



KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING STRATEGY

Updated September 2022

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PROLOGUE: CONTEXT FOR THE UPDATED KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING STRATEGY

The NDC Partnership has now been operating for five years. Building on the learning from the first [Knowledge and Learning Strategy](#), this updated NDC Partnership Knowledge and Learning Strategy reflects the [NDC Partnership's Work Program 2021-2025](#) and the Partnership's evolving knowledge and learning activities in support of countries' needs and priorities.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE UPDATE INCLUDE:

- Recognition of the NDC Partnership's updated Action Areas, or priority topics, and how these are integrated into knowledge and learning activities
- Expansion and alignment of analytical and technical support offerings for countries across an updated [Country Engagement Strategy](#)¹
- Enhancements to online tools and resources, such as the Knowledge Nook (kNook) knowledge management system, the [Knowledge Portal](#) and the [Online Partnership Plan Tool](#), to facilitate improved coordination and knowledge sharing
- Emphasis on the centrality of drawing insights and lessons from countries' NDC enhancement and implementation experiences to increase knowledge sharing and capacity building across the Partnership
- Details on expanded outreach and engagement activities, such as the Youth Engagement Forum and Finance Convenings, to facilitate knowledge exchange beyond the Partnership's membership

1

INTRODUCTION

The Knowledge and Learning Strategy provides an overview of the NDC Partnership's approach to develop and disseminate the tools, knowledge products and other learning activities that support nationally determined contribution (NDC) implementation and ambition-raising efforts across our membership and beyond. Countries and implementing and development partners are at the fore of NDC planning, implementation and enhancement. Partnership members are both the creators of technical knowledge and guidance, and they are also the beneficiaries of examples of good practice and insights shared by their peers. Our members' diverse knowledge creation and learning needs fundamentally drive the knowledge and learning activities of the NDC Partnership. The role of the Support Unit is to surface learning needs, connect members and coordinate support throughout the stages of the NDC Partnership's Country Engagement Process. While this strategy cannot capture the full scope of our members' contributions and activities, it outlines opportunities for the Partnership to continue to amplify and coordinate members' collective efforts, to maximize the impact of knowledge and learning activities in scaling ambitious climate action.

OVERVIEW OF THE NDC PARTNERSHIP

The NDC Partnership brings together more than 200 members, including more than 115 countries, developed and developing, and more than 80 institutions to create and deliver on ambitious climate action that helps achieve the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Governments identify their NDC implementation priorities and the type of support that is needed to translate them into actionable

policies and programs. Based on these requests, the membership offers a tailored package of expertise, technical assistance and funding. This collaborative response provides developing countries with efficient access to a wide range of resources to adapt to and mitigate climate change and foster more equitable and sustainable development.

THE NDC PARTNERSHIP WORK PROGRAM 2021-2025

The NDC Partnership [2021-2025 Work Program](#) is designed to coincide with the five-year Paris Agreement cycle and builds on the Partnership's early successes in accelerating NDC implementation and raising ambition while driving sustainable development. As such, it outlines the Partnership's plans to support countries through the implementation of their enhanced NDCs, through the Global Stocktake of 2023, and into the new cycle of NDC revision and enhancement ending in 2025. This Knowledge and Learning Strategy has been updated to ensure alignment between knowledge and learning activities and the NDC Partnership's 2021-2025 Work Program.² This strategy complements the [Country Engagement Strategy](#), also updated in 2022.

THE THEORY OF CHANGE APPLIED TO KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework included in the 2021-2025 Work Program holds members collectively accountable for the successful implementation of the Partnership's Work Program. In addition, it supports continuous learning to improve the programmatic and operational design of Partnership initiatives and support to members.

As such, it is directly linked to the knowledge and learning activities of the Partnership.

The Partnership generates a vast and unique body of knowledge through its [members](#) and extensive in-country engagement. The Support Unit captures, synthesizes and shares this knowledge and learning across and beyond the Partnership. By harnessing our unique insights, we can build a learning coalition and inspire more effective climate action. Knowledge and learning activities are the principal means through which the Partnership can drive accelerated NDC implementation and enhanced climate ambition beyond our membership. Relevant knowledge, deployed effectively, can enable countries to find technical solutions, facilitate learning between diverse actors leading to improved future outcomes and support countries in their efforts to develop plans for reaching or exceeding climate and development goals.

The outcomes and impacts generated by our work are framed by the Partnership's Theory of Change (TOC). As shown in **Figure 1**, the TOC charts the relationship from short-term outputs to longer-term, higher-order outcomes and impact. The Partnership's knowledge and learning activities facilitate outcomes and impact largely through the exchange of relevant information, lessons learned or other resources.



THE NDC PARTNERSHIP WORK PROGRAM

The NDC Partnership 2021-2025 Work Program outlines the Partnership's plans to support countries through the implementation of their enhanced NDCs, through the Global Stocktake of 2023, and into the new cycle of NDC revision and enhancement ending in 2025.



FIGURE 1: NDC PARTNERSHIP THEORY OF CHANGE

IMPACT	OUTCOMES	INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	ASSUMPTIONS	
Countries successfully reduce emissions, improve climate resilience, and advance sustainable development, with strong international support consistent with the achievement of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	By 2025, member countries are on track or ahead of schedule to implement their NDCs with the support of the Partnership	Implementing and development partners accelerate and coordinate support so that member countries have the capacity and resources needed to implement and update their NDCs using a whole-of-society approach	Implementing and development partners have the capacity and resources to respond with speed and flexibility to requests from countries through the Partnership	High level commitment from members and other stakeholders in line with the Guiding Principles of the NDC Partnership	
	Member countries communicate new NDCs reflecting greater quality and ambition by 2025 with the support of the Partnership, inspiring and informing others		Member countries have results-based, equitable, and inclusive NDC Action Plans in place, aligned with development and recovery plans	Availability of technical and financial resources and capacity building support from members for NDC implementation and updating at the national and subnational levels	
			Member countries have integrated NDC mitigation and adaptation targets into national and subnational development plans, policies, budgets, and recovery plans	Member countries have participatory NDC coordination mechanisms and resources for inclusive and transparent NDC implementation and updating	Implementing and development partner members are willing to use country requests presented through the Partnership as a key element in their resource programming
				Increased country access to knowledge and capacity development	
			Member countries receive increased investment flows towards climate action	Improved enabling environment established and public and private finance providers mobilized	Members receiving support have cross-government commitment to the ongoing implementation and enhancement of their NDCs and to the work of the Partnership
				Implementing and development partners use Partnership data and insights to program support in alignment with NDC Action Plans	

