

**CTCN Advisory Board Task Force Update Brief:  
Reporting on intended impacts of CTCN operations  
June 2018<sup>1</sup>**

**Introduction**

The CTCN has provided technical assistance to over eighty developing countries during its initial five-year term. To assist in quantifying the effect of this work, the CTCN undertook a preliminary analysis of the intended impacts associated with its first 40 completed technical assistance requests through May 2018. This sample size is somewhat limited but is reflective of the long timelines associated with the execution of a technical assistance request from inception to completion while giving due consideration for the work undertaken by the CTCN to date:

- Set up and operationalization of the CTCN;
- Promotion of CTCN services and execution of CTCN capacity building events for National Designated Entities (NDE);
- Uptake of CTCN services by developing countries through submissions of requests for technical assistance, including participation by some countries in the Least Developed Country Incubator Programme;
- CTCN responses to requests including the formulation of Response Plans, execution of the tendering process, and Response Plan implementation;
- Closure of request dossiers and gathering of NDE feedback for evaluation purposes.

The CTCN has taken care to closely follow the guidance it has received from the Conference of the Parties (COP) with respect to the services it provides to developing countries. This guidance has been limited as to how the CTCN should monitor and evaluate the impacts associated with its services, and has been supplemented by direction from the CTCN Advisory Board. In line with the monitoring and evaluation frameworks endorsed by the Advisory Board, the CTCN has further refined its internal procedures to capture data that will allow it to report meaningful results to its Advisory Board, the COP, donors, host agencies and other partners.

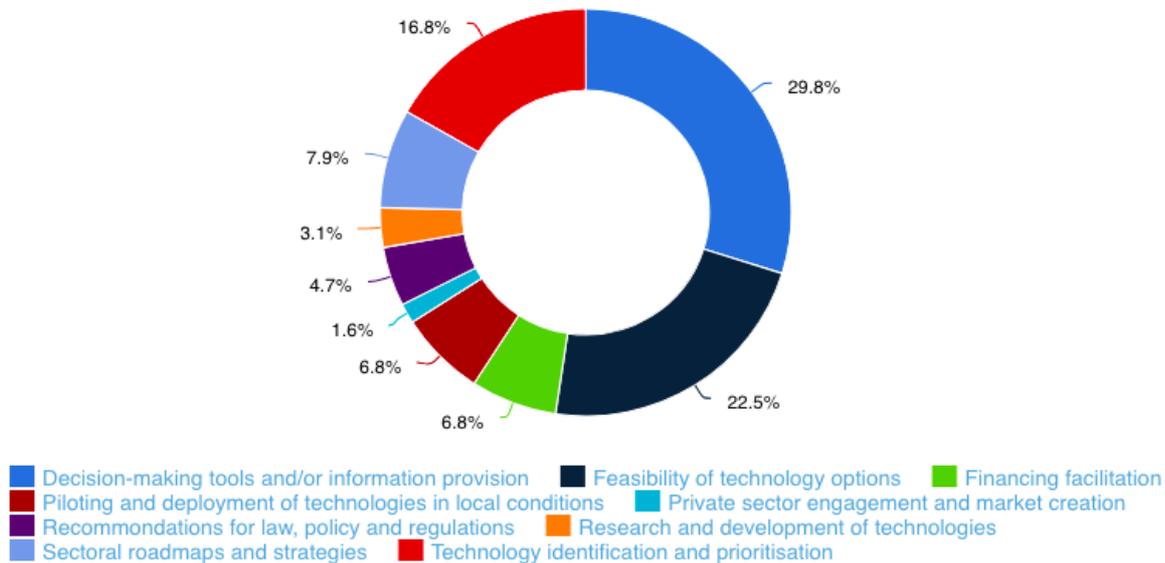
Technical assistance requests are classified as in Figure 1 (below) and intended impacts are grouped according to the guidance provided by the COP<sup>2</sup> as to the services to be provided by the CTCN. The CTCN's technical assistance portfolio reflects the country-driven nature of the organization and the needs that are prioritized by developing countries. It should be noted that Figure 1 reflects the entirety of the CTCN technical assistance portfolio (approximately 140 requests) while the data available as of June 2018 captures only the first 40 completed technical assistance interventions.

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<sup>1</sup> Impact figures updated September 19, 2018

<sup>2</sup> Including 1/CP.16 para. 123, 2/CP.17 para. 135, 25/CP.19 Annex III-V.

**Figure 1. Distribution of CTCN Technical Assistance by type of request**



The CTCN is mindful of both GCF and DANIDA guidance noting the need to achieve a balance between data collection for useful and donor-suggested indicators, and the i) effort required to collect granular information on all activities, ii) investment associated with data collection, and iii) value to all parties of these efforts.

### Methodology

The CTCN defines climate technology to include any piece of equipment, technique, practical knowledge or skill for performing a particular activity that can be used to address climate change. Our experience is that most requests focus on soft technologies and support for enabling environments that lead to accelerated and scaled-up technology transfer. As such, the CTCN generally considers *intended* impacts as many of its interventions support broader actions by partners and host country governments that are beyond the scope of the CTCN’s influence.

In capturing these intended impacts, the CTCN uses a mix of hard data and anecdotal evidence to demonstrate to its stakeholders that the actions it undertakes both independently and in collaboration with its expert implementing partners are delivering results as intended.

