
Request Incubator Programme

Accelerating LDCs access to CTCN Technical Assistance

RATIONALE

The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) is mandated by the UNFCCC to facilitate the transfer of climate technologies in developing countries at their request. In its decision 1/CP.16, the Conference of Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC states that the CTCN shall, *“at the request of a developing Party:*

- (i) Providing advice and support related to the identification of technology needs and the implementation of environmentally sound technologies, practices and processes;*
- (ii) Facilitating the provision of information, training and support for programmes to build or strengthen capacity of developing countries to identify technology options, make technology choices and operate, maintain and adapt technology;*
- (iii) Facilitating prompt action on the deployment of existing technology in developing country Parties based on identified needs.”*

The success of CTCN assistance in developing countries depends greatly on how strong and engaged their National Designated Entities (NDEs) are. Given their mandate of submitting and managing requests for technical assistance, NDEs in developing countries act as guarantor for the quality of requests submitted to the CTCN, and subsequently, for their positive impacts. Feedback from participants in the NDE trainings and bilateral talks at the margin of UNFCCC meetings, suggest that some NDEs need additional support to be able to play their role.

Support is particularly needed in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), given their specific situation and high vulnerability to climate change. Article 4.9 of the Convention states that: *“The Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology”*¹. In addition, the COP affirms that *“Capacity building is crucial to developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The special circumstances of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States need to be taken into account”*². The proposed programme follows the tailored and country driven approach to capacity building recommended by the COP stating that *“There is no “one size fits all” formula for capacity building. Capacity building must be country-driven, addressing the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and reflecting their national sustainable development strategies, priorities and initiatives”*³.

OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Programme aims at enhancing the capacities of LDCs to best benefit from CTCN technical assistance through submitting sound requests that will help LDCs reach their adaptation and low carbon development targets. Requests in line with national priorities and circumstances will catalyse actions on climate technologies and have the potential to generate transformational change that will accelerate their deployment nationally. The effective development and transfer of climate technologies in LDCs is also expected to trigger a wide array of economic, social and environmental co-benefits such as increased productivity, investments, employment, food security, health, availability of ecosystem services, among others.

ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

¹ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, art. 4.9

² Ibidem

³ Framework for Capacity Building in Developing Countries, 2/CP.7, Annex, para B, art 5.

The CTCN and its Consortium Partners (CPs) will provide on-the-job training to NDEs, all along the request process, leading to the successful development, implementation and follow-up of a minimum of one request per country. The CTCN, through its Consortium Partners, will provide technical guidance and targeted expertise to assist NDEs in identifying needs for technical assistance. All the activities under the modules will be conducted in close collaboration between the NDE and the CTCN.

The programme includes eight modules, from which participating countries can choose those more adapted to their specific context and priorities. Each country, through its NDE, in collaboration with the CTCN, will select the modules. The programme is divided into three successive phases, following the CTCN request process:

PRE-IMPLEMENTATION PHASE: REQUEST IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Module 1: Defining work plan detailing the various activities to be conducted

The NDE, together with the CTCN, will develop a work plan detailing the various activities to be conducted, tailored to the country context and institutional set-up. Assistance might include: developing strategies and action plans, setting-up a steering committee of national institutions involved in technology transfer, identifying potential social, economic, and health co-benefits of technology transfer in the country.

Module 2: Reviewing existing efforts on climate technologies at national level

The NDE and the CTCN will identify climate technologies-related initiatives and projects conducted at the national level. The results of this review will inform the NDE and the CTCN on what has already been done and what the CTCN can build on, to explore current gaps that the CTCN could help fill in, and to identify potential synergies with CTCN assistance.

Module 3: Identifying national policies and planning processes related to climate technologies

The NDE and the CTCN will identify current or planned national plans, priorities and strategies (national programmes, TNAs, NAMAs, etc.) in order to identify priority sectors for technical assistance intervention.

For countries that have already conducted a TNA, assistance may include: review of the TNA to identify requests to submit to the CTCN; while for countries that have not yet conducted a TNA, support will be provided to identify priority sectors and technologies.