The Partnership’s knowledge and learning activities help increase country access to knowledge and capacity building support critical to all aspects of countries’ NDC planning and implementation. When looking at the country requests received through the Partnership, across the value chain of

services (see **Figure 2**) or the progression of services that Partnership members and partners provide, over 21% of country requests involve “knowledge products,” demonstrating the cross-cutting, continual and complex learning needs countries face. By providing improved access to tools, data



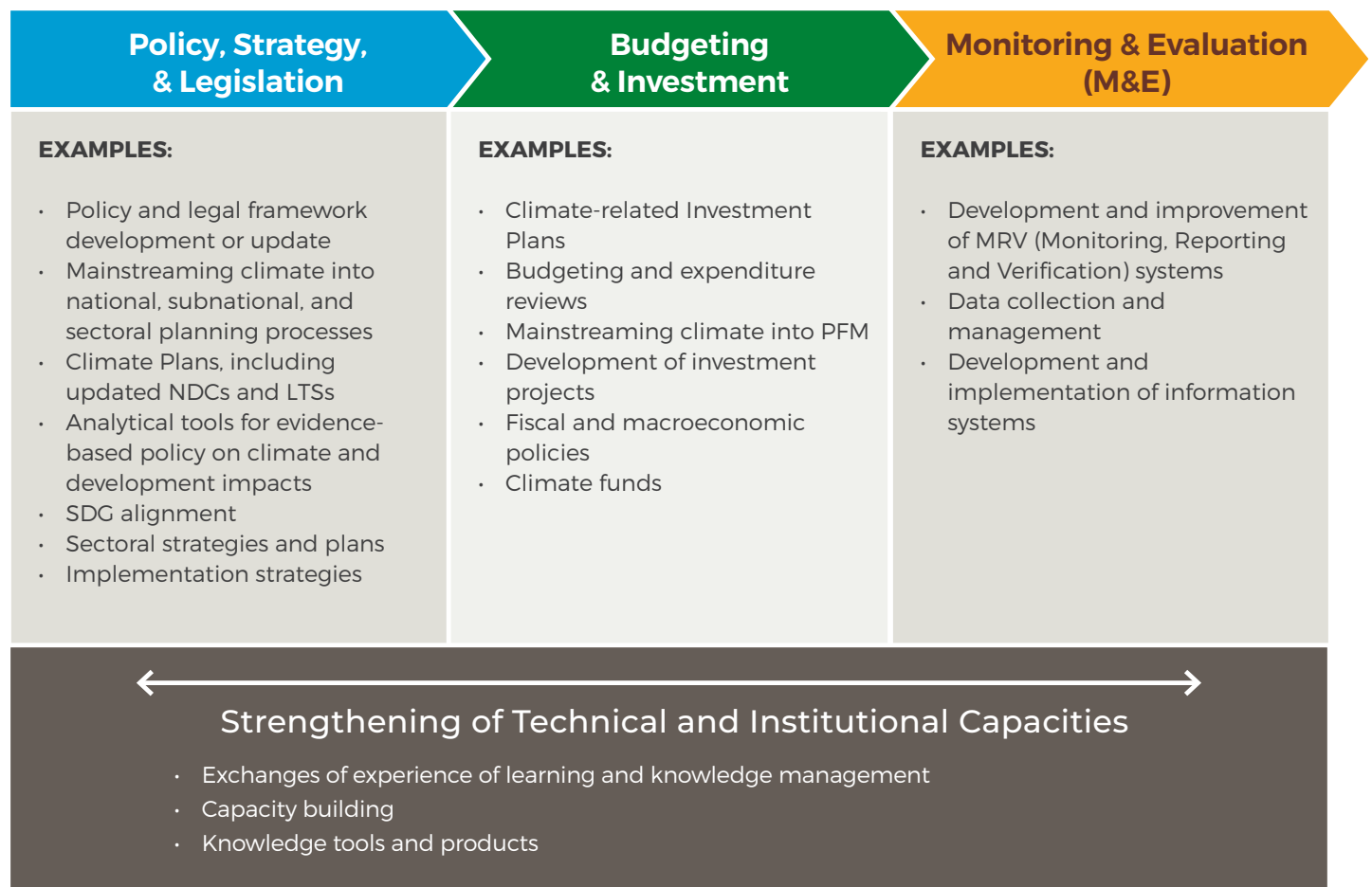
and best practices, the Partnership better equips countries to develop and improve the quality of their NDC Action Plans and integrate their mitigation and adaptation targets into national and subnational development plans, policies, budgets and economic recovery plans.³ This happens, for instance, through the sharing of resources through the Knowledge Portal and the Partnership’s outreach channels, support for analytical products to inform planning and decision making and the exchange of lessons learned among and beyond Partnership members.

The Partnership’s knowledge and learning activities enable implementing and

development partners to better deploy support in alignment with NDC Action Plans.⁴ Through the aggregation and analysis of trends and gaps in support, the Partnership has access to a unique body of insights. Using this data, implementing and development partners can better design their support programs to respond to critical country needs.

The Partnership serves as a neutral platform for implementing and development partners to share information on their own support programs, exchange ideas and deepen coordination with other members in direct response to country needs.

FIGURE 2: NDC PARTNERSHIP VALUE CHAIN OF SERVICES



2

KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING TOPIC PRIORITIZATION

The Partnership's work, like NDCs, encompasses many areas of climate and development. Institutional and Associate Members have specific, sought-after expertise and their engagement with countries is critical in sharing knowledge and expanding learning efforts. While the Partnership's work remains led by demand, there are cases in which the Support Unit will take a proactive stance in generating and sharing knowledge.

These priority topics, or Action Areas, are often determined by the Partnership's Steering Committee or are outlined in specific strategies or plans. However, other topics of interest may be considered as Rising Priorities or Ad Hoc Topics based on requests and inquiries from members, relevance to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes and other factors critical to the implementation and enhancement of NDCs.

