

# Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)

## Call for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders:

### *Existing tools and methodologies for implementing capacity-building activities that enable countries to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement*

#### 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](#).

#### Topic for submissions

As part of its continuing efforts to respond to these priorities, the PCCB determined in its 2021-2024 workplan, to make calls for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders on:

*Existing tools and methodologies for implementing capacity-building activities that enable countries to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.*

#### 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 for implementing capacity-building activities will feed into upcoming deliverables under Activity B.2 of the 2021-2024 PCCB workplan, including a technical session at the 4th Capacity-building Hub in 2022.

#### 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](mailto:pccb@unfccc.int)

Deadline for submissions: 30 November 2021

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:**

Green Climate Fund (GCF)

**Type of organization:**

Please choose as appropriate:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental organization                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Development bank / financial institution |
| <input checked="" 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 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: Songdo, Incheon

Country: Republic of Korea

**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):**

Click or tap here to enter text.

## Existing tools and methodologies for implementing capacity-building activities that enable countries to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

Having the right and necessary tools and methodologies available to efficiently design, implement, and monitor and evaluate meaningful capacity-building interventions is key to making sure that countries successfully implement the Paris Agreement and reach its goals.

The PCCB seeks information on tools and methodologies used in climate-related efforts that aim to strengthen capacities at the individual, institutional or systemic level to meet objectives or perform better, and/or that enhance the sustainability, replicability or scalability of capacity-building projects/efforts. Relevant tools and methodologies also include those supporting the design and monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building efforts.

### What are good examples of tools and methodologies used by different actors for implementing capacity-building activities that enable countries to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement?

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has been mandated by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to serve as a main operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC. It is guided by the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC with the mandate to make “an ambitious contribution to the global efforts towards attaining the goals set by the international community to combat climate change”.

The Governing Instrument of the GCF has mandated the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme (RPSP or the Readiness Programme) to provide resources for strengthening institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, and planning and programming frameworks to identify a transformational long-term climate action agenda for developing countries, ultimately moving towards meeting the objectives of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Designed to be a flexible tool to support climate action, the Readiness programme does not have a defined list of activities eligible to be supported, and instead encourages countries to develop readiness support requests aligned with their national climate action vision and that are complementary to previous and ongoing initiatives in the country.

The GCF Secretariat and Board has continued to shape the Readiness Programme to describe work areas and indicative activities of the programme. At the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Board (B.22), the Readiness Programme Strategy for 2019-2021 was approved, which incorporates features to improve impact, by orienting the Readiness Programme to encourage a national strategic outlook, provide greater flexibility within a national vision, and increase support for the identification and development of high-impact programming and pipeline development activities. Under the revised strategy, the Readiness Programme aims to support one or more of the following objectives:

- **Objective 1:** Capacity building for climate finance coordination
- **Objective 2:** Strategic frameworks for low-emission investment
- **Objective 3:** Strengthened adaptation planning
- **Objective 4:** Paradigm-shifting pipeline development
- **Objective 5:** Knowledge sharing and learning

The GCF Secretariat has highlighted two Readiness grants as good examples of tools and methodologies for capacity building as activities include strong National Designated Authority (NDA) strengthening and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) support.

**Case Study: Readiness Support to Iraq with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**  
| \$936,083

- **Project title:** NDA strengthening in Iraq for climate finance programming, governance, regional dialogues and knowledge generation
- **Objective:** To strengthen capacities of the NDA to institutionalize climate action coordination mechanisms; establish capacity of Direct Access Entities; enhance climate finance programming for national/regional GHG mitigation measures; mainstream information on paradigm shifts; and develop capacity to identify and develop proposals on green growth investments
- **Activities:** Training and capacity building workshops on access to climate funding, Measurement, Reporting, Verification (MRV) systems, green growth, Country Programme; framework for NDA tracking of climate finance flows; identification criteria for Direct Access entity (DAE) candidates; accreditation gap analysis for DAEs; development of a Readiness Needs Assessment.