Module 4: Identifying and mapping stakeholders to engage on requests for technical assistance

The NDE and the CTCN will map and analyse relevant existing in-country initiatives and stakeholders, to identify all stakeholders that should be engaged in the identification of requests to submit to the CTCN. Possible stakeholders include but are not limited to: government agencies, private companies, research institutions, universities, donors, civil society, etc.

Module 5: Raising decision-makers' awareness and interest in technology transfer

The NDE, with support from the CTCN, will increase the awareness of decision-makers and stakeholders at all levels, particularly targeting policy makers, private companies (technology suppliers, producers, users, etc.), NGOs and development partners. This will strengthen stakeholders' understanding on opportunities offered by the CTCN and help identify potential requests for assistance.

Module 6: Organizing consultations with national stakeholders on possible requests

The NDE, with support from the CTCN, will organize and conduct stakeholders' consultations to discuss possible requests to the CTCN and prioritize the needs for technical assistance.

Outputs of the pre-implementation phase:

- NDEs have a good understanding of climate technology issues, stakeholders, and existing efforts in their countries, to manage and submit requests for technical assistance to the CTCN
- Requests for technical assistance are identified and submitted to the CTCN. The NDE and CP will explore the possibility of submitting a regional request, in case countries within the same region face similar situation and expressed similar priorities.

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE: REQUEST SUBMISSION AND RESPONSE IMPLEMENTATION

During this phase, the CTCN will not provide specific training to NDEs, as the request and response will be managed by the CTCN, through the regular CTCN process. The CTCN experts that supported the first phase, will remain available for advice and guidance to the NDE, as needed, even if they are not part of the Response Expert Team nor assistance providers.

POST-IMPLEMENTATION PHASE: INCREASING AND REPORTING

Module 7: Identifying funding from public and private sources

The CTCN will train the NDE in identifying the main funding sources and mechanism available for developing climate technologies in their countries, from both private and public sources. This support will also include tutoring NDEs to write effective proposal to seek further funding, following assistance from the CTCN.

Module 8: Monitoring and reporting on request impacts

The NDE, with support from the CTCN, will monitor, measure and report on the impacts of the technical assistance provided by the CTCN on the short and medium term. The NDE will ensure that technical assistance is useful for the country, beyond the sole response delivery, and that it will effectively contribute to increase the use of climate technologies. This will also support adequate reporting to the government, investors and development partners to demonstrate benefits of climate technologies, increase interest in the topic, support countries' reporting to UNFCCC, and trigger additional funding.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The assistance will be accessible to all LDCs having nominated their NDE, through an application process. For the application to be accepted, the Climate Change Focal Point shall send an application to the CTCN by which s/he:

- Requests the participation of the NDE in the Request Incubator Programme;
- Acknowledges that the NDE will dedicate time needed for the effective implementation and success of the activities throughout the programme;
- Includes the names, functions, contact details, and CVs of the individual(s) working as NDE;

The assistance will be implemented by the regional partners of the CTCN Consortium, and each partner will be responsible for supporting a specific number of countries through providing tailored assistance, expert support and facilitate consultations in-country. They include: The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Environment Development Action (ENDA), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Fundacion Bariloche (FB), and Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE).

Once appointed, the regional partner will be responsible for accompanying and advising the relevant NDE(s) throughout the process.

Global partners will provide specific technical support, as needed. They include: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Energy research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN), UNEP-DTU Partnership and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Support will include, but not be limited to: 1) Send relevant experts to some of the stakeholder meetings to give technical support, once sectoral priorities have been identified; 2) Review documents and reports produced by the NDE from a sectoral perspective, once sectoral priorities have been identified; 3) Be involved in the requests refinement and implementation of the response, based on sectoral expertise, as per the regular request-response process; 4) Provide technical training or technology overviews at country or regional meetings connected to this process; 5) Review the incubator reports from the LDCs to look for regional themes and robust outputs.

SUSTAINABILITY AND INFORMATION -SHARING

The Programme will share and disseminate lessons learnt and best practices, and participating NDEs will have the opportunity to share their experience, lessons learnt and accomplishments with other NDEs in their region. Based on the experience of LDCs, the CTCN will develop briefs, as well as ready-to-use methodologies and tools to be disseminated to all NDEs.