ACTION AREAS

Action Areas are topics prioritized by the NDC Partnership's Steering Committee and often correspond to dedicated strategies. These topics are strategically elevated as the focus of Partnership events and knowledge products, and they are prioritized in member engagement. Once selected, the NDC Partnership seeks to integrate these

priority topics throughout its efforts and Work Program, using the dedicated strategies and plans to guide specific activities. Action Areas include the following topics and examples where they have been amplified through the Partnership's work (**see Figure 3**).

FIGURE 3: THE NDC PARTNERSHIP'S ACTION AREAS

ACTION AREA	DEFINITION	ACTION AREAS IN PRACTICE
 <p>NDC ENHANCEMENT</p>	<p>The NDC Partnership supports countries' ongoing efforts to enhance their NDCs both by increasing the ambition of their NDCs and by improving their quality. This focus is underscored in the 2021-2025 Work Program.</p>	<p>Following the completion of the NDC Partnership's Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP), which supported developing country members in their efforts to update their NDCs as part of the 2020 process, the Support Unit produced a 2022 report on lessons in developing implementation-ready NDCs. A systemic assessment revealed that 54 countries' efforts to strengthen the ambition of their NDCs was linked to CAEP support.</p>
 <p>WHOLE-OF- SOCIETY APPROACH</p>	<p>The NDC Partnership supports countries in engaging as comprehensively and effectively as possible in policy approaches that include representatives from civil society, academia, the private sector, various identity groups and other groups at various stages of consultation or other processes. As such, it involves integrating Leave No One Behind development, including climate action that is gender responsive and engages young people. This focus on whole-of-society engagement is underscored in the 2021-2025 Work Program.</p>	<p>Advisors deployed through the Partnership and embedded in governments meet quarterly to exchange ideas and challenges in their work to align NDC action with the SDGs and post-COVID-19 economic recovery plans.</p>
 <p>GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>Guided by its Gender Strategy and as part of our whole-of-society approach, the Partnership aims to advance gender equality considerations in NDCs and climate action in member countries. The Partnership seeks to have 100% of member countries with Partnership Plans (PPs) that incorporate some form of gender-responsive climate actions.</p>	<p>As of 2022, 86% of member countries receiving support have developed Partnership Plans that are gender sensitive, gender aware or gender responsive.</p>

Continued on next page

ACTION AREA	DEFINITION	ACTION AREAS IN PRACTICE
 <p>YOUTH ENGAGEMENT</p>	<p>As outlined in its Youth Engagement Plan (YEP) and as part of its whole-of society approach, the NDC Partnership recognizes the critical need for the increased and meaningful engagement of young people in the context of climate action and sustainable development. The Partnership supports countries' efforts to strengthen youth engagement in NDC processes in country and organizational contexts as well as collaborate to integrate youth participation in the Partnership's work.</p>	<p>The NDC Partnership hosts an annual Youth Engagement Forum (YEF) to involve youth constituencies in NDC action and enhance youth capacity.</p>
 <p>FINANCE MOBILIZATION</p>	<p>Guided by its Finance Strategy, the NDC Partnership seeks to support countries as effectively as possible in mobilizing finance and drive transformational investments that contribute to the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>The NDC Partnership Knowledge Portal's finance modules, including the Climate Funds Explorer and the Climate Finance Bulletin (see Section 7) help member countries and implementing partners to navigate the climate finance landscape and access financial support for NDC implementation.</p>
 <p>MAJOR EMERGING ECONOMIES (MEEs)</p>	<p>Ambitious action from MEEs is key to advancing sustainable pathways and achieving the goals set in the Paris Agreement. As outlined in the 2021-2025 Work Program and the Strategy for Engaging Major Emerging Economies, the NDC Partnership will seek to deepen engagement and knowledge sharing with MEEs.</p>	<p>As of 2022, eight MEEs have received support through the NDC Partnership. Ambition-raising examples are amplified through the Partnership's outreach efforts, including op-eds (e.g., Vietnam) and partner blogs (e.g., Indonesia).</p>

