

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:

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.

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:

Asian Institute of Technology, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific

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 checked="" 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: Bangkok
Country:Thailand

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):

Asia and the Pacific

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?

Some of the key interventions that can facilitate the NDC implementation in developing countries are as follows:

1) Climate change policies/plans and institutional arrangements - Development of state-led climate change policies that aligns with international agendas (such as Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework, Making Cities Resilient, Sustainable Development Goals, Biodiversity Convention, etc) including the formulation of subnational and local policies that line up with the national policies. Further, establishing the defined team/department that ensures climate policies are put into action. The climate policies should be incorporated in the work plan of all sectors including the development and economic sector as every sector is directly or indirectly linked with the environment and hence is responsible to contribute to meeting the country’s NDC targets. This can be achieved through assigning climate experts to each ministry/department/unit to help ensure that climate policies are incorporated/climatic aspects are considered in each departments’ development plans and a suitable budget is allocated including inter-ministerial/interdepartmental coordination to develop the necessary and effective action plans to meet the NDC targets.

2) Access to data and information – Availability of information at the national level plays an important role as they serve as an evidence base, crucial information in the formulation of different national policies, plans, and agendas and preparing a roadmap for its implementation. There is much research performed by academia on various environmental issues which are not easily accessible to all the stakeholders. Therefore, establishing a collaboration between academia/scientific community with

governmental/non-governmental/private sectors organizations can help bridge this gap to build robust evidence-based climate strategies. More importantly, national governments must assume ownership and ultimate responsibility for the stewardship of research materials provided by scientists at their designated institutions. Such institutions should have the legal entity accountable for ensuring the maintenance of and access to research data and materials, which fosters a culture of learning and engagement, as well as making policy interventions.

3) Stakeholder engagement – Since the NDC targets can only be achieved by a collaborative effort, the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies requires participation from all the stakeholders, such as policymakers, national and local government, private sectors, academia, civil society, youth, elderly women, etc. Equally important is also the collaboration among multiple sectors (environment and climate change, forestry, land management, energy, transport, water resources, and the economy). Each sector again needs to have vertical community engagement (recognition and engagement of voices representing different ethnicities, geographic origins, gender identity, age, disabilities, religion, socio-economic status, and others) to understand the ground reality (current environmental issues, current practice, identifying vulnerable communities) to develop an effective road map and support from local communities for the implementation of action plans. To realize community's support, they should be engaged beyond the planning phase assigning them some level of responsibilities. It could be through the formation of different user groups like community forest user groups, fisheries user groups, watershed user groups managing the community forests, aquatic biodiversity, and watershed, respectively. This will create a sense of ownership among the local communities which will lead to effective implementation of actions plans and monitoring, ensuring that the adaptation/mitigation measures are practiced continuously”.

4) Awareness – Education plays a very important role in shaping people's behaviour and way of thinking. Incorporation of climatic agenda into the school curricula and involving students/ youth in different environment protection activities will help to raise awareness and bring a behavioural change towards environment conservation from an early age. Such an attitude and mindset will help to bring environmental consideration when they grow and begin to work in diverse sectors. Awareness on the impacts of climate change; concepts like bioengineering, nature-based solutions, circular economy that have proven to be effective in curbing the emissions and increasing the adaptive capacity; and most importantly the NDC targets not only people working in the field of the environment but also from economic, development and private sector. Furthermore, the research findings, tool kits, instructions, and other important documents should be made available in local languages so that they can put this information into appropriate use.

5) Incentives – The transition to decarbonize economies requires robust approaches to incentivize investment and innovation for low-emission and climate-resilient technologies and developments. These may include developing or strengthening of taxation policies on GHG emissions complemented by country-specific economic incentives to de-risk renewables and other low-carbon technologies, as well as appropriate finance to civil society and academia for research, development, and innovation purposes. For example, transitioning to renewable energy such as hydropower, wind, and solar, is one potential area for generating incentives to enhance NDC commitments. For those who use clean and renewable energy, such as an electric automobile, an enabling policy that employs incentives such as tax breaks or rebates to encourage more eco-friendly choices should be implemented. Energy companies might be given project subsidies to help them develop renewable energy targets for their operations through incentives. Other types could include recognition from the national government which include good publicity for the company for activities completed, which is a non-financial incentive for greenhouse gas reductions. In addition, firms and organizations that include the 4R strategies (reduce, recycle, reuse, and recover) and circular economy concepts into their business plans should also be considered for incentives.

the enabling conditions?

The enabling conditions that favor the NDC implementation in the developing countries are as follows:

1) International agendas – Formulation of different international agendas like Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework, Making Cities Resilient 2030 Campaign, Sustainable Development Goals, Biodiversity Convention, and other multilateral and bilateral environmental agreements highlights the urgency to act to protect our environment and paves the roadmap for each country to develop and implement their own (National, Subnational and local) climate change policies like NDC and others.

