

Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)

Call for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders:

Experience, good practices and lessons learned related to enhancing the ownership of developing countries of building and maintaining capacity

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 a call for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders on:

Experience, good practices and lessons learned related to enhancing the ownership of developing countries of building and maintaining capacity.

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 will feed into upcoming deliverables under Activity B.3 of the 2021-2024 PCCB workplan, including a technical paper in 2022, a technical session at the 5th Capacity-building Hub in 2023, and recommendations to the COP and CMA.

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: 15 October 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:

The Adaptation Fund

Type of organization:

Please choose as appropriate:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" 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 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: Washington, D.C.

Country: United States of America

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):

Experience, good practices and lessons learned related to enhancing the ownership of developing countries of building and maintaining capacity.

Enhancing country ownership of capacity-building, is a topic that the PCCB has explored from the start as part of its mandate. Article 11.2 of the Paris Agreement notes that capacity-building “should be country-driven, based on and responsive to national needs, and foster country ownership of Parties, in particular, for developing country Parties, including at the national, subnational and local levels.” Parties and other stakeholders in the UNFCCC process have variously noted that a lack of country ownership and local leadership is a key cause behind existing capacity gaps and constraints in developing countries.

Under its new workplan for 2021–2024, the PCCB will collate, review and share information on experience, good practices and lessons learned related to enhancing the ownership of developing countries of building and maintaining capacity, and providing recommendations in this regard.

What are good examples of lessons learned and best practices in enhancing country ownership of capacity-building efforts?

- The community of practice for direct access entities (CPDAE) is a community made up of the accredited National Implementing Entities (NIEs) of the Adaptation Fund. Through the CPDAE, we are holding workshops and seminars which provides an avenue for knowledge exchange, learning and experience sharing, collaboration and peer support within the community of NIEs to increase the effectiveness of entities in accessing resources and implementing adaptation and mitigation projects and programs through direct access. This further enhances national capacities and country ownership for adaptation and mitigation of adverse climate change effects.
- The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat has been implementing country exchange visits between accredited national implementing entities (NIEs) from developing countries that are accessing the Fund’s resources using its Direct Access modality. The country exchanges enhance the accredited NIEs’ capacity for project design, development and implementation by facilitating interaction and engagement with project stakeholders, and facilitation of benchmarking for these NIEs towards an Adaptation Fund project within a sector or model of interest. The exchanges are country driven where a developing country volunteers to be the host and all the activities are country driven. Through country exchanges, the Fund strengthens the long-term institutional and technical capacity of NIEs to implement and execute high quality adaptation projects/programmes through direct interaction and engagement with project stakeholders.
- As part of these country exchanges, the AF organizes knowledge fairs where the participating entities have an opportunity to exchange lessons learned, best practices and challenges from the design and implementation of their project and also to apply some of these in their own projects, thus enhancing their capacities.
- As part of the Adaptation Fund accreditation and re-accreditation processes, applicants are required to provide evidence documents to demonstrate compliance with different criteria including fiduciary and financial management standards, the institutional capacity to manage the execution of projects and programs related to climate adaptation as well as the transparency mechanisms and systems to deal with financial mismanagement and other forms of malpractices especially relating to environmental and social and gender safeguards. Where particular documents are non-existent, applicants are requested to produce new documents. In the process, they are able to gain familiarity and build enhanced capacities on policies relevant to the accreditation process such as the Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy.

- In addition to requesting applicants to provide documentations on the existence of relevant policies in their respective outfits, the Secretariat requires them to provide detailed evidence on how the policies have been used in the organization. This evidentiary requirement helps better assess compliance to the accreditation criteria and provides an opportunity for the Secretariat to recommend areas of further capacity improvements.

In your experience, how can country ownership of capacity-building efforts best be ensured and enhanced?

- Using a country-driven and self-paced approach. The Fund’s re-accreditation process is an opportunity for implementing entities to continuously improve existing capacities and policies. The process ensures that organizations maintain effective and efficient management and operating procedures, maintain conformity to internationally recognized standards, and establish permanent capacity building of their staff. By accessing funding and implementing the Fund’s projects or programs, applicants strengthen their internal capacities, especially in the areas of project management, oversight, project reporting, and audit procedures.

What are key challenges (incl. e.g. knowledge and institutional barriers and capacity gaps) with regard to effectively enhancing country ownership of capacity-building efforts?

- With respect to country exchanges, such exercises can be cost intensive and the capacity gaps identified may also need financial support for the participating national implementing entities to address them. However, a benefit from the country exchanges has also been identification and discussion of best and least cost options to build capacity at national and local levels.

Useful sources:

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

- <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness/country-exchanges/>
- <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness/community-of-practice/>
- <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/bridging-the-gaps-in-accreditation/>
- <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Bridging-the-Gaps-in-Accred-07.24.pdf>
- <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/e-course-on-direct-access-unlocking-adaptation-funding>
- Lessons learned brochures from country exchanges:
 - Senegal: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/lessons-learned-from-the-senegal-country-exchange/>
 - Chile: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/lessons-learned-and-applied-from-the-chile-country-exchange/>

Open comment:

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