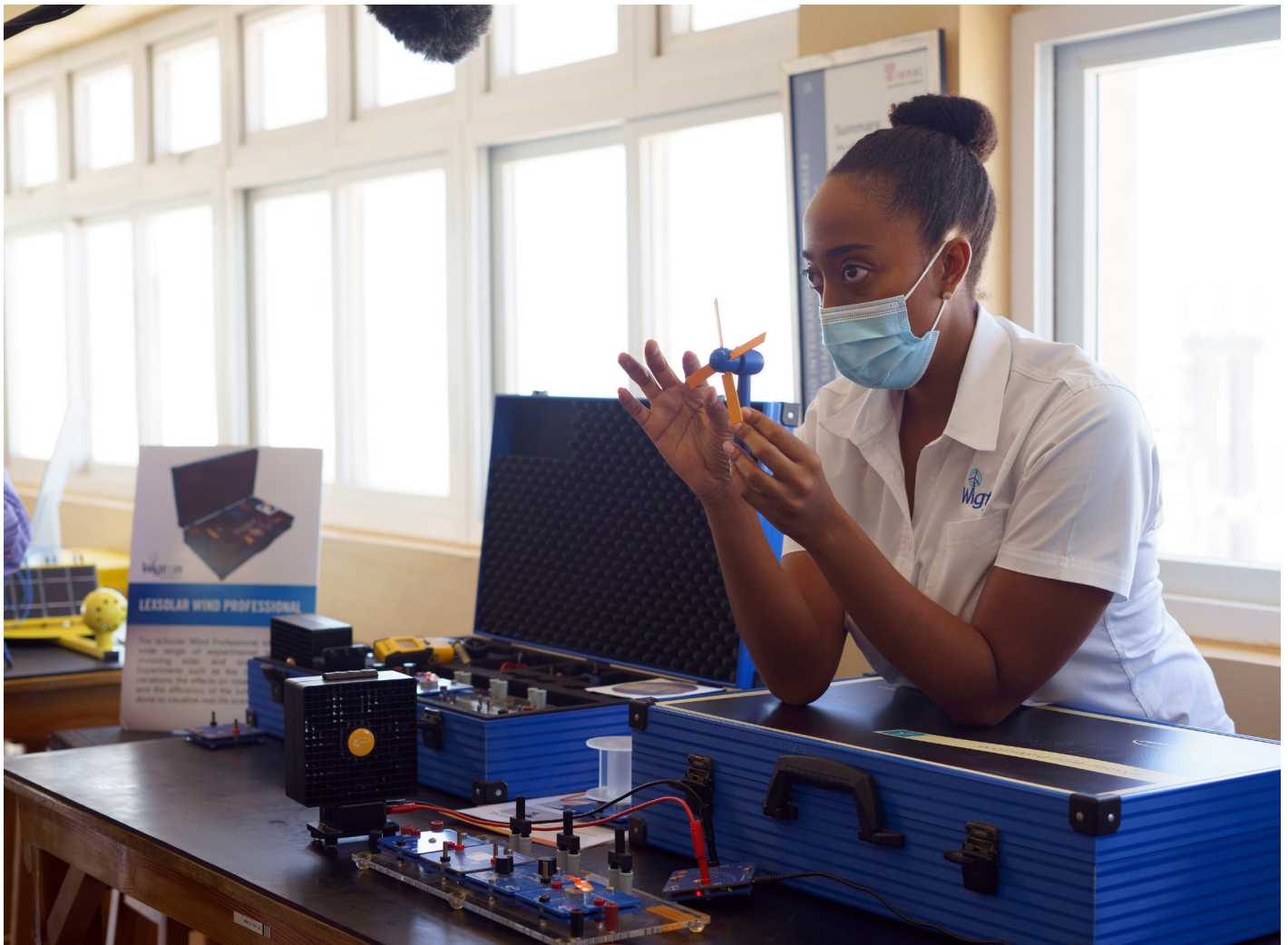
OTHER TOPICS

Knowledge and learning activities will also focus on other topics, including Rising Priorities and Ad Hoc Topics. These other topics are continuously evolving and help the Partnership target its knowledge and learning activities around evolving country needs.

Rising Priorities are topics that the Partnership anticipates being of interest to a growing number of countries or to global NDC discussions in the coming six to 12 months. As such, Rising Priorities may be the focus of

events, analysis or publications or targeted trainings for In-Country Facilitators and/or Government Focal Points. Rising Priorities will often coincide with NDC Partnership thematic calls, in which countries are invited to request support on specific topics.

In contrast, Ad Hoc Topics are determined by member requests and inquiries to the Support Unit and for which novel kNook analyses or an Insight Brief (see **Section 5**) are frequently developed to share lessons and resources on the topic.



JAMAICA WIGTON WINDFARM MISSION

3

HOW KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING STRENGTHEN IN-COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PARTNERSHIP PLAN VALIDATION WORKSHOP

The NDC Partnership's knowledge and learning activities, outlined below, exist within the context of the Partnership's in-country engagement. The **Country Engagement Process (Figure 4)** illustrates the NDC Partnership's process to support countries in the development and coordination of their NDC implementation plans. This process is illustrative, as countries can determine which stages—and therefore which knowledge and learning outputs and activities—are most relevant to pursue and when. **Figure 5** illustrates when and how various knowledge and learning activities typically align with the five stages of the Country Engagement cycle. Each of the activity categories is further described in the remainder of this strategy.

FIGURE 4: STAGES OF COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT

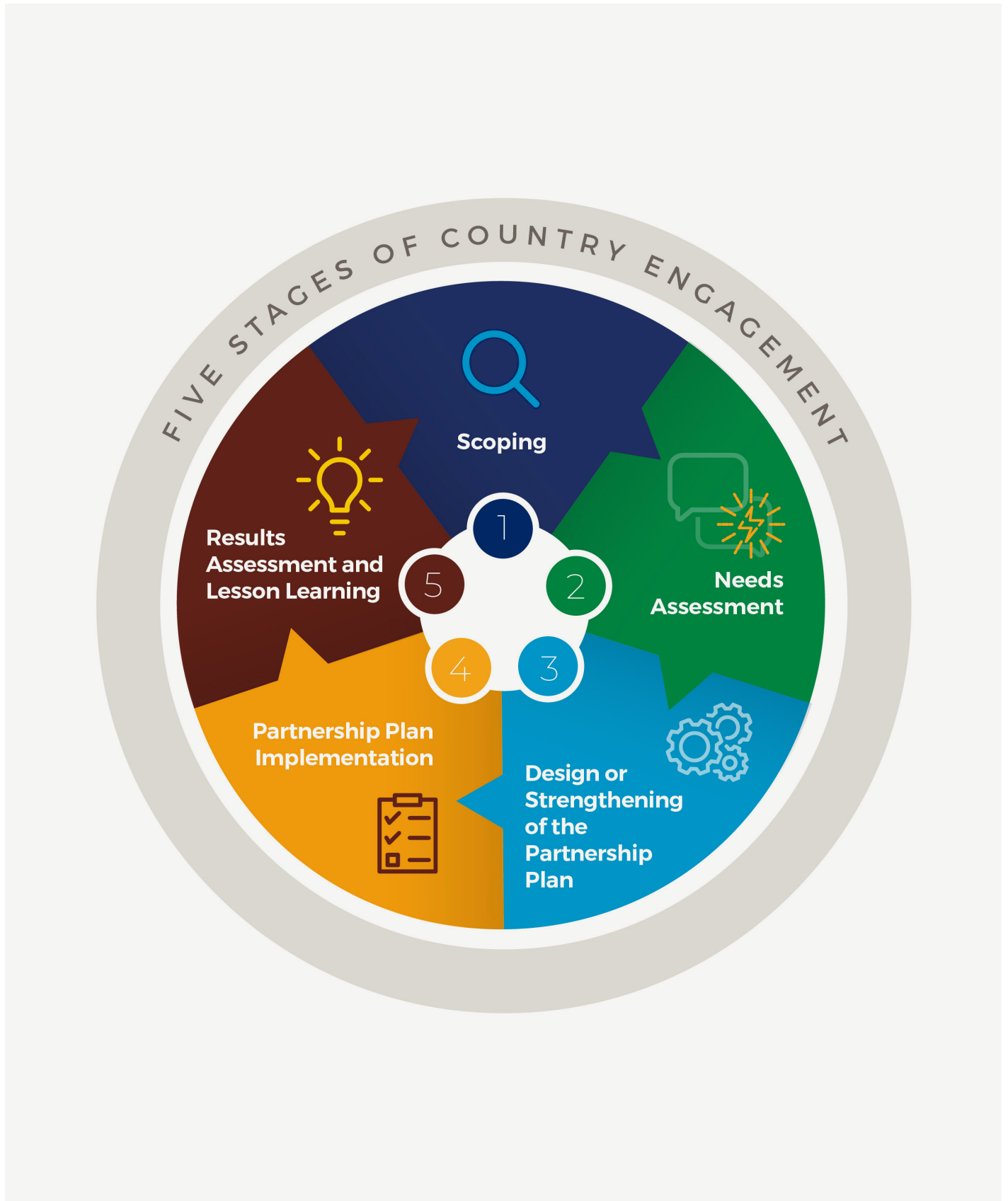




FIGURE 5: HOW KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES ALIGN WITH THE STAGES OF COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT

