

**COP26 CATALYST
FOR CLIMATE
ACTION**

**The COP26 Catalyst
Call to Action:
transformational capacity
building in support of the
Paris Agreement**

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This Call to Action was developed by the partners of the COP26 Catalyst. The countries and organisations shown below endorsed the Call to Action during the short time available during the COP26 summit in Glasgow. In the weeks and months following COP26, we will continue to gather endorsements from Catalyst partners and beyond, and will update the logos shown here; please see the final page for a full list of Catalyst partners. If your country or organisation would like to endorse this Call, please email cop26.catalyst@wiltonpark.org.uk



Republic of Lebanon
Ministry of Environment

**Government
of Lebanon**



Regeringskansliet

**Ministry of the
Environment, Sweden**



**Government of
Malawi**



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

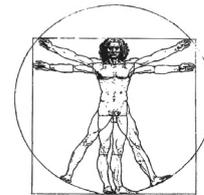


ADAPTATION FUND

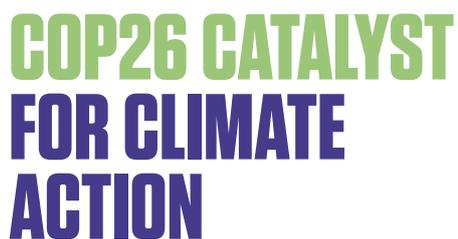


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European Capacity Building Initiative



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Summary

The Paris Agreement provides us with a truly global framework for climate ambition and action, but we can only keep its goals within reach if all countries are fully able to play their part. At present, **many countries still lack the resources, skills and institutional capacity they need to achieve full participation.**

Throughout the COP26 Catalyst consultations, we have heard many inspiring examples of innovative and collaborative capacity building programmes around the world – but it is imperative we **scale up support of such initiatives as quickly as possible.**

We call for urgent, transformational change in the way that capacity building and financial support for climate action is designed and implemented. Donors need to better coordinate with each other to create complementary programming, and to remove barriers to entry by streamlining processes. Support must **move from project-based to programmatic approaches and take a longer-term perspective.** True capacity building fosters the expertise of in-country experts, is responsive to local needs and builds lasting institutional capacity. It takes a whole-of-society approach and helps to build the political will to mainstream climate action and Paris Agreement compliance across all that we do.

To achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, we must ensure that no one is left behind. Stepping up the pace, quality and scale of capacity building would show the world we are serious in both endeavours.



Our Call to Action

Effective capacity building can help to unlock the Paris Agreement's full potential by enabling all countries to take effective climate action – particularly those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

While there are many positive examples of successful capacity building efforts around the world, many countries still raise concerns that **action to support full participation in the Paris Agreement has not yet delivered results on the scale we need**. There is often a disconnect between those taking action in developing countries and those providing capacity building and financial support, which still shows a tendency to be **fragmented and short-term** in its approach. For their part, recipient countries need to **build political will and promote buy-in** for Paris compliance across the whole of society. There is huge potential and opportunity for donors to seize this moment and provide support that is better aligned with recipient countries' longer-term needs and priorities.

This Call to Action draws together highlights from consultations facilitated by the COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action with hundreds of diverse stakeholders – both providers and recipients of capacity building – from across the world. In addition, four COP26 Catalyst Action Groups have produced specific action recommendations for [Building Capacity for Access to Finance, Adaptation Communication, Carbon Markets Participation and Transparency and Reporting](#). The points below draw out some of the common themes from the four Action Groups' recommendations.

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Meeting the urgency and ambition of the Paris Agreement: Four calls to action



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1

Take a long-term perspective that adapts to local context

RESPOND TO LOCAL NEEDS

Capacity building is **most effective when it responds directly to local and national contexts and needs**; no two countries' needs are the same. Needs assessments and contextual analysis are crucial, and can help to maximise the potential of local, national and regional experts.

PROVIDE LONG-TERM SUPPORT

Support needs to **move from project-based to programmatic approaches, be sustainable and take a long-term perspective**. Focusing on building capacities at an institutional level ensures that capacities continue to evolve and strengthen over time. Programming should aim to **avoid the use of 'fly in, fly out' international consultants** - true capacity building fosters the capacities of in-country experts and encourages longer-term capacity improvements. Initiatives to **reduce 'brain drain'** and foster knowledge retention at the level of national and sub-national institutions should be developed.

