



United Nations

FCCC/SBI/2021/3



Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Distr.: General
10 March 2021

Original: English

Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries

Synthesis report by the secretariat

Summary

This synthesis report has been prepared to support the Subsidiary Body for Implementation in monitoring and evaluating, in accordance with decisions 2/CP.7 and 29/CMP.1, the framework for capacity-building in developing countries established under decision 2/CP.7. It draws on information synthesized from biennial reports, biennial update reports, national adaptation plans, national communications and nationally determined contributions. The information contained in this report, presented consistently with the 15 priority areas for capacity-building in developing countries set out in the annex to decision 2/CP.7, may assist Parties in reviewing progress in the implementation of the capacity-building framework and identifying areas where additional capacity-building support is required. The report serves as input to the work of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building and thus contains information relevant to the capacity-building activities in its 2021–2024 workplan. Further, the report contains information on emerging areas for capacity-building identified in the national reports.



Abbreviations and acronyms

Annex I Party	Party included in Annex I to the Convention
Annex II Party	Party included in Annex II to the Convention
COP	Conference of the Parties
GHG	greenhouse gas
NAP	national adaptation plan
NDC	nationally determined contribution
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The COP requested the secretariat to produce annually a synthesis report on activities undertaken to implement the framework for capacity-building in developing countries established under decision 2/CP.7.¹
2. The COP also requested the secretariat to make the report available to the SBI at its sessions coinciding with the meetings of the Durban Forum on capacity-building to facilitate the discussions at those meetings.² In addition, it decided that the report will serve as input to the PCCB.³
3. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol requested the secretariat to consider in the annual synthesis report capacity-building activities relating to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in developing countries.⁴

B. Scope of the report

4. This report summarizes available information on the implementation of the capacity-building framework, thus enabling annual monitoring of progress and identification of areas where additional capacity-building support is required.
5. The report contains information that can serve as input to the work of the PCCB in accordance with its 2021–2024 workplan.⁵ The 2021 focus area of the PCCB is building capacity to facilitate coherent implementation of NDCs in the context of national development plans.⁶
6. The information contained in this report relates to activities reported between February 2020 and February 2021 in five biennial reports,⁷ 13 biennial update reports,⁸ one NAP,⁹ 17 national communications¹⁰ and 47 NDCs.¹¹
7. This report may not provide a comprehensive overview of capacity-building activities undertaken in developing countries, as the information contained in national reports is complex and context dependent. Furthermore, developing country Parties and their support institutions may have undertaken additional work subsequent to the submission of the national reports, and information on certain areas may not have been available in those documents.
8. The summary of main findings is followed by chapters presenting a comprehensive overview of:
 - (a) Capacity-building activities undertaken and capacity-building gaps and needs identified by developing country Parties within the scope of the capacity-building framework and in the context of its 15 priority areas¹² (see chap. III below);
 - (b) Emerging areas for capacity-building and associated gaps and needs identified by developing country Parties (see chap. IV below);

¹ Decisions 2/CP.7, para. 9(c); and 4/CP.12, para. 1(c).

² Decision 1/CP.18, para. 78.

³ Decision 1/CP.21, para. 79.

⁴ Decisions 29/CMP.1, para. 4; and 6/CMP.2, para. 1(c).

⁵ Available at <https://unfccc.int/pecb>.

⁶ FCCC/SBI/2020/13, para. 15.

⁷ Available at <https://unfccc.int/BRs>.

⁸ Available at <https://unfccc.int/BURs>.

⁹ Available at https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/News/Pages/national_adaptation_plans.aspx.

¹⁰ Available at <https://unfccc.int/NC7>.

¹¹ Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/Pages/LatestSubmissions.aspx>.

¹² Decision 2/CP.7, annex, para. 15.

(c) Capacity-building support provided by Annex II Parties and other Parties to address the gaps and needs identified within the scope of the capacity-building framework (see chap. V below).

9. The final chapter provides additional information relevant to the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

10. The SBI may wish to use the information in this report:

(a) For monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the capacity-building framework;

(b) For supporting Parties in their consideration of how to enhance their reporting on the impacts of capacity-building activities, best practices and lessons learned and how these should inform relevant processes under the Convention to enhance the implementation of capacity-building activities;¹³

(c) As input to discussions at the 10th Durban Forum on capacity-building and the 5th meeting of the PCCB.