2) International Forums/Summit/Seminars – International forums/summit/seminars reports and discusses the current issues, trends, achievements so far and what needs to be focused more on different environmental issues allowing the experts and leaders to prioritize their focus area in their climate policies and create a robust action plan for its implementation. The platform also provides an opportunity to interact with different organizations enabling stakeholders to identify pools of opportunity to engage in the future to seek their assistance (such as capacity building training) as needed.

3) Capacity Building Activities – Robust evidence-based policies and action plans require knowledge and skills to collect, and report correct data and information, and skills to analyze data to create future climatic scenarios. Further, developing nations allocate/or can allocate a minimal amount of budget for the climate action requiring the need to receive additional funding from different international climate funds. This requires the capacity to develop concept notes and detailed funding proposals based on the donor's requirement. Therefore capacity building training on various topics like data collection and reporting (emission of GHGs, carbon sequestration, quantifying ecosystem services, and damages resulting from hazards, developing vulnerability index, and so on), analysis (creating scenarios, modeling), archiving, developing funding proposal (collection of evidence, problem identification, building the logical framework, budgeting, mainstreaming gender, creating exit strategies, and monitoring and evaluation to name a few thematic based topics within the development of a funding proposal), action plan framework, and a robust MRV system. Convening such capacity-building activities will serve as an important enabling condition for the successful implementation of adaptation and mitigation strategies. Access to Finance – Due to the limited budget allocation through the national budget, the presence of different climate financiers in the market plays a crucial role in the implementation of programs/projects on adaptation and mitigation.

4) Institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement – Well inter-institutional coordination favors incorporation of climate agendas in each sector's development plans (Environment and climate change, forestry, land management, energy, transport, water resource, and economic) and prevents the duplication of research and action plans in the same target areas during the formulation and implementation phase, respectively. This allows the budget to be allocated for the new research and the implementation of new action plans. Lack of coordination usually results in the expenditure of a huge amount of money carrying out the research that was already done and activities that were already carried out. Further, inclusive participation of local people from the phase of formulation of policies to the implementation of action plans and handing over some level of responsibility creates the ownership of the program ensuring its successful implementation and sustainability.

the key institutional barriers?

Some of the key institutional barriers for the implementation of NDC in developing countries are as follows:

- 1) Lack of resource persons – There are insufficient resource people or climate experts assigned to each department (development and economic) to lead inter-institutional coordination and ensure that appropriate/sector-specific climate factors are incorporated into each department's development plans and budget for implementation. This also jeopardizes the ownership and use of essential research data and information as such experts and resources are not available usually at the sub-national and local level.
- 2) Lack of institutional coordination – Less frequent consultations among different institutional entities leads to failure in prioritizing appropriate climate policies and hence the action plans. For example, project proponents are unable to identify suitable accredited entities to seek funding from financiers like the GCF and inability to develop high-quality evidence-based concept notes which require the involvement of multiple stakeholders. In addition, lack of coordination also leads to budget expenditure in duplicate research and duplicate implementation of action plans.
- 3) Limited institutional capacity – Limited expertise in data collection, analysis, reporting leading to failure in presenting clear national scenarios. Further lack of a proper/easily accessible archiving system leads to duplication of research and unnecessary expense. In many cases countries are unable to access funding from international climate financiers and donors due to limited capacity to develop funding proposals meeting all their requirements.
- 4) Climatic issues are at lower priority – Many developing countries prioritizing economic prosperity have put environmental conservation in the shadows. As a result, very minimal to no budget is allocated for the implementation of climate actions. To add, resources are spent to develop climate policies because of different international agendas, multilateral, and bilateral agreements but very few get converted into action plans for the implementation at the ground level.
- 5) Lack of robust monitoring and evaluation systems – No responsible entity for the monitoring and evaluation regarding the implementation of climate action plans to meet the NDC targets and lack of capacity to develop a good indicator for the monitoring and evaluation purpose which is hindering the coherent implementation of the current action plans, tracking the progress, and evaluating its effectiveness.

the capacity gaps and capacity-building needs?