**Case Study: Readiness Support (NAP) to Zimbabwe with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** | \$2,886,725

- **Project title:** Building capacity to advance the National Adaptation Planning process in Zimbabwe
- **Objective:** The proposed GCF readiness and preparatory support project will have four expected outcomes: (i) stakeholders capacity to formulate and implement the NAP process in Zimbabwe enhanced; (ii) background information for formulating and implementing the NAP process managed, and adaptation options prioritized; (iv) NAP implementation resources identified and studies to inform medium-to long-term climate change adaptation investments conducted and; (v) monitoring, reviewing and reporting on the NAP process in Zimbabwe improved.
- **Activities:** Conduct study and/or research programmes in collaboration with relevant universities and research institutions in Zimbabwe (e.g. University of Zimbabwe, Bindura University, Midlands State University, National University of Science and Technology, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre and Matopo Research Station), to measure the effectiveness of past, present and future adaptation interventions to inform future investments in climate change adaptation, including the business plans and financial models developed.

**Which types of tools and methodologies for capacity building have proven to be the most effective and why?**

**Objective 1: Capacity building for climate finance coordination**, including establishing and strengthening National Designated Authorities (NDAs) or focal points is a dedicated objective under the updated Readiness Programme Strategy 2019-2021. The objective aims for the **GCF recipient countries and relevant stakeholders set up adequate systems – human, technical and institutional – that enables them to fulfil their roles and responsibilities towards the GCF and enhance their ability to achieve their objectives**. Under this objective, countries can build a logical framework for Readiness support requests using the outcomes below:

- Outcome 1.1: Country NDAs or focal points and the network/ systems that enable them to fulfil their roles, responsibilities and policy requirements are operational and effective
- Outcome 1.2: Direct access applicants and accredited entities (DAEs) have established capacity to meet and maintain the GCF's accreditation standards; and accredited DAEs

have the capacity to develop a pipeline of projects and effectively implement GCF-funded activities

- Outcome 1.3: Relevant country stakeholders (which may include executing entities, civil society organizations and private sector) have established adequate capacity, systems and networks to support the planning, programming and implementation of GCF-funded activities

Objective 1 and the related outcomes have been developed by the GCF Secretariat and approved by the GCF Board based on the needs highlighted by the NDAs and from the knowledge attained from the existing Readiness Programme portfolio at the time. This framework serves as a useful tool and methodology for countries and Delivery Partners (DPs) to better assess, prioritize and plan for readiness support specifically for capacity building as it provides guidance to focus on the most strategic areas of development. All readiness support should closely match the needs and gaps identified through national documents, including any specific readiness needs assessments. This objective is a dedicated area for NDAs to request for support in building their own capacity as well as other stakeholders including DAEs, CSOs, private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities through various activities. A list of indicative activities under this objective can be found below and in Annex II of the Readiness Guidebook. Countries are still encouraged to formulate their activities based on their specific needs and consistent to the objective of the Readiness programme.

- Enabling NDA coordination mechanisms with accredited entities, national designated entities (NDE), focal points for other climate funds and multilateral environmental agreements and other stakeholders to identify national priorities for country programming.
- Strengthening institutional capacities so that the NDA or focal point can effectively fulfil its role.
- Developing national arrangements for the promotion, consideration and facilitation of funding proposals.
- Developing essential mechanisms to engage with the GCF, including no-objection procedures and bilateral agreements on privileges and immunities, and conducting stakeholder consultations regarding their design.
- Funding for training of NDA or focal point staff members in areas relevant to the objectives of the GCF such as project and programme development, international procurement, accounting, oversight, planning and monitoring and evaluation processes.
- Supporting the ongoing engagement of stakeholders at national and sub-national levels, including government, civil society and private sector actors.
- Supporting the appropriate oversight of GCF activities at the national level.
- Understanding the roles of existing institutions and identifying potential accredited entities.
- Conducting an institutional gap analysis of potential applicants against the fiduciary standards, safeguards, and compliance policies of the GCF.
- Building the capacity of accredited direct access entities in relation to the GCF activities, in areas such as ESS, the GCF gender policy and action plan, and monitoring, reporting and evaluation.
- Strengthening accredited direct access entities institutional capacities through structured trainings, and provide technical support to enable the direct access entity to achieve accreditation upgrades
- Strengthening the capacities of sub-national institutions/executing entities.