	NDC PARTNERSHIP COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT STAGES				
Knowledge and learning activities	Stage One: Scoping	Stage Two: Needs assessment	Stage Three: Design or strengthening of the PP ¹	Stage Four: PP implementation	Stage Five: Results assessment and lesson learning
Analytical and technical support to the Country Engagement Process	Develop Scoping Reports				
	Develop Resource Briefs to inform country requests for support and disseminate relevant knowledge tools and resources				
		Develop analytical products for countries to inform development of Partnership Plans ¹			
			Develop Partnership Plan Narratives ²		
			Prepare best practices and guidance documents to support investment planning		
			Map partner programming priorities and budget cycles		
			Utilize the Partnership Plan Online Tool to coordinate country priorities, needs and member support across stakeholders		
			Conduct gender reviews of PPs to assess gender responsivity		
			Implementing partners deliver knowledge and learning outputs requested by countries		
				Develop Country Support Gap Summaries	

1 Partnership Plans (PP) act as a tool to organize a country's NDC priority activities and match them with Partnership member support and in-country stakeholders.

2 Partner Plan Narratives refer to the first section of the PPs, which provide a summary and context for the content of a country's PP.



	NDC PARTNERSHIP COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT STAGES				
Knowledge and learning activities	Stage One: Scoping	Stage Two: Needs assessment	Stage Three: Design or strengthening of the PP ¹	Stage Four: PP implementation	Stage Five: Results assessment and lesson learning
Draw out insights from the Partnership's Country Engagement		Upload and tag country requests and support details in kNook			
	Produce analysis based on kNook data				
	Members share thematic analysis by contributing to Insight Briefs and other knowledge products				
				Success stories are shared via Country Impact Briefs	
Facilitating knowledge exchange across the Partnership	Share insights via Partnership convenings, including peer exchanges, Partnership Briefings and Thematic Partner Discussions				
	Facilitate capacity building for In-Country Facilitators				
	Share lessons from monitoring, evaluation and learning efforts				
Facilitating knowledge exchange beyond membership	Share tools, case studies and other resources via the Knowledge Portal				
	Share learning via public outreach and events, including the annual Youth Engagement Forum, blogs and other events				
		Share success stories and lessons via the Partnership in Action (PIA) report			

4

ANALYTICAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The following section outlines the knowledge products and analytical support activities which the Partnership prepares in direct support to the Country Engagement Process (see **Figure 4**).⁵ The knowledge products outlined in this section are developed at relevant stages of the Country Engagement Process to provide contextual analytical support to, for instance, identify and share country needs, strengthen the development of NDC Action Plans or mainstream gender equality. These products are produced by the Support Unit's Knowledge and Learning and Country Engagement teams, implementing and development partners or external experts.

SCOPING REPORTS

Scoping Reports summarize the findings from the Country Engagement Process' scoping stage (Stage 1) and provide an overview of the climate change landscape and areas for potential Partnership engagement (see **Section 3** and **Figure 5**).⁶ For example, a Scoping Report is being produced for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in preparation for a scoping mission taking place in Fall 2022.

Each report includes three sections:

1 NDC overview and government stakeholders:

This section is produced by the Knowledge

and Learning team to inform scoping missions and includes a summary of the national NDC priorities, key ministries and national agencies and relevant Focal Points, including from government and implementing and funding partners such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).⁷

2 Overview of the climate change landscape:

This section is produced by the Country Engagement team after the scoping mission and includes a summary of the country's policy and legal framework, the status of climate mainstreaming efforts into development plans,

budgets and public financial management mechanisms, coordination mechanisms, level of engagement of finance and planning ministries and identified in-country stakeholders for NDC implementation (including groups most affected by climate impacts).

3 Preliminary needs assessment: This section is produced by the Country Engagement team after the scoping mission based on conversations with key government ministries. It outlines the identified potential support needs and current gaps and challenges on NDC implementation. This assessment may include preliminary mapping of key ongoing or planned projects and programs contributing to NDC implementation.

- Direct requests from countries, partners or Regional Managers
- Observed knowledge gaps stemming from In-Country Facilitators' quarterly reports or other partner meetings or discussions

Resource Briefs can also be developed in response to a specific knowledge gap or need identified within a country or beyond. For example, a [Resource Brief on Mainstreaming Climate Action into National Development Planning](#) was prepared to support Eswatini, and it was then expanded and shared with multiple countries to support their efforts in this area. Resource Briefs serve the dual function of providing information to countries in the early stages of the Country Engagement Process (see **Section 3** and **Figure 5**) as well as expanding the use of partner and expert resources from the Knowledge Portal (see **Section 7**).

RESOURCE BRIEFS

Resource Briefs are produced to help inform and shape a country's NDC support requests. They provide a curated list of relevant resources from the NDC Partnership's Knowledge Portal based on the country's identified priorities (see **Section 7** on the Knowledge Portal).

The Knowledge and Learning team produces Resource Briefs for countries when they are in Stages 1, 2 or 3 of the Country Engagement Process. They are produced either in response to:

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO INFORM PARTNERSHIP PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND REVISION

As countries develop their Partnership Plans, they can access a variety of technical support and analyses coordinated by the Support Unit to inform and strengthen the finalization of their plans. This support is delivered in Stages 2 and 3 of the Country Engagement Process, and it aims



WHAT ARE RESOURCE BRIEFS?