The capacity gaps and capacity-building need that needs to be addressed are as follows:

- 1) Awareness and capacity development activities to include wider stakeholders – In many of the awareness and capacity building webinars, seminars, workshops, we see the maximum participation of the individuals, especially from academia and international organizations. It is necessary to tailor such programs to include NGOs/CBOs/private sector/ development sector (engineers)/public sector at sub-national and local level/and the local community. In many cases, the actors (NGOs/CBOs/private sector/public sector at the subnational and local level) who are at the forefront of implementing different adaptation and mitigation measures lack the understanding of the NDC and the target sets. Lack of such understanding is requiring the need to organize awareness programs to target such stakeholders and ensure multi-stakeholder engagement and participation from the beginning phase of developing climate agendas like NDC.
- 2) Establishing a good network between scientific communities/academia and climate action formulation and implementing partners - Scientific community and academia are the sources of

information and skillsets. They have many research studies to provide an evidence base and understand the ground reality that may lead to the formulation of proof-based policies and action plans.

3) There is a need to build the capacity both at the national level and subnational and local level on database and knowledge management and build up a systematic flow of information from local to the national level and vice versa.

4) A country should have a well-developed MRV system to track the implementation process and to ensure that the action plans are aligned with the NDC targets.

5) Introducing the concept of nature-based approach, bioengineering, and circular economy to encourage countries to include such approaches in their development activities. Further, awareness on the importance of identifying and prioritizing different indigenous knowledge and practices while developing the climate adaptation or mitigation plans.

6) Access to Finance – Limited amount of budget separated for the implementation of different mitigation/adaptation plans necessitates the development of a funding proposal. To receive funding from different climate financiers, a proposal requires to go through a rigorous scrutiny process, requiring a proponent to develop a high-quality proposal meeting all the fundamental requirements of the financiers to minimize multiple revisions. To fasten this process, many developing countries need the support to build their capacity on different topics of project development (including creating an evidence base, problem identification, developing a logical framework, mainstreaming gender, creating exit strategies, and monitoring and evaluation framework).

the knowledge and skills priorities?

Building the robust evidence-based climate change agendas like NDCs and subsequently, action plans for the effective implementation requires a varied set of skills and knowledge including –

1) Data and information collection – such as creating greenhouse gas inventories (calculating GHGs emissions and carbon sequestration), quantifying ecosystem services and disaster impacts- items that are difficult to put a value on, and developing a vulnerability index.

2) Data analysis – The ability to grasp and analyze scientific research resources, including producing climate change scenarios to anticipate future climate risk both at national and local levels which should be a cross-sectoral capability that is not confined to a few institutions.

3) Action plans development based on evidence.

4) Ability to secure funding from different climate financiers (this requires capacity on different thematic areas of proposal development such as providing an evidence base to support the concept, ability to differentiate developmental and environmental problems, identification of the problems, developing a logical framework, mainstreaming gender, setting the exit strategies and developing monitoring and evaluation indicators).

5) Recognition of indigenous knowledge/practice and religious beliefs– The environment conservation actions practiced at the local level which are being passed from one generation to another involve activities that fall under the category of nature-based solution or ecosystem-based conservation. These successful practices are on the verge of extinction which needs to be recognized, innovated, practiced, and archived. Similarly, religious beliefs like considering certain forests, lakes, ponds as sacred places have helped to maintain their integrity without any degradation indicating that our indigenous practice and beliefs help to preserve nature in its pristine state and such knowledge are needed to be integrated into the development of adaptation/mitigation plans. The incorporation of well-known and ongoing practices/solutions ensures its success, greater stakeholder engagement for the implementation rather than an alien practice that will require developing capacity and would not guarantee its success.

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:

1) Capacity-building activities should be need-based. There should be a proper assessment/ survey to identify the subject matter that is hindering the successful implementation of NDCs and the planning process. An institution should be at the forefront to identify the gaps and the needs.

2) More efforts should be made on the selection of participants for the training program. The selection of the participants from any institution should be transparent and benefit-focused (for example selecting a participant who could apply the learning into his/her work).

3) Capacity building activities/contents should not be limited by time constraints. Capacity-building activities should be designed with enough time for participants to understand the topic. Hence instead of having training activities on a broad topic, targeting a specific thematic area based on the need may prove to be more effective.

4) Since the subnational level (different NGOs, CBOs, public sector) are at the forefront of implementing activities based on NDC, capacity building efforts should focus on enhancing their capacity on data collection (creating a database for GHG emissions and carbon sequestration, accurate quantification of damage resulted from disaster) and knowledge management, which serves as an input to the monitoring and evaluation system and for the reporting. This may also require the capacity development of IT, officials, on the development of appropriate database management systems ensuring the flow of information from sub-national to the national level and vice-versa.

5) NGOs, CBOs, and public sector organizations should be capacitated to develop their sub-national MRV system that feeds into the national database.