Which (types of) tools and methodologies to support the efficient design, implementation, and monitoring/evaluation of meaningful capacity-building interventions are currently lacking?

The Readiness Programme has benefited from the findings from the evaluation of the Readiness Programme performed by the Independent Evaluation Unit of the GCF in 2018. The findings of this evaluation served as key inputs to developing the revised Readiness Strategy for 2019-2021 and improving internal operational processes. The Secretariat is also undergoing a review and analysis of the results from the Readiness Programme to date, to better understand portfolio impact and in effect help countries plan for future readiness support.

At an activity level, countries and Delivery Partners (DPs) are encouraged to utilize pre- and post-evaluation surveys as it is a tangible product to capture capacity building efforts and can serve as a means to ground the baseline and target for existing and future proposals and assessments. However, the use of this methodology to clearly evidence the achievement of the proposed targets are often absent from the proposals. This type of activity is useful as it can also better gauge the needs and expectations of the participants and ensure that results of the activities can be monitored and evaluated. Ultimately, the feedback loops between proposals as well as between country NDAs, DPs and the GCF on the lessons learned and best practices from capacity building activities can be improved upon.

At the national level, challenges exist when developing Readiness Needs Assessments (RNA) by the NDAs. Despite the continued Readiness support for capacity building and RNA development, several countries suffer from a lack of human resources and capacity. These could be attributed to changing focal points within NDAs and changing of country NDAs as a whole, which may lead to handover and capacity gaps as well as a potential change in political and national priorities. This tool is important as a national RNA can enable countries to better approach readiness support in a strategic manner and enhance country ownership. The development of the RNA engages multiple stakeholders and calls for identified capacity needs and a review of existing initiatives and assessments. Given the complexities and the importance of this assessment, the GCF has seen an increase in readiness requests to support the development of the RNA. The results of this support will have to be further analyzed as grants reach closure.

In which thematic area(s) of the Paris Agreement are new tools and methodologies for capacity-building most required in order to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement?

The **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** is a key ingredient to meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Countries may request for readiness support in developing, updating and implementing the NDCs. Moreover, NDAs are encouraged to review key documents including the NDCs and other national climate action plans to gauge and assess their readiness needs. Readiness support can also aid the development of long-term strategies that detail how a country expects to balance its own anthropogenic emissions and removals by sinks towards meeting the climate goals. Capacity building tools and methodologies in the Readiness programme portfolio that contribute to NDC-related activities include establishing coordination mechanisms among NDAs, other ministries, and stakeholders to developing and updating NDCs and supporting stakeholder consultations and training on NDC enhancement and implementation planning, to name a few. Ultimately, Readiness support can be utilized as a tool for enhancing the clarity, transparency and understanding of NDC submissions in the country, which in turn would help achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

There has also been an increase in Readiness support requests for capacity building activities related to **climate technology**. Capacity building activities for technology development and transfer for climate action have been closely linked to the development of strategic frameworks under Objective 2 of the Readiness Programme as well. The common types of tools and methodologies have included training and capacity building of NDA, DAE and other stakeholders

to develop or update Technology Needs Assessments (TNA), Technology Action Plans (TAP) as well as other identification, prioritization, and planning efforts. Further information on Readiness grant specific activities can be found on the GCF [website](#), and a [GCF in Brief: Support for Technology](#) also describes technology solutions and innovations from financing modalities of the GCF.

**Useful sources:**

*Please give examples of useful sources relevant to this topic*

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

- [Readiness and Preparatory Support guidebook: A practical guide on how to prepare readiness proposals for the Green Climate Fund](#)
- [Webinar on the updated Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme](#)
- [Independent Evaluation of the GCF's Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme \(RPSP2018\)](#)
- [Readiness Programme approved proposals](#)
- [GCF in Brief: Support for Technology](#)

**Open comment:**

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