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2011-2012 Pilot Projects to Strengthen Human Resources, Learning and Skills Development to Address Climate Change

Information Note for Interested Countries



CC:Learn Partners include to date: CEB, EMG, FAO, GEF Secretariat, IFAD, ILO, OCHA, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNISDR, UNITAR, UNSSC, UN Women, UNWTO, WFP, WHO, WMO, 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 for Climate Change* (UN CC:Learn) was initiated in 2009 through collaboration of 23 UN agencies. CC:Learn offers a service platform to Member States, UN agencies and other development partners interested in designing and delivering effective, results-oriented and sustainable learning on climate change. The initiative was launched at the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Change Summit and raised significant interest.

This information note introduces CC:Learn *Pilot Projects to Strengthen Human Resources, Learning and Skills Development to Address Climate Change*. With support provided by the Swiss Development Cooperation, three pilot projects will be supported in 2011-2012. Interested countries are encouraged to contact the CC:Learn Secretariat by 31 January 2011. The application package will be provided to interested governments in early 2011.

Overview of 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. Country projects are directly linked to and make a contribution to the implementation of Article 6 of the 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.

Objectives of Pilot Projects

Taking the above considerations into account, objectives of the pilot projects include to:

- foster a systematic and country-driven process to strengthen human resources, learning, and skills development
- 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 (UN organizations/country teams, bilateral donors, foundations)
- ultimately, create a strengthened human resource base in the country to enhance implementation of the UNFCCC

Country Activities

Pilot projects are implemented over a period of 18 months. Each project will be undertaken through four stages which build upon and complement each other.

Project Inception and Knowledge Transfer (Month 1-3)

Initial Assessment

During the first phase, an initial dialogue will take place with government, UN Country Teams (UNCT) and bilateral development partners to develop a common understanding of project objectives and to identify ministries and other organizations (i.e. education and training institutions) that will actively participate in the project. This interaction will generate an initial profile assessing the past, ongoing and planned climate change capacity development activities undertaken by government and development partners, including their training and skills development dimension.

National Inception Workshop

A national inception workshop on *Strengthening Human Resources, Learning and Skills Development for Climate Change* will bring 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, UN agencies and other development partners that provide (or are interested in providing) assistance in the area of climate change capacity development. The main

objective of the workshop is to foster a discussion and stimulate a structured follow-up process to develop a strategy and action plan to strengthen human resources and skills to implement national, sub-national and local climate change objectives. The event also provides an opportunity for decision-makers, the UN System and other key parties to undertake collective learning about the new emerging international climate change regime and examine possible implications for human resource and skills development.

The workshop will be hosted by national governments and the UNCT, through their Resident Coordinators, with technical and methodological support provided by CC:Learn. Participants are invited by the national government. An important outcome of the national workshop is a road map and division of responsibilities among national actors to prepare a *National Strategy to Strengthen Human Resources, Learning and Skills Development for Climate Change* (hereafter called the *National Strategy*).

Introductory Learning Session and Knowledge Transfer

If requested by a partner country, CC:Learn will support, in advance of the national workshop, a hand-on introductory climate change learning session of 2-3 days. The event will cover introductory topics of climate change (e.g. climate change science, climate change policy, adaptation, mitigation, finance, and governance). Enhancing knowledge in these areas is expected to help national partners develop the National Strategy during phase 2.

Development of a National Strategy to Strengthen Human Resources, Learning and Skills Development on Climate Change (Month 4-9)

Strategy Development

During phase 2, a National Strategy is developed through collaboration of government with national/local learning and vocational institutions, as well as other interested and affected parties. The main objective of the Strategy is to identify, through a country-driven process, concrete learning action, both in the short and medium term, and develop policy recommendations with the goal to develop a sustainable human resource base to address climate change. An important dimension of the National Strategy therefore is to explore opportunities to mainstream climate change learning within existing learning strategies and projects, wherever possible. Taking into account recent advancements in the area of results-based management, the Strategy will also seek to link learning action to the implementation of specific climate change objectives as determined by a country.

High Level Launching Event

The National Strategy will be presented at a high-level launching event which will bring together national decision makers, civil society, the private sector, UN agencies and other members from the development community. At the launch event, commitment from different partners will be mobilized to support implementation of the recommended action.

Implementation of Advanced Learning Action (Month 10-15)

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

Advanced learning action may include, for example, the organization of a specialized course for representatives across government sectors to prepare a vulnerability assessment. Or, it may involve a skills development course to prepare specific proposals under existing or new international climate change funding regimes. Each of these learning action will be linked to and support existing strategies and processes with a learning and skills development focus.

Evaluation of Pilot Projects and Identification of Lessons Learned (Month 16-18)

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. The evaluation will also assist in further developing the methodology/guidance note (see below). In parallel, opportunities will be explored to support other potentially interested countries, including a South-South partnership component.

Country Budget

The budget for each pilot project will be in the range of USD 200,000-250,000. About 50-60 % of this amount will be made available as a grant to partner countries to support locally executed activities, e.g. development of the National Strategy and organization of workshops and learning interventions. The remainder will be used to provide technical and methodological support, engage resource persons and trainers, and cover travel to training events (e.g. of external experts).

Methodology Development

In support of country-driven project activities, CC:Learn is developing a guidance note/methodology which seeks to assist partner countries in reviewing existing institutional and individual capacities in the area of climate change learning 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 resources and skills development strategies take into account climate change considerations.

International Coordination

At the international level, 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, IFAD, ILO, OCHA, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNISDR, UNITAR, UNSSC, UN WOMEN, UNWTO, WFP, WHO, WMO, as well as the World Bank and the GEF Secretariat. The Steering Group may be expanded, or meetings may be held together with bilateral development cooperation agencies, as well as professional training institutes from Member States. In pilot countries, UNCTs play a key role in coordinating the support from the UN System to the pilot projects. Equally important, bilateral development partners active at the national level will be invited to engage in the projects and its activities. The CC:Learn Secretariat is provided by UNITAR. It provides executing functions for CC:Learn activities, working jointly with UN partner organizations.

Status and Next Steps

During the course of 2009 and 2010, the concept for the pilot projects was introduced during four regional workshops organized by the UNFCCC on the implementation of Article 6 of the UNFCCC which covers education, training and public awareness. Following these workshops, a number of countries have indicated their interest to become a pilot country.

Countries interested in applying as a pilot country are encouraged to notify the CC:Learn Secretariat and request the application form by 31 January 2011. The initial application of a country needs to be endorsed by the national government. It is expected that pilot countries will be selected during the 2nd quarter in 2011. Pilot countries will be chosen based on agreed criteria which include prioritization of climate change in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), a country's commitment and high-level support to ensure a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder process, regional balance, diversity of economic development and challenges faced, interest and commitment of UNCTs, etc. In light of country interest, funding to support additional pilot projects is being sought from interested donors.



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