The Knowledge and Learning team produces Resource Briefs, or curated lists of relevant resources from the NDC Partnership's Knowledge Portal, based on the country's identified priorities in order to help inform and shape a country's NDC support requests.

to strengthen the analytical basis for developing country members' targets, projects and programs while also building institutional and technical capacity for NDC implementation. This technical support also aims to build confidence among national and international stakeholders that governments are following clear methodologies to determine the most effective NDC implementation pathways. Although coordinated by the Support Unit, this support relies on the expertise and knowledge of members. For example, the gender review methodology (see below) was developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Online Partnership Plan Tool

The [Online Partnership Plan Tool](#) is a user-friendly, web-based tool for managing Partnership Plans and generating strategic and operational information for governments, development partners and other stakeholders. This is a tool to that enables real-time updating, progress tracking and country-level reporting. The Support Unit will continue to update the Online Partnership Plan Tool, including by adding new features and by providing training opportunities for In-Country Facilitators and country Focal Points, as well as members. Notably, the Online Partnership Plan Tool will also enable implementing and development partner members to assess gaps in support more

readily for countries' Partnership Plans. As of 2022, 57% of government-validated Partnership Plans are available via the online tool.

Gender reviews

There are several opportunities for members to [mainstream gender equality as part of the Country Engagement Process](#). Gender reviews are coordinated by the Knowledge and Learning team to identify opportunities to strengthen the gender responsiveness of Partnership Plans. All validated Partnership Plans are assessed for gender responsiveness in line with the NDC Partnership's [Gender Strategy](#). As of 2022, 86% of developing countries receiving support through the Partnership have Partnership Plans that are gender sensitive, gender aware or gender responsive. For example, Uganda's Partnership Plan uses an M&E system for gender-responsive adaptation, which incorporates sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators to ensure the collection of gender-relevant data. As part of its Gender Strategy, the NDC Partnership continues to work toward the goal of making all Partnership Plans gender responsive. As part of this technical support, countries can also request a gender review of draft planning documents. This support is designed to highlight opportunities to strengthen the inclusivity and gender responsiveness of final Partnership Plans.



WHAT IS THE ONLINE PARTNERSHIP PLAN TOOL?

The [Online Partnership Plan Tool](#) is a user friendly, web-based tool for managing Partnership Plans and generating strategic and operational information for governments, development partners and other stakeholders.

Analytical products

Analytical products are produced to support countries in their decision making specifically related to the development of Partnership Plans as part of the Country Engagement Process. Identification of countries' analytical product needs and development of these products are coordinated by the scoping lead or the Support Unit, relying on commissioned technical experts. Through these products, the Partnership aims to:

- Strengthen the analytical basis for developing country members' projects and programs in support of NDC implementation and build governments' institutional and technical capacity in these areas
- Build confidence among in-country stakeholders that their governments are following clear methodologies to determine the most effective way to achieve their NDCs
- Assist developing country members in making a case for technical or financial support to development partners, implementing partners and other potential sources of expertise or finance

For example, to reflect the greater ambition of its updated NDC and coordination and planning needs, the Dominican Republic is updating its Partnership Plan. Efforts to attract funding for the country's Partnership Plan are being strengthened through the development of a funding portfolio based on the plan's outcomes and outputs. Specifically, the NDC Partnership is supporting the development of a methodological framework to tag and rank outcomes and related outputs of the NDC Partnership Plan. The purpose of this support is to inform and assist strategic effort prioritization by the government, including for public investment decisions, resource leveraging and fundraising by government institutions leading in the implementation of the Partnership Plan and awareness-raising efforts across public and private institutions.

PARTNERSHIP PLAN NARRATIVES

Partnership Plan Narratives provide a summary of the content in and context behind a country's Partnership Plan. The narrative is validated by the government in parallel to their validation of the plan and before implementing and development partners respond with indications of support (see **Section 3** and **Figure 5** for the stages of Country Engagement). The Partnership Plan Narratives are meant to help NDC Partnership members and non-members identify opportunities to engage early in the NDC implementation process. For example, [Saint Kitts and Nevis' Narrative](#) was circulated at the same time as the country's Partnership Plan in April 2022. Either Country Engagement or Knowledge and Learning teams staff produce the Partnership Plan Narrative, depending on the nature of the Support Unit's Country Engagement. Each report includes the following components:

- Outcomes and contexts of the Partnership Plan
- NDC priorities and targets
- Climate and sustainable development linkages, including alignment with national and sectoral development plans and budgets as well as green recovery plans
- Summary of the Partnership Plan development process, including key consultations and stakeholder engagement processes undertaken
- Implementation framework, including coordination mechanisms, financing and resource mobilization and tracking implementation progress

BEST PRACTICES AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Where the Partnership has significant experience to draw from, best practices and/or guidance documents are compiled and disseminated. These documents are targeted at countries to better support them in their NDC enhancement, planning, implementation and investment, while enabling them to draw from and replicate positive examples from other members. For example, the IUCN developed a [practical guide to developing gender-responsive NDC Action Plans](#). United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Resources Institute (WRI) produced a series of [sectoral guides on opportunities to strengthen NDCs](#). And in 2022, the Support Unit is producing guidance documents designed to strengthen countries' NDC investment planning processes drawing on the experience through the [CAEP](#).

Country Support Gap Summaries

Country Support Gap Summaries highlight country-specific needs and persistent gaps in support (for Partnership-mediated requests) in an easily accessible and well-visualized document. They include:

- A visual breakdown of gaps in support within the Partnership Plan (e.g., by sector or by focus area)
- A list of unsupported and partially supported request details on unsupported, partially

supported and indicatively supported requests from Request for Support Letters or Partnership Plans for a given country.

Upon request of Regional Managers, the Knowledge and Learning team leads development of these summaries of support efforts to close remaining support gaps. These summaries can be produced to inform stop-and-reflect meetings, or other support mobilization meetings organized by government or partners.⁸ They are typically produced only after the Partnership Plan has been operational for at least six months (see **Section 3** and **Figure 4**). For example, the Support Unit produced a country support gap summary for Uganda in 2022, whose first Partnership Plan was validated in 2018.

Mapping implementing partner programming cycles

In addition to mapping out country needs, the Support Unit assists countries by mapping out potential partner support offerings. This includes mapping of key global development and implementing partners' climate-related programming priorities, planning cycles and on-the-ground presence in member developing countries. This enables countries to be better informed of the partner program landscape, improving overall coordination. In 2022, the Support Unit will hire a consultancy to build out and systematize this mapping.



WHAT ARE COUNTRY SUPPORT GAP SUMMARIES?

