

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: 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:

Environmental Volunteer Network of Afghanistan [EVN]

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) Civil Society |

Organization Location

City: Kabul

Country: Afghanistan

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):

Headquartered in Kabul, but working with all regions of Afghanistan

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?

- Environmental Volunteer Network, based in Kabul, Afghanistan, has found that basic environmental education is a foundation for capacity-building, as are campaigns to teach people about air, water and trash pollution in their home, neighborhoods, cities, and in the world. Workshops, classes, trainings, neighborhood visits, city clean-ups, and demonstrations of how to build better, cleaner fires for cooking and warming and how to use wood smoke air filters, for example, or how to bike and walk when you can, instead of driving, have contributed to citizens’ ability to potentially improve their local climates and decrease harmful emissions.
- Environmental Volunteer Network, based in Kabul, Afghanistan, has developed some best practices around engaging a totally volunteer network across all genders so that all people can learn about how to care for the environment, and how doing so helps their own and their families’ health.
- Environmental Volunteer Network, based in Kabul, Afghanistan, has also begun hosting a week of climate crisis awareness and action events in October, as an international partner to UN PCCB Network member tUrn at Santa Clara University in California. This is enhancing ownership of capacity-building efforts because it engaged 6000 people across all regions of Afghanistan in October 2021 and will be a recurring program of the Environmental Volunteer Network.

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

- Environmental Volunteer Network, based in Kabul, Afghanistan, is currently the largest and most extensive network of Afghans who are concerned with environmental protections, and supporting these networks would better ensure and enhance their efficacy.
- Since the former National Environmental Protection Agency is not functioning since summer 2021, country ownership of capacity-building would be greatly enhanced by the re-establishment of an environmental protection agency in the country of Afghanistan. Otherwise, there is no country-wide leadership on capacity-building, or system of checks and balances to help the country contribute positively to it’s own success or to the global issue of the larger picture of the climate crisis.

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?

- The knowledge gap in Afghanistan is great. A vast majority of audiences surveyed by Environmental Volunteer Network did not know what the environment was, and did not understand that lung diseases are caused by what they are doing in their own homes by burning plastics, rubber, and trash. Many Afghans have not been taught about taking care of the environment or how clean waterways are possible if you do not pollute them. There is also a lack of knowledge about the function of greenery in clean air, and about carbon sinks like trees and plants.
- The institutional barriers in Afghanistan are great as there is no access to schooling for many and within schools basic environmental education is not taught regularly, or at all. Other institutional barriers include the need for country-wide, province/regional, and city environmental leadership informed by the scientific reality of the climate crisis to help improve the quality of life for all Afghans, and to drawdown global warming as a country with leadership in each region, city, town and neighborhood contributing to drawdown goals.

Useful sources:

Please give examples of useful sources relevant to this topic

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

Environmental Volunteer Network [EVN] based in Kabul, Afghanistan

Facebook | [facebook.com/envnn/](https://www.facebook.com/envnn/)

Twitter | [@EVNAfghanistan](https://twitter.com/EVNAfghanistan)

YouTube | <https://youtube.com/channel/UCTlrPYaWltdgnZuSvRMhXlw>

Email: evn.afghanistan@gmail.com

Contacts: 0707288062 - 0788886944

Open comment:

Thank you for creating this technical report. We are honored to contribute the voice of over a thousand EVN volunteers in Afghanistan working for a healthy future for all, and welcome any questions you may have about our organization's goals, accomplishments and next steps!