D. Possible action by the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

11. The PCCB may wish to use the information contained in this report when addressing its priority areas,¹⁴ where applicable, for the purposes of:

(a) Enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building under the Convention with a focus on avoiding duplication of efforts, including through collaboration with bodies under and outside the Convention that engage in activities related to capacity-building, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

(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 with bodies and relevant actors under and outside the Convention, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates.

II. Summary of findings

12. Capacity-building remains central to the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, and attention to capacity-building has increased at the institutional, systemic and individual level. In the reports assessed, Parties provided information on the capacity-building support they had sought or provided. Some Parties provided a detailed account of their needs by sector, while others described their capacity-building needs more generally.

13. Areas identified as requiring attention included GHG inventories, reporting, implementation of adaptation measures, development and transfer of technology, and education, training and public awareness.

14. Notwithstanding the notable progress in establishing agencies and national climate change plans and programmes, many reports noted that more needs to be done to strengthen the relationship between national climate change agencies and other ministries and to enhance coordination among agencies at all levels of government. Several NDCs highlighted this issue and the importance of improving national capacities to support implementation of climate action.

¹³ Decision 16/CP.22, para. 3.

¹⁴ Decision 9/CP.25, para. 9.

15. Challenges were identified in managing national GHG inventories and emission databases. Institutional capacity and technical expertise are still lacking in the collection, management and use of data. Most developing countries require further capacity-building in the development of national emission factors, particularly in establishing sector-specific emission baselines, calculating emissions and trading carbon emissions.

16. As noted in the 2020 synthesis report on the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries,¹⁵ many countries reported notable progress in raising awareness of climate change issues among the public. Climate change has been or is expected to be integrated into school curricula in an increasing number of developing countries.

17. In line with the findings in the NDC synthesis report,¹⁶ Parties continue to emphasize the need for additional capacity-building in areas beyond those established in the capacity-building framework. These new areas include integration of mitigation and adaptation into sectoral planning processes, accessing finance, and provision of information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding.

18. An increasing number of Parties are providing support in new areas, such as women's empowerment and gender integration, with most projects focused on ensuring the participation of female delegates in international climate negotiations.

19. Reporting on capacity-building remains a challenge common to all Parties. Developed countries continue to emphasize the difficulty of reporting separately on capacity-building owing to its cross-cutting and integrated nature. Developing countries, on the other hand, noted that they encountered difficulties in meeting reporting responsibilities, given their limited administrative and technical capacities.

III. Implementation of the capacity-building framework

20. This chapter provides an overview, following the 15 priority areas of the capacity-building framework, of capacity-building activities undertaken and capacity-building gaps and needs identified by developing country Parties.

21. Despite notable progress in the establishment of agencies and national climate change plans and programmes, many reports noted that more needs to be done to strengthen the relationship between national climate change agencies and other ministries and to enhance coordination among agencies at all levels of government.

22. Institutional capacity-building is also strongly linked to national plans and programmes for climate change. Developing countries seek capacity-building support for sectoral implementation of plans and programmes. They require additional expert input on how best to incorporate key sectors, as well as public cooperation, possibly through education and training.

23. Parties reported on various legislative and policy reforms that contribute to enabling climate change activities, including the development of sector-specific adaptation and mitigation plans, the enactment of climate change legislation and the provision of training on climate change. In terms of gaps in enabling environments, one of the most prominent is the lack of support for integrated implementation of policies and regulations.

24. Regarding the improvement of decision-making, including support for participation in international negotiations, Parties emphasized the need for capacity to strengthen local and sectoral decision-making, incorporate climate knowledge and expertise into decision-making and enhance stakeholder participation in the decision-making process.

25. Many Parties described measures undertaken to build capacity for vulnerability and adaptation assessment. Such assessments help to raise awareness of and build capacity for adaptation and disaster risk management. Parties also expressed their need for capacity-building in implementing adaptation efforts, including institutional, economic and financial

¹⁵ FCCC/SBI/2020/5.

¹⁶ FCCC/PA/CMA/2021/2.