For this analysis, the CTCN relies on information contained in Closure Reports provided by implementing partners developed by the CTCN at the beginning of 2017 to capture intended impacts and support its data collection for monitoring and evaluation purposes. Although none of the implementers of these completed requests were contractually obligated to complete the Closure Reports (since their contract to implement pre-dated the development of the Closure Report), some implementers have done so out of goodwill and support for the CTCN. Where Closure Reports were not available, the CTCN attempted to complete the Closure Reports based on

information available from Final Reports, supporting documents and generally available information and knowledge of the request.

Below are additional points to consider regarding the methodology used to gather data for this analysis:

- Given the early-stage nature of CTCN technical assistance the data captured is regarded as a best estimate, whether provided by implementers or by the CTCN;
- Intended impacts are generally dependent on follow up actions by Parties or other partners that are beyond the influence of the CTCN (e.g., funds mobilized through the GCF);
- Some indicators with variable methodologies (e.g., calculation of GHG emission reductions) have been accepted as calculated by implementers;
- The CTCN also captures information such as costs avoided as a result of CTCN technical assistance (e.g., in the case of findings that recommend a technology choice that differs from that selected by the host country).

Examples of key intended impacts that are measurable under the current monitoring and evaluation system of the CTCN include:

- Decreasing the number of people facing risks of harm as a result of climate change while increasing the number of people with the capacity to exploit beneficial opportunities as a result of climate change.
- Mobilizing new and innovative sources of domestic and international resources for climate change adaptation technologies.
- Catalyzing the adoption or revision of development plans and sector strategies that are more resilient to climate change impacts.

Impacts that are not currently measurable:

- Expanding area of natural systems able to adjust to the expected effects of climate change.
- Increasing revenues due to better resilience to climate change impacts.
- Replicating best practice climate change technologies in other regions/countries.

For future analyses, technical requests completed by implementers will be contractually required to complete Closure Reports thus simplifying and formalizing the data collection process as well as minimizing data gaps. Adjustments to the Closure Report template may also be undertaken based on outcomes of this analysis and subsequent discussion with the AB task force to capture more meaningful data.

## **Summary Analysis**

It was noted that the nature of the technical assistance request determines the indicators that are most useful, e.g. projected greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced; funding mobilized; avoided investment (in the case of a technology evaluation that recommends against the implementation of a proposed approach), etc.

Intended impacts from CTCN support for mitigation focus on contributing to anticipated and projected greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and investment mobilized both domestically and internationally to scale-up the intervention.

Specific intended impacts from CTCN support for adaptation considers contributions to climate-resilient sustainable development and improving the livelihoods of local populations. It should be pointed out that the GCF, among others, has noted that capturing intended impact of adaptation-focused interventions can be more complex than for mitigation.

Additional observations:

1. Approximately half of completed technical assistance requests ask the CTCN to provide technical support related to climate technology. One quarter focus on the provision of policy and strategy tools, and the remainder relate primarily to capacity building and linking to external sources of financing.
2. Early technical assistance requests featured less matchmaking with sources of finance whereas later requests have reflected higher levels of finance mobilized in part by CTCN partner support.
3. Many CTCN requests include a capacity-building component, which is well within its mandate, though responsibility for some of this work may be acted upon in future via the Paris Committee on Capacity Building.
4. The CTCN technical assistance request portfolio includes significant requests for policy and strategy support, including drafting of renewable energy laws and development of M&E systems. The impact of this support, while clearly prioritized by the country, is difficult to capture and quantify.
5. The CTCN collects a great amount of data but has difficulty in ensuring consistent, thorough and complete reporting of data for each indicator due in part to the wide range of actors involved in the data collection process.

### **Preliminary Conclusions on Intended Impacts of CTCN Technical Assistance Interventions**

A selection of key quantitative findings from CTCN analysis is included below:

- 130 workshops building the capacity of 2400 people across 160 institutions.
- \$700m in anticipated funding mobilized<sup>3</sup>.
- 51 projects implemented deploying 100 technology types as a result of 40 CTCN TA interventions.
- 110 megatons of GHG emissions avoided.
- 85 million people whose livelihoods will have been positively affected.
- \$40 million in avoided costs.
- \$5 million in CTCN expenditures.

Technical assistance provided by the CTCN to developing countries has contributed to unlocking significant funds to further support scaled up transfer of environmentally sound technologies for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Based on CTCN experience, technical support for

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<sup>3</sup> This figure includes two TA interventions with significant funds leveraged.

unlocking further funding for technology projects is becoming a much sought after advantage of CTCN technical assistance services.

CTCN clearly supports both adaptation and mitigation as can be interpreted by the anticipated number of people improving their livelihood and the projected GHG reductions noted by the analysis. CTCN technical assistance also supports numerous technology projects with many of its requests for technical assistance also supporting other UNFCCC processes such as TNAs, NAMAs, NDC, etc.

Capacity building services provided by the CTCN generally resulted in fewer quantifiable impacts. However, it is understood that capacity building is a foundation upon which developing countries build upon to increase its ability to enhance the effectiveness of technologies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

On the surface, not all CTCN technical assistance was successful but ultimately it provided a benefit to the requesting Party. For example, technology feasibility studies which concluded that the proposed project should not proceed as designed resulted in costs avoided by the proponent and host country.

Requests related to anticipated collaborative RD&D were overall small in number (13), though this number is expected to rise as the CTCN partnership with the GCF takes shape.