

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:

SouthSouthNorth on behalf of the Future Climate for Africa programme

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) <small>Click or tap here to enter text.</small> |

Organization Location

City: Cape Town

Country: South Africa

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):

Senegal, Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania, Windhoek (Namibia), Lusaka (Zambia), Maputo (Mozambique), Harare (Zimbabwe), Gaborone (Botswana), Blantyre (Malawi)

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?

- Southern researchers play an important role in ensuring research has impact, and should be included from the outset of designing and delivering programmes and projects to ensure research is locally relevant while ensuring a long-term legacy of the work (Araujo et al 2021).
- Ensuring flexible programme design and having ring-fenced funds are important to transfer increasing roles and responsibilities to in-country partners as new needs arise and partners capacity is improved.
- Its important to factor in administrative and financial barriers within African institutions, to ensure local leadership is not impeded by these barriers while transferring relevant project management skills to build administrative and reporting capabilities within these institutions.
- There is a need to consider capacity development on the institutional and systematic level to ensure that capacity built on the institutional level can be sustained beyond project or programme funding periods.
- Collaborative capacity needs assessments should be done at the outset to ensure South-North partnerships are geared towards skill and knowledge transfers to enable emergent leadership to take hold.
- South-South collaboration is important for peer learning to overcome institutional barriers but also forming a unified voice to define local needs to leverage external support.

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

- Building off of advances from previous programmes and capacity building initiatives ensures new or improved capacity can be utilized and sustained to further leadership potential of in-country partners.
- Ring-fenced funding and flexible programme design can ensure that in-country partners are able to take leadership roles as capacity is developed and new opportunities and needs emerge.
- South-North partnerships aimed at facilitating skills, knowledge and technology transfers are important, but can also help Southern researchers access data and infrastructure that they are unable to access from their home institutions.

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?

- Financial barriers, administrative burdens and delayed disbursement can inhibit the ability of southern researchers to carry out tasks and assume leadership roles.
- Bias towards Northern institutions and rigid programme designs leads to Northern partners being favored for leadership positions with limited potential for in-country partners to take on increasing responsibilities and roles and capacity is developed.
- Limited research career opportunities within Africa (such as limited funded post-doc positions), inhibits career progression and results in early career researchers leaving the field and loss of capacity.
- Uneven power dynamics between institutions often result in external driven goals which do not address in-country needs.

Useful sources:

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

- Promoting Southern Leadership within Climate Research Programmes: <https://futureclimateafrica.org/resource/promoting-southern-leadership-within-climate-research-programmes/>
- Learning from the FCFA programme: <https://futureclimateafrica.org/resource/19380/>
- Building research capacity in early career researchers – insights from an international climate research programme: <https://futureclimateafrica.org/resource/building-research-capacity-in-early-career-researchers-insights-from-an-international-climate-research-programme/>
- Webinar: Promoting leadership opportunities for southern climate researchers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NiPXF6Cqic&t=188s>

Open comment:

Click or tap here to enter text.