Country Support Gap Summaries highlight country-specific needs and persistent gaps in support (for Partnership-mediated requests) in an easily accessible and well-visualized document.

Direct member support

Institutional and Associate Members fundamentally deliver a wide range of knowledge and technical support directly to member countries. As part of the NDC Partnership, this support can take the form of supporting country requests that pertain to knowledge and learning, including supporting activities such as developing studies and analyses, technical trainings, and capacity building, and increasing intragovernmental coordination and public awareness campaigns. For example, through the Partnership, Mozambique received support for its requested studies updating climate scenarios and a sectoral vulnerability analysis prepared for its National Adaptation Plan from the European Commission, the WRI, the United Nations

Environment Programme (UNEP), the UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). Additionally, Uganda received support from Germany and GGGI to increase the number of national public and private institutions accredited and accessing international climate funds.

Institutional and Associate Members also deliver substantial knowledge and analytical support to countries outside of the official mechanism of Partnership requests, including by participating in in-country stakeholder engagement activities, coordination mechanisms or other support as defined by individual work programs.



AFRICA CLIMATE WEEK 2022

5

CULTIVATING KNOWLEDGE FROM THE PARTNERSHIP'S COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT

The Partnership's work yields many unique insights thanks to our close work with countries and engagement with a wide array of implementing and development partners. The Support Unit works with members to identify the most useful of these insights to better understand country priorities and to allow members to respond to these priorities and close gaps in support. The unique insights gained from our work are widely used by members to inform the programming of support to reinforce positive trends and fill gaps in country needs. These insights also directly inform the knowledge products and learning activities delivered by the Partnership. There are several channels through which the Partnership derives its unique insights, including via:

- **Exchanges with government Focal Points, other relevant stakeholders or the Support Unit's Country Engagement team**
- **Country update reports produced by In-Country Facilitators**
- **The analysis of trends in requests for support and support gaps via the kNook**
- **The Partnership's engagement with members with deep technical expertise on climate and development topics**

As outlined in **Section 2**, there is often a need for topic prioritization for knowledge and learning activities, including in the drawing out of insights from the Partnership's Country Engagement. The Partnership shares insights and lessons drawn from the above channels, which reflect the following criteria:

- Significant action in NDC implementation or raised NDC ambition
- Activities that advance both climate and development priorities
- Clear added value from the Partnership's work and processes
- Challenges faced by countries that provide useful lessons
- Possibilities for replication and scaling up
- Activities and lessons that reflect priority Action Areas (see **Section 2**)

THE KNOOK AND KNOOK ANALYSES

The Knowledge Nook (kNook), the Partnership's knowledge management system, is at the core of our trend analyses and learning processes. The kNook catalogues a unique dataset of country requests to the Partnership and the support being delivered against them. Data inform knowledge products and regular briefings to all members for the purposes of analyzing trends and filling gaps in support. As of March 2022, the kNook contains well over 4,300 data points not captured in any other platform. It has been used by 51 members and is a key tool for the Support Unit. As a result, over 50 analyses have been generated with unique insights from the Partnership's work. All members can access the kNook and training resources are available to help them use it effectively.⁹

As part of the current [2021-2025 Work Program](#), the kNook will continue to be strengthened to achieve more robust learning. The improved kNook will be linked to the Online Partnership Plan Tool to ensure real-time data updates and to increase the speed and efficient delivery of insights drawing from country requests. The kNook will also be made more effective and accessible, and new training resources will continue to be made available by the Support Unit.

INSIGHT BRIEFS

Insight Briefs are knowledge products that highlight trends on a specific topic or sector across the NDC Partnership's in-country engagement. These knowledge products are documented with data from the kNook and with short country examples from the Partnership's engagement. The Knowledge and Learning team identifies topics

for potential Insight Briefs by looking at persistent support gaps and emerging and insightful trends from the kNook. Insight Briefs are then authored by the Support Unit or by members. Examples of past Insight Briefs include [Analysis of Disaster Risk Reduction-related Requests](#) by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and [Adaptation and Risk Finance in NDCs](#) by the Support Unit.

Where insufficient data is available to draft an Insight Brief, the Support Unit may work with partners to develop other knowledge products to highlight the relevant work done by member countries and partners and engage with new audiences.

COUNTRY IMPACT BRIEFS

Country Impact Briefs showcase progress made toward NDC enhancement or implementation in a specific country and how the Partnership has supported them in doing so. These briefs include an overview of the country's key climate issues, NDC priority sectors and a short summary of the impact provided through the Partnership. They are authored by the Partnership's Knowledge and Learning team, and topics are sourced widely from the Country Engagement staff, country update reports from In-Country Facilitators, government Focal Points and other materials. For example, the Support Unit highlighted Uganda's impressive progress toward NDC implementation, including its whole-of-government-and-society approach to deliver green growth as well as its efforts to mainstream climate change considerations across sectoral, national and local policies, plans and budgets with financial and technical support from the NDC Partnership.

6

FACILITATING KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ACROSS THE PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership aims to be an expansive and adaptable learning coalition to support faster, more effective and ambitious NDC implementation. Members face many similar challenges and often benefit from shared experiences and lessons learned. The Support Unit fosters learning exchange among all members, including developed and developing countries and Institutional and Associate Members.

PARTNERSHIP CONVENINGS

The NDC Partnership carries out, participates in and contributes to a variety of knowledge convenings (including virtual, in person and hybrid). The purpose of these activities is to facilitate peer exchange, share good country practices and reflect on common challenges from across the Partnership's in-country engagement. Partnership convenings can be organized by the Support Unit or members. Convenings organized by the Support Unit are planned in line with the topic prioritization in **Section 2**.¹⁰ Key Partnership convening types are outlined below.

Peer-to-peer exchanges

Peer-to-peer exchanges facilitate dialogue among members. These exchanges cover a wide variety of topics and priorities among members. For example,

under the Partnership's Economic Advisory Initiative, the [Green Recovery Network \(GRN\)](#) is a peer-to-peer exchange series that facilitates learning around topics related to economic recovery involving the participation of economic advisors and country Focal Points. The GRN also includes peer-to-peer learning events among economic advisors specifically (e.g., Green Recovery Café). Peer-to-peer exchanges can be one-off events or recurring instances of knowledge exchange.