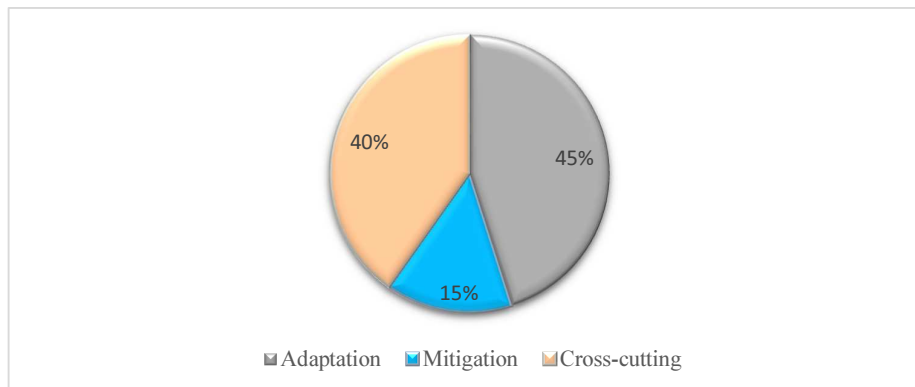
capacity; capacity to formulate NAPs and regional pilot projects; tools for monitoring and evaluation; adaptation strategies for vulnerable groups; and capacity of meteorological institutions to carry out forecasting, risk mapping and ‘climate proofing’.

26. Regarding assessment for the implementation of mitigation options, Parties continue to highlight the need for technical capacity among research institutions and coordinating bodies in the use of various climate mitigation models.

27. The cross-cutting nature of most of the capacity-building needs expressed by Parties, demonstrated in figure 1, underlines the importance of integrating capacity-building into climate action.

Figure 1

Capacity-building needs by theme



28. As in the 2020 synthesis report, challenges were identified in managing national GHG inventories and emission databases. Institutional capacity and technical expertise are still lacking in the collection, management and use of data and effective coordination among sectors and institutions to gather and present national-level data. Developing countries generally require further capacity-building for developing national emission factors, especially for determining the emissions and activities of private sector companies, setting emission baselines on a sectoral basis, calculating emissions and trading carbon emissions.

29. Parties emphasized the need for sufficient capacity to integrate climate change into education and training programmes, as well as to enhance awareness of the impact of climate change among the public, decision makers, civil servants, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media. Some of the measures taken by Parties include:

- (a) Providing support for developing a skills-based curriculum at all levels of the education system;
- (b) Investing in school-based programmes and projects aimed at helping children and students to better respond to the threats posed by climate change;
- (c) Encouraging universities to address climate change mitigation and adaptation in academic programmes;
- (d) Organizing teacher training on techniques for teaching climate change mitigation and adaptation at all levels of education;
- (e) Undertaking mobilization and outreach activities to improve awareness of climate change.

30. Some Parties also highlighted the importance of empowering youth by educating them about the threats of climate change and equipping them with effective response strategies. This calls for integrating climate change issues into different educational curricula studies.

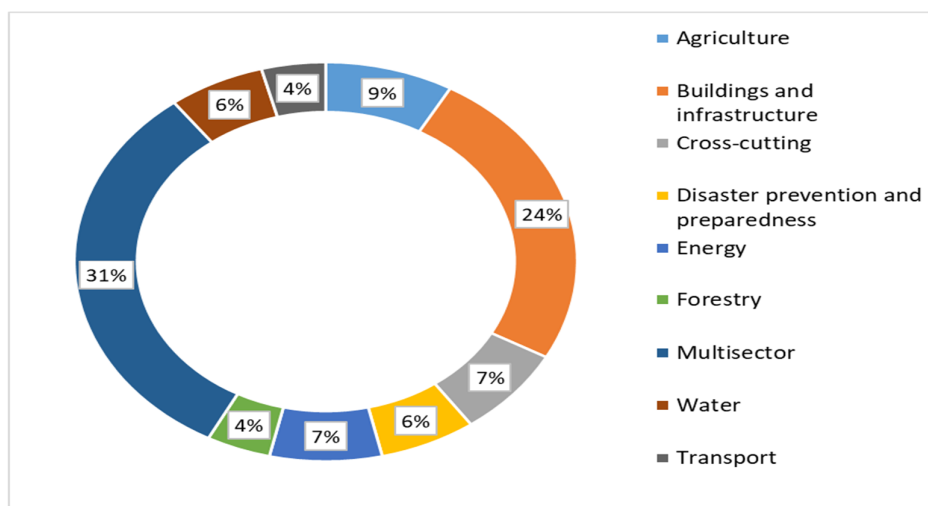
IV. Emerging areas for capacity-building and associated gaps and needs