2

Ensure national leadership sets the agenda for climate action

TAKE A WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH

Capacity building initiatives should facilitate a broad range of global, national and local actors to **participate in needs assessments, design and implementation**. Taking a whole-of-society approach can unlock the potential of civil society, universities, the private sector, and local communities - with **gender and social equity at the heart of all capacity building efforts**.

BUILD SUSTAINED POLITICAL WILL

Highlighting the multiple **benefits that enhanced capacities can bring across our societies** and economies beyond the sphere of climate action can help to build political will to raise the profile of capacity building. Political will needs to be reinforced by strong integration of institutional commitment and participation, which will help to mobilise resources and deliver key national policies and strategies.

MAINSTREAM CLIMATE CAPACITY ACROSS DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Capacity building for climate action should be mainstreamed across all development planning by leveraging and pursuing **synergies between the Paris Agreement and national development strategies**.

3

Support peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange

INCREASE SUPPORT FOR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Countries with similar challenges and contexts can benefit immensely from **peer-to-peer learning and exchange** among climate practitioners, and especially from **greater opportunities to hear from leading voices in developing countries**. Providers should appraise existing knowledge exchange initiatives and find ways to strengthen mutual learning, including by improving the accessibility and salience of online resource hubs.

ENABLE COLLECTIVE CONVERSATION

There is no single best solution to many of the challenges in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, so stakeholders need support to have stronger collective conversations and **develop their own solutions**. Knowledge-sharing platforms and peer-to-peer networks need **sufficient resources** to enable this to happen.

4

Transform approaches and improve coordination

IMPROVE DONOR COORDINATION

While diversity of capacity building support may be beneficial, implementation can only be effective if it is coordinated. Enhanced **coordination and harmonisation at national, regional and international levels can increase efficiency by preventing duplication**. Existing donor coordination channels should be expanded and improved.

SIMPLIFY PROCESSES

Demands on recipient countries to meet stringent requirements to access financial support present a critical barrier to implementation of the Paris Agreement. Donors should be mindful of the capacity pressures that application procedures can place on recipient countries, and should look to **simplify, streamline and pool procedures** where possible.



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About COP26 Catalyst

CONDUCT CONTINUOUS LEARNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Capacity building initiatives that have successfully supported countries to implement climate action provide many lessons and practical ways forward for both providers and recipient countries; a wealth of experience exists from which providers can draw inspiration. Capacity building should be an iterative, 'learning-by-doing' process that **empowers countries to identify and assess their own needs and priorities** and should include monitoring and evaluation to enable improvements over time.

BUILD DONOR CAPACITIES

Capacity building is often perceived as a linear approach from providers to recipients, yet it is relevant for all organisations and countries. **Donors should not neglect to build their own capacities** to better understand and respond to recipients' contexts and needs, and to mainstream compliance with the Paris Agreement throughout their programming.

The **COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action** has, in the months leading up to COP26, brought together hundreds of diverse stakeholders to share challenges, lessons learned, ideas and inspiration for transformative capacity building processes to support climate action. Stakeholders across the globe have engaged in passionate discussions to share experiences and identify practical solutions to some of the most pressing challenges they face.

Please [click here](#) to explore our work, read our detailed **Action Recommendations** and sign up for future events.

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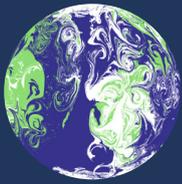


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COP26 Catalyst would like to thank the following partners, all of whom worked throughout 2021 to consult stakeholders around the world in the development of this Call to Action.

Adaptation Fund

Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP)

Climate Focus

Climate Vulnerable Forum & V20

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Food and Agriculture Organisation of
the United Nations (FAO)

Germanwatch

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

Government of Angola

Government of Antigua and Barbuda

Government of Bangladesh

Government of Costa Rica

Government of Lebanon

Government of Malawi

Government of Sweden

Government of the Cook Islands

Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI)

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT)

International Centre for Climate Change
and Development (ICCCAD)

International Institute for Environment and
Development (IIED)

International Institute for Sustainable
Development (IISD)

Klik Foundation

NAP Global Network

Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Oxford Climate Policy

Partnership on Transparency in the
Paris Agreement (PATPA)

Perspectives Climate Group

Southern Voices on Adaptation

Southsouthnorth

The Eastern Africa Alliance on Carbon
Markets and Climate Finance

The West African Alliance on Carbon
Markets and Climate Finance

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

World Resources Institute (WRI)

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