6) Capacitate NGOs, CBOs, and public organizations to bring multistakeholder and inclusive participation while developing adaptation plans and awareness on the importance of recognition of indigenous/local knowledge and practice on environment protection that can be incorporated in the adaptation plans wherever appropriate. NGOs, CBOs, and public organizations should be aware of the content of NDC, the necessity to implement NDC so that they can aware of the community level on the climate crisis, why they are considered vulnerable, and why they should participate in implementing mitigation and adaptation measures and who are the beneficiaries of such actions? Medium to aware the public should be carefully selected based on the availability of multimedia facilities as all geographical areas are not equally facilitated in terms of means of communication.

7) Efforts to organize the dialogue and discussion forums regularly inviting local communities, INGOs, NGOs, CBOs, and public sector involved in implementing NDC action plans to discuss the implemented action plans, its possibility of success/failure, new arising problems and collectively look for the solutions. 8) Capacity building on different bio-engineering techniques, nature-based solutions, green infrastructure, and clean energy to NGOs, CBOs, public sector including engineering and development sectors.

At the national level:

1) Efforts are needed to inform the development (engineering) and private sector of the NDC targets and to ensure multistakeholder engagement (academia, public, private, NGOs, CBOs) to develop a roadmap/framework for implementation of adaptation and mitigation action plans.

2) Capacity development training activities should widen its target groups to include development (engineering sector) and private sectors to make them aware of the current climatic issues, international agendas, national targets including the topics like nature-based solutions, green infrastructure, clean energy, and circular economy.

3) Capacity development on the development of a robust MRV system linked with subnational level and ensure the flow of information systematically.

4) Capacitate public sector officials in knowledge management (various data obtained from the subnational level).

5) As mentioned in the sub-national level section, efforts should be made by each institution to select the best participant for the training program, who can bring positive change.

6) Efforts to enhance the knowledge and skills sharing between the scientific community and climate action plans implementing partners. This may include the use of scientific research to understand the ground reality to propose appropriate measures for achieving NDC targets.

At the regional level:

1) Capacitating stakeholders through knowledge and experience sharing from the national context. This may include the organization of a regional seminar inviting stakeholders from sub-national level, national level, academia to discuss the NDC target, status, and probability of achieving the targets by the set deadline. The platform can also be used to share the successful adaptation/mitigation measures including the failed experience from the national context.

2) Forming a group of regional countries that share similar geography, and climatic conditions and learning from each other's experience. This may include the sharing of case studies and also the field visits to understand the implemented adaptation/mitigation plans and their impacts.

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

The Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRCAP) is an outreach center at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand that assists countries to advance their sustainable development goals by providing capacity building, knowledge and information sharing, policy advice, and research in the thematic areas of Climate Change, Air Pollution, and Waste and Resource Management. To support the capacities from government, civil society, academia, and other sectors in the region for the formulation and hence the implementation of climate action policies like NDCs and to assist in the planning process, RRCAP has been successful in providing two resources.

1) The S8-SICAT Downscaler Tool – a simple and effective climate change downscaling tool for National Adaptation Planning. S8DS dynamical downscaling tool allows practitioners to assess global climate scenarios at the local scale without highly specialized technical expertise, to assist them in the design of the adaptation solutions. This S8DS tool is a web application tool based on a Graphic User Interface (GUI) to develop climate projection models. The user can get the projection at no cost from their personal computers. The current version of the interface allows the selection of three different languages (English, Thai, and Vietnamese) with the plan to add other local languages in the future. (For more information – rrcap.ait.ac.th/Pages/s8ds.aspx).

2) E-learning course on the development of concept note for the Green Climate Fund Simplified Approval Process - This course guides on fundamental components of the project development

following the principle of learning by doing, enabling the participants to develop a high quality of concept note leading to the development of a funding proposal. Although the course is intended for the individuals who wish to design a concept note for the GCF SAP, the course materials and techniques presented can also be applied to any project preparation task and when approaching climate financiers other than the GCF. (For more information – elearning.rrcap.ait.ac.th)

3) Delivering training in the region for many years, we have learned that delivery methods should be tailored, based on the topic and the objective of the training program. For example, in conducting a training program on access to finance, providing an opportunity to trainees to engage with the trainer beyond the training programs, virtually, as a part of the mentoring activity has proven to ensure that the quality concept notes are prepared and submitted to the relevant climate financiers. This type of blended programmatic approach has proven to ensure submission and approval of a higher number of concept notes than just delivering a one-time training/workshop on the topic.

4) Another lesson learned is on the importance of selecting participants for a training program to ensure that there is participation from the majority of the relevant stakeholders attending the training.

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)

1. Link to RRCAP Climate Change website - <https://www.climatechange.rrcap.ait.ac.th/>
2. Link to the S8DS climate change downscaling service provided by RRCAP – <http://www.rrcap.ait.ac.th/Pages/s8ds.aspx>
3. Link to the RRCAP e-learning course on the development of concept note for the GCF SAP – <https://elearning.rrcap.ait.ac.th/>