment Japan



- Costa Rica will build back better, not only through a green but “color” recovery (including marine landscape and other sectors).
- The Decarbonization Plan (2019) together with National Policy for Adaptation (upcoming) are Costa Rica’s path to recovery. Both documents are fundamental, providing a clear investment roadmap.
- Costa Rica’s NDC update is in process and will include elements of just transition, green jobs and social justice for a short- and medium-term recovery.
- The pandemic has uncovered and highlighted the issues of debt management and job creation. Combining high productivity with emission reduction and adaptation might be challenging. It is on these topics that the PCCB can assist the countries, by providing guidelines and advice.
- Quick response from Costa Rica’s partners. During the pandemic, policy-based loans and analysis from international cooperation agencies and organism (i.e., IADB, AFD and GIZ) have provided enough flexibility to deal with COVID-19 crisis.

**Agripina Jenkins Rojas**

International Affairs Specialist and official affiliation, Advisor to the Climate Change Directorate, Costa Rica

# Summary of discussions



- Community experiences as source of knowledge. Stories and tools commissioned by CDKN in Bangladesh, South Africa, Kenya, Gambia, Nepal and India have shown the relevance of community-based solutions to cope with this crisis. Community loans and access to ICT, for instance, are playing a key role by closing the digital divide.
- Adaptation is inherently local and regional. Therefore, if the goal is to handle adaptation, one must build capacity at the local level.
- Experience has shown that the classical model of capacity building has not worked well. Therefore, new modes need to happen, for instance, foreign consultants taking the role of a facilitators while local experts, community youth and women leadership seat at the front and take responsibility and ownership of the processes.
- Knowledge management and co-learning. Developing countries are very rich in adaptation capacity and community bonding. Sharing these experiences of social capital is vital to keep building capacity.
- M&E. Universities can assist with Monitoring and Evaluation of climate projects.

**Mizan R. Khan**

Deputy Director in International Center for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and Programme Director of Least Developed Countries University Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC)



- COVID-19 has shifted capacity building. The use of internal / national capacity is becoming a new normal when it comes to providing direct technical assistance and capacity building support to the Ethiopian government to implementing strategies and have access to finance.
- Green Tax initiative. Ethiopia has set up this initiative during the pandemic, which aims to supplement the shortfall resources from international climate change funds (to an extent possible).
- More engagement in certain topics. As a result of the pandemic, there is broader thinking in adaptation measures in the NDC update, gender-climate nexus, health and climate nexus.
- Digital divide. When it comes to internet access, Ethiopia still faces a few issues. Cross-country peer-to-peer learning, which is relevant for capacity building, has been restricted during the pandemic, leading to a more local engagement.

**Robi Redda**

Ethiopia Country Engagement Lead for the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)





**Juliet Meredith**  
Representative of the UK  
COP 26 Presidency

With a very short window of opportunity to influence progress and ambition in the recovery, it is important to keep on sharing experiences and learning from each other.



**Roberta Ianna**  
Representative of Italy, host  
of the Pre-COP Summit,  
PCCB member

COVID-19 has pushed us to interact effectively in the virtual space, and allowed us to become more inclusive, especially in the benefit of women and youth.

October 2020

## Looking ahead

In the PCCB Network, we believe that the continuity of efforts makes for lasting impacts. The events and activities organized and supported by the network are parts of a continuous process of learning.

The discussions around capacity-building efforts for a better recovery started in May with the recover\_better\_together project, as an awareness-raising campaign. It was the beginning of a continuous conversation among various actors.

Built on the inspiring stories of commitment and action from members of the PCCB Network, this event initiated a series of discussions on capacity-building opportunities and challenges in the face of COVID-19 crisis, which will be continued through Capacity-building Momentum for Recovering Better in November 2020.

October 2020

## Useful links

**Event webpage:**

<https://unfccc.int/pccb-network/capacity-building-for-recovering-better-together>

The event recording and presentation files can be found on this page.

**#Recover\_Better\_Together project:**

[https://unfccc.int/pccb-network/recover\\_better\\_together](https://unfccc.int/pccb-network/recover_better_together)

**PCCB Network webpage:**

<https://unfccc.int/pccb-network>

**PCCB Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/pccb.unfccc>

For any inquiries, the PCCB Network can be contacted at [pccb-network@unfccc.int](mailto:pccb-network@unfccc.int).

# More about partners

WRI is a global research non-profit organization, focusing on climate as one of the urgent global challenges that must be addressed to reduce poverty, grow economies and protect natural systems. In this session, WRI shed light on emerging capacity challenges and adjustments that governments are facing to sustain and boost their climate efforts when updating and implementing their NDCs, and integrating such efforts into the recovery plans. This presentation included the experience from the NDC Partnership.



GIZ is Germany's service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. The GIZ Support project for the implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPA), in this event, shared examples of improving and adapting capacity building efforts, as well as their work in delivering support to countries for NDC enhancement and transparency.



CDKN is a southern-led global knowledge network whose knowledge services focus on making information and learning on climate compatible development easier to access and use. In so doing they support country-driven climate action that provides enhanced quality of life to poorest and most vulnerable to climate change. In the webinar they discussed emergent best practices on the way in which capacity building is designed and implemented within CDKN.





## Contact

Email: [pccb-network@unfccc.int](mailto:pccb-network@unfccc.int)  
Webpage: <https://unfccc.int/pccb-network>

UN Campus, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1  
Bonn 53113, Germany



**United Nations** Climate Change  
PCCB Network



**WORLD  
RESOURCES  
INSTITUTE**



Climate & Development  
Knowledge Network

**giz**

Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH