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UN CC:Learn Pilot Projects to Strengthen Human Resource Capacities and Skills to Address Climate Change

*2011-2012 Country Projects in Benin, the Dominican
Republic, Indonesia, Malawi and Uganda*

Information Note



UN CC:Learn Partners include to date: CEB, EMG, FAO, GEF, IFAD, ILO, ITU, OCHA, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNESCWA UNFCCC, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNIDO, UNISDR, UNITAR, UNSSC, UNU, UN WOMEN, UNWTO, UPU, WFP, WHO, WMO, WTO, World Bank

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Background

The implementation of a post-2012 climate change regime creates unprecedented needs and opportunities for awareness-raising, training, and skills development at the national, sub-national, and local levels of governance, within various government sectors, and in the UN system itself. Ultimately, it is the knowledge and skills of individuals that determine how fast a climate friendly and climate resilient transformation of societies and economies can be achieved.

In support of country efforts to strengthen human resources, learning and skills development to address climate change, the *One UN Training Service Platform on Climate Change* (UN CC:Learn) is supporting five pilot countries – Benin, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Malawi, and Uganda – in taking a strategic approach to climate change learning and human resource development. The pilot implementation phase of UN CC:Learn in 2011-2013 is implemented with support of the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC).

What is UN CC:Learn?

UN CC:Learn was established in 2009 as a collaboration of UN agencies interested in designing and delivering effective, results-oriented and sustainable learning on climate change. UN CC:Learn is included in the "One UN Climate Change Action Framework" of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) through the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP). To date, 30 UN agencies are collaborating in UN CC:Learn.

UN CC:Learn offers three Programme Areas which are closely linked to each other. They include:

- I. Knowledge Management and Networking
- II. Development of a One UN Climate Change Training Package
- III. Human Resources, Learning and Skills Development in Partner Countries

The first two Programme Areas support information exchange and knowledge sharing on climate change learning and the development of common training materials. Building on these services, Programme Area 3 supports interested countries in taking a strategic, long-term and results-oriented approach to climate change learning.

UN CC:Learn Pilot Projects

The UN CC:Learn pilot projects in Benin, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Malawi and Uganda are directly linked to and make a contribution to the implementation of Article 6 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on training and education, and the individual capacity development pillar of the UNFCCC Capacity Development Framework. They also apply the core principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness which emphasize local ownership, empowerment of national institutions and alignment of donor support.

Specific objectives of the pilot projects include to:

- foster a systematic and country-driven process to strengthen human resources, learning, and skills development to address climate change;
- determine specific actions to enhance climate change learning and strengthen learning institutions;
- ensure that climate change learning is linked to and helps to achieve national climate change objectives;
- augment mobilization of resources for training and skills development from national budgets and external partners, such as UN organizations/country teams, bilateral donors, foundations;
- ultimately, create a strengthened human resource base in the country to enhance the implementation of the UNFCCC.

In July 2011 the five pilot countries were selected from among 23 countries that had submitted an application. Country applications were prepared through multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration and engagement of national learning institutions.

The following government agencies are coordinating the projects in the five pilot countries:

- Benin, Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (MEHU);
- Dominican Republic, National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism (CNCCMDL);
- Indonesia, National Council on Climate Change (DNPI);
- Malawi, Ministry of Development Planning and Cooperation (DPC);
- Uganda, Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE).

Project implementation is coordinated through a National Coordinating Mechanism in each country that includes concerned agencies and organizations outside of government. UN Country Teams play an important role to create linkages between the project and relevant activities of the UN System. Equally important, other development partners active at the national level will be invited to engage in the projects and its activities.

Country Activities

The UN CC:Learn pilot projects are implemented over a period of 18 months. Each project includes a number of elements which are closely related to each other.

National Strategy Development

An important first milestone of the projects is the development of a *National Strategy to Strengthen Human Resource Capacities and Skills to Advance Green, Low Emission and Climate Resilient Development*. The Strategy seeks to identify, through a country-driven process, short and medium term action to strengthen learning and skills development. It would also include policy recommendations to develop a sustainable human resource base in the long term. An important dimension of the National Strategy is to explore opportunities for mainstreaming learning within existing systems and initiatives. The Strategy will be presented at a Launch Event which will bring together senior level decision-makers, national stakeholders, international development partners, and other interested organizations.

In preparation of the Strategy development, a National Planning Workshop will be organized which brings together representatives from key government sectors, different levels of government (i.e. national, sub-national and local level), national learning institutions, civil society, the private sector, as well as UN agencies and other development partners that provide (or are interested in providing) assistance in the area of climate change learning and capacity development. The main objective of the workshop is to foster a discussion and stimulate a structured follow-up process to develop the National Strategy. The workshop will be hosted by the national government, with technical and methodological support provided by UN CC:Learn.

Implementation of Priority Action

As a concrete follow-up to the launch of the National Strategy, UN CC:Learn, working in collaboration with other development partners, will support at least two identified priority activities/action. These activities will be executed by national/local partner institutions with UN CC:Learn and its network providing methodological and technical support.

A priority action may include, for example, the organization of specialized courses across sectors to prepare vulnerability assessments, or skills development courses to prepare proposals under existing or new international climate change funding regimes. It may also include more medium term action, such as the integration of climate change into curricula of national education and training institutions. Each of these actions will be linked to and support existing strategies and processes by focusing on the learning and skills development dimension.

Evaluation and Identification of Lessons Learned

Following the completion of activities during the earlier phases, an evaluation will take place to what extent the objectives of the project have been achieved. The evaluation will, inter alia, examine: to what extent participants have started to apply their skills on the job; if additional learning activities have been initiated; and if steps have been taken to consider strategic policy recommendations. In parallel, opportunities will be explored to support other potentially interested countries, including a South-South partnership component.

Methodology

In support of country-driven project activities, UN CC:Learn is piloting a guidance note/methodology which seeks to assist Partner countries in reviewing existing institutional and individual capacities to advance green, low emission and climate resilient development and identifying action to strengthen related capacities. The methodology is based on the understanding that a self-assessment of learning needs and action by countries helps to ensure that activities are demand-driven, user-oriented and linked to achieving results. The approach also encourages countries to consider what type of learning and training approaches can best suit their needs. Emphasis is placed on professional and vocational learning, and ensuring that broader human resource and skills development strategies take into account climate change considerations.

Resources

A country grant is made available to Partner countries to support locally executed activities, e.g. development of the National Strategy and organization of workshops and learning interventions. In addition, support is available at the global level to provide technical and methodological support, develop training materials, engage resource persons and trainers, and support travel to training events (e.g. of external experts).

UN CC:Learn Steering Group

A Steering Group comprised of UN partner agencies and donors guides the development of UN CC:Learn and the implementation of core activities. The Group meets at least once a year face-to-face with additional interaction taking place through electronic means. The Steering Group includes, to date, the following UN entities: CEB, EMG, FAO, GEF, IFAD, ILO, ITU, OCHA, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNESCWA UNFCCC, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNIDO, UNISDR, UNITAR, UNSSC, UNU, UN WOMEN, UNWTO, UPU, WFP, WHO, WMO, WTO, and the World Bank. The UN CC:Learn Secretariat is provided by UNITAR.



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