

Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)
Call for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders:
2022 PCCB focus area

‘Building capacity to facilitate the coherent implementation of nationally determined contributions in the context of national development plans and sustainable recovery’

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. Current priority areas are:

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

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.

Who can submit?

The call is open to all UNFCCC Parties and non-Party stakeholders, such as public and private sector entities, government and non-government organizations, philanthropic organizations, academic and research organizations, international and regional organizations or initiatives, and UNFCCC constituted bodies.

How will the inputs be used?

The inputs will feed into the PCCB's workplan activities in 2022, including a focus area day at the 4th Capacity-building Hub at COP 27, and envisaged regional activities and webinars. The inputs will also inform the design and preparations of the 11th Durban Forum on capacity-building to be held during the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2022. 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.

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 in a coherent manner, while supporting a sustainable recovery*

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

Deadline for submissions: 25 February 2022

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:

Ministry of Environment of Panama

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 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 checked="" 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: Panama

Country: Panama

Scale of operation:

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

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

The annual PCCB focus area

At its fifth meeting in June 2021, the PCCB agreed on the following focus area for 2022:

‘Building capacity to facilitate the coherent implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the context of national development plans and sustainable recovery’

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.

Building closely on the PCCB’s 2021 focus area on building capacity to facilitate coherent implementation of NDCs in the context of national development plans, the 2022 focus area is dedicated to the question of how this process can support a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated multiple crises, and solutions for economic recovery efforts need to be responsive to the climate emergency and facilitate a transition to a greener, fairer, and more sustainable world, and capacity-building is a key enabler for this.

The [PCCB’s work on its 2021 focus area](#) contributed to an enhanced understanding of the key barriers and capacity-building needs and gaps hindering the coherent implementation of NDCs and national development plans, as well as of existing solutions. Through this call for submissions, **the PCCB seeks to contribute to a better understanding of how the coherent implementation of NDCs and national development plans can be aligned with and support a sustainable recovery.** What good practices and lessons learned exist with regard to aligning NDC implementation and national development planning with recovery efforts that are focused on sustainability and what are the major capacity-building needs and gaps in this area?

To facilitate coherent NDC implementation and planning in developing countries that are aligned with and support a sustainable recovery, in your experience, what are:

the key interventions?

- Panama's updated NDC1 was developed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The updated document seeks to lay the foundations so that resilience and development, low in emissions, are positioned at the center of Panama's development agenda.
- In addition, we have begun mainstreaming climate change in public investment, working as a team with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, so that project classification criteria are incorporated from the planning stage of public investment projects that will form part of the annual budget, so that adaptation, mitigation, transversal, climate risk is taken into account when making that investment and the annual public climate financing is accounted for. This will allow, in a gradual process, the strengthening of the capacities of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, to update its protocols, its procedures manuals, computer tools, governance mechanisms and training in climate finance, transversally incorporating climate change.
- Together with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, climate change labelers were defined. This has made it possible to identify a portfolio of green projects that will allow the country to negotiate financing for them at cheaper rates.
- Currently, we are working to strengthen the Panamanian banking system, this has been done with the sustainable finance group, which will allow banks, in the future, to align with the Paris Agreement, and include climate risk assessment, environmental and social

safeguards, and have portfolios of green projects that allow them to receive international green financing lines from European, North American, and Asian banks, among others.

the enabling conditions?

• The development of the update of the NDC of Panama was done with a broad participatory consultation with all sectors of interest: civil, academic, public, private; which achieves not only knowledge, but commitment of the NDC. • Currently, there is a National Climate Action Plan (PNAC) that becomes the implementation plan of the NDC. • The second update of the NDC for Panama (CDN2) is being worked on, following the mandate given at the COP26, in order to strengthen commitments to 2030, as aiming to maintain Panama as a carbon-negative country, since the goals of the NDC1 were developed on the basis of maintaining Panama as a carbon-negative country. • Additionally, the decree that updates the evaluations of the Environmental Impact Study and the Environmental Audits is in public consultation, incorporating identification of climate vulnerability and risk and proposing adaptation measures, fundamentally nature-based solutions, in addition to incorporating the estimated calculation emission reduction of the project.

the key institutional barriers?

• As barriers, it can be mentioned that there was a weakness in the legal framework, however, in Panama, the Climate Change Framework Law is being under development, where a specific title of the CDN is elevated to law. What makes the CDN legally binding and establishes that there must be an increase in ambition. Additionally, it is in the modernization of environmental management tools such as updating the regulations for environmental impact studies and environmental audits that incorporate climate change across the board. There are also decrees that address Mitigation actions: Executive Decree No. 100 of October 20, 2020, and Adaptation actions: No. 135 of April 30, 2021 • Another of the barriers we found is that there is needed more support and budget for hiring more staff to work in accordance with the objectives and commitments of the Paris Agreement. Hence the importance of teamwork with the ministries of economy and finance. • On the other hand, strengthening the capacities of technicians and officials in general from the different institutions is essential so that they understand the importance of taking climate change into account in their functions and decision-making. We must continue to train other institutions to assume the role.

the capacity gaps and capacity-building needs?

There is a knowledge gap, Panama currently tries to close this gap through various documents, such as the Technical Guide on Climate Change for public investment projects and the Manual of Climate Change Labelers aimed at public institutions. Work is being done on a free course, which will be online on the Climate Transparency Platform to incorporate climate change in investment projects, both public and private. However, climate change must be mainstreamed in the secondary and higher education curriculum.

the knowledge and skills priorities?

The following are considered as priority knowledge and skills to work on: 1. Assertive communication on climate change. 2. Formulation and preparation of projects to be presented to national or international bodies when seeking financing. 3. Specializations in economics and climate change, sustainable finance, climate financing, gender mainstreaming.

How can existing capacity-building efforts be improved and what kind of new or additional capacity-building efforts are needed to ensure that coherent NDC implementation and planning in developing countries are aligned with and support a sustainable recovery? Who should be the target recipients of such capacity-building?

At the subnational level:

At the subnational level, it can be mentioned that the training of the municipalities is necessary. In Panama, the municipalities are trained so that they can prepare and present resilient projects, as well as carry them out.

At the national level:

At the national level, Panama has the National Climate Action Plan, which outlines the necessary lines to take into account to execute resilient actions. In turn, there is a National Gender and Climate Action Plan, which seeks to mainstream gender in the actions of the NDC commitments. Lastly, the training of young people is imperative, which is why the Academy on Climate Change for Young Leaders is developed, where they are provided with knowledge on climate change, mitigation and adaptation measures, how to create resilient projects and how to communicate it to the key actors.

At the regional level:

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

Please describe any that build capacity to facilitate coherent NDC implementation and planning in developing countries that are aligned with and support a sustainable recovery

For the implementation of the NDC, there are successful actions such as: The modernization of environmental management instruments that seeks to strengthen transparency in the country's project procedures, the Academy on Climate Change for Young Leaders and the Alumni Program, which is the continuous training of young people on climate change.

Useful sources:

Please give examples of additional useful sources relevant to this topic (e.g. webpages and portals, publications, fora, organizations working on this issue)

- Climate Transparency Platform

<https://transparencia-climatica.miambiente.gob.pa/acerca-de/>

- National Climate Action Plan of Panama

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/eebm/vage/>

- Technical Guide on Climate Change for Public Investment Projects

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/eebm/sevi/>

- Implementation Manual Climate Change Labels for Public Investment Projects

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/eebm/zdpu/>

- Vulnerability Index

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/eebm/nuhh/>