31. This chapter contains information on emerging areas for capacity-building mentioned in reports submitted by Parties. While these areas are linked to the overarching themes considered in the capacity-building framework, they are not included in the list of 15 priority areas and needs. This information is mostly gathered from the recently submitted NDCs in which capacity-building was identified as a prerequisite for the implementation of the NDCs. Some Parties provided a specific section on capacity-building needs, which include:

- (a) Strengthening sectoral, national and subnational capacities;
- (b) Integrating mitigation and adaptation into sectoral planning processes;
- (c) Mainstreaming climate change and raising awareness among local actors, communities and the private sector with a view to transforming behaviours and mindsets;
- (d) Improving capacity to access existing climate funds, which may involve providing technical assistance, and to secure additional climate finance sources;
- (e) Fostering adaptation, including support needs for NAPs and decision-making with regard to the actions to be undertaken, impact assessment, risk mapping and disaster forecasting;
- (f) Developing coordination mechanisms, legislation, policies and action plans;
- (g) Strengthening national ownership of capacity-building to ensure sustainability, including the improvement of research capacity in the area of climate change.

32. Using as a basis the sector-specific capacity-building needs communicated by Parties in their national communications, figure 2 shows that most needs are multisectoral. The individual sector in which most needs were identified was buildings and infrastructure.

Figure 2
Capacity-building needs by sector



V. Capacity-building support provided by Annex II Parties and other Parties

33. This chapter should be read in conjunction with the 2020 synthesis report and the compilation and synthesis of the fourth biennial reports of Annex I Parties.¹⁷

¹⁷ FCCC/SBI/2020/INF.10/Add.1 and Corr.1.

34. Most Annex II Parties and other Parties acknowledged that capacity-building is an essential element of climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. Capacity-building helps to ensure the successful and effective implementation of climate change measures and the sustainability of any project or programme.

35. Capacity-building support has increased, thereby reaffirming the commitment of Annex I Parties to support the successful implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The most significant share of capacity-building was for adaptation and was focused primarily on integrating climate resilience into existing and new infrastructure, or on promoting a green transformation in agriculture and forestry. Capacity-building for mitigation was primarily aimed at strengthening monitoring and evaluation. Geographically, most capacity-building support for adaptation was provided to the Asia-Pacific and Africa regions. Mitigation support was primarily provided for multiregional or global projects.

VI. Additional information

36. An increasing number of Parties are providing support in new areas, such as women's empowerment and gender integration, with many projects focused on ensuring the participation of female delegates in international climate negotiations. The Netherlands is supporting the Women Delegates Fund, which aims to increase the effective participation of women from developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in UNFCCC climate negotiations. Developing countries are reporting on gender-specific projects, for example training women solar engineers in Fiji. This initiative, in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the Indian High Commission and the Barefoot College in Rajasthan, India, provides women in rural villages in Fiji with the opportunity to become qualified solar engineers.

37. Reporting on capacity-building remains a challenge for both developed and developing country Parties. Developing countries report that because capacity-building is an integral component of climate projects, tracking it separately is inherently difficult. The cross-cutting and integrated nature of capacity-building also hampers efforts to delineate the financial flows attached solely to the capacity-building component of projects. In this context, a number of reports underlined the need for an internationally agreed approach to quantitatively and/or qualitatively tracking capacity-building in official development assistance in general and in climate projects in particular. Further, some Parties identified the need to redesign or better align national reporting guidelines for capacity-building activities with support provided. Developing country Parties also noted that meeting reporting responsibilities was difficult given their limited administrative and technical capacities.

38. Several developing country Parties emphasized the link between climate change actions and the Sustainable Development Goals, including social and economic goals and the goal to eradicate poverty. Some Parties highlighted synergies between climate change and development while others provided specific examples of co-benefits related to their climate action. Still others provided examples of policy interventions that integrated climate change capacity-building with the Sustainable Development Goals.

39. South-South cooperation and triangular partnerships are seen as instruments for developing countries to voluntarily assist each other in the implementation of their climate change actions.

40. In addition to bilateral collaboration through development agencies, other collaboration channels are used. A number of Parties referred to the support provided by the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as well as by multilateral development organizations and United Nations organizations.

41. A variety of modalities have been used to provide capacity-building, including training workshops, seminars and educational activities, mainly through short- and long-term scholarship programmes. Increasingly, Parties are reporting on partnerships with academic institutions.