The Partnership works to strengthen knowledge exchange across its developing country members through regional peer-to-peer exchanges. In addition to enabling learning on common challenges and knowledge gaps as expressed by members, these regional peer exchanges are an important tool to reflect on the Partnership's

Country Engagement Process. From 2022, the Support Unit will organize regional peer exchanges for all regions every two years.

Partnership Briefings

Partnership Briefings are topic-focused webinars organized for members, with the aim of sharing insights from the kNook along with relevant Country Engagement information. These are generally hosted by the Support Unit but could also be hosted by members producing Insight Briefs (see **Section 5**). These briefings are virtual and member-only events, offering opportunities for frank conversations on trends in country requests and gaps in support. Past topics include a [Partnership Briefing on Gender Integration in NDC Partnership Member Countries](#) as well as a [Partnership Briefing on Inclusive Growth in the NDCs](#).

Thematic Partner Discussions

Thematic Partner Discussions are topic-focused events designed to facilitate knowledge exchange, connection and learning among experts from across member organizations. These informal partner discussions, similar to Partnership Briefings, are topic-focused events organized by the Support Unit and involve sharing of insights from the kNook.

However, these discussions differ in that they enable two-way information exchange, providing space for members to share details on their current and future support projects and programs, as well as where they see additional analytical work or support is needed. The Support Unit will organize one discussion per quarter, with topics drawn from Rising Priority or Ad Hoc Topics (see **Section 2**). For example, the first Thematic Partner Discussion on blue carbon facilitated updates on blue carbon work from 20 partners and a discussion of scientific, financial and country needs. In addition to discussions, the Support Unit will look to collaborate with members on written products.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR IN-COUNTRY FACILITATORS

In-Country Facilitators play a critical role in supporting developing country members' NDC update and implementation efforts, including supporting coordination between the government and implementing and development partners as well as across relevant government ministries. To strengthen their effectiveness and the sustainability of their efforts, the Support Unit offers targeted capacity building activities. These include:



WHAT ARE THEMATIC PARTNER DISCUSSIONS?

Thematic partner discussions are topic-focused events designed to facilitate knowledge exchange, connection and learning among experts from across member organizations.

- **Facilitators Sustainability Plans:** These plans are developed for NDC Partnership incoming and departing In-Country Facilitators to ensure these critical positions have the knowledge and resources needed to succeed. These plans identify individual and government-related capacity-building gaps and needs, identify formal and informal institutional processes and structures and design a process by which government officials can shadow facilitators to ensure the transferring of critical institutional knowledge and continued capacity building within country governments.
- **Training courses:** Offered periodically in response to identified facilitators' needs, training courses provide facilitators with the ability to deepen both their hard and soft skills. For example, training courses have included topics on results-based management, gender mainstreaming, facilitation skills and proposal writing.
- **Action learning sets:** These sets provide group coaching over a fixed period to enable facilitators to work collectively on a specific challenge (e.g., how to make the NDC relevant in national budget planning or how to organize an inclusive stakeholder process).
- **Global retreat:** The retreat is an annual convening of facilitators to share best practices, reflect on common challenges and build relationships within and across regions.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

The Knowledge and Learning team leads the monitoring of and reporting related to the [NDC Partnership's M&E Framework](#). This framework is how the Partnership holds itself accountable for delivering the ambitious goals outlined in its 2021-2025 Work Program. These M&E efforts include:

- Collecting and consolidating M&E data and overseeing the effective communication of that data and the Partnership's impact
- Guiding the Support Unit's development of annual workplans, aligned with existing strategies and the [NDC Partnership's Work Program](#) and the [M&E Framework](#)
- Developing annual internal reports to assess progress against M&E indicators and lessons learned to feed into strategic planning
- Organizing workshops and trainings for staff to facilitate better engagement with the NDC Partnership's M&E Framework and to learn from the results
- Organizing external knowledge sharing events to present on the NDC Partnership's impact and learning from its M&E efforts



THE NDC PARTNERSHIP'S M&E FRAMEWORK

This framework outlines a set of key result statements, indicators and targets to track progress on implementation and delivery of the Partnership's ambitious goals outlined in the [2021-2025 Work Program](#).



ASIA PACIFIC CLIMATE WEEK PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGE

7

FACILITATING KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE BEYOND THE MEMBERSHIP

The NDC Partnership informs climate action beyond our membership by making our resources, information and insights widely available and accessible. The Partnership empowers both members and nonmembers to pursue NDC implementation more effectively and enhance ambition by making it easy to access relevant resources, including expertise from members and lessons learned directly through our work. The knowledge and learning activities of the NDC Partnership are often an entryway by which we engage with nonmembers, including other expert and development institutions.

KNOWLEDGE PORTAL

The [Knowledge Portal](#) is the Partnership's primary tool for publicly sharing good practices, tools, platforms and other resources related to NDC implementation and enhancement and sustainable development. The Portal is updated regularly with the support of partners, and includes new resources, case studies, finance opportunities and tools for addition. The five modules that comprise the Knowledge Portal include:

- **Good Practice Database (GPD):** This joint database helps users find country- and sector-specific case studies and good practice examples detailing where countries are

overcoming obstacles and where climate action is being effectively designed and implemented.¹¹

- **Climate Toolbox:** This database supports government officials, implementing partners and others by enabling them to more efficiently find relevant technical resources related to NDC planning and implementation, including frameworks, templates, analysis tools, knowledge platforms and other sources of technical support.
- **Climate Funds Explorer:** This module helps countries and other users navigate the complex climate finance landscape and enhances

their ability to access multilateral and bilateral funding opportunities over USD 1 million.¹²

- **Climate Finance Bulletin:** This forthcoming module will share smaller, time-bound climate finance opportunities to enable countries or implementing partners to enhance their knowledge of and access to financial support.
- **NDC Content Module:** Drawn from Climate Watch, this module offers open data, visualizations and analysis to help policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders gather insights from countries' NDCs and climate progress over time.

The Support Unit will continue to periodically enhance the Knowledge Portal to make it more user-friendly and expand its reach and offerings, particularly on topics of strategic importance to the Partnership (see **Section 2**). For example, the Support Unit will seek to do the following as part of the Knowledge Portal outreach and engagement strategy:

- Update the overall design of the Knowledge Portal to improve users' ability to search for relevant resources and conduct analyses with the data
- Expand awareness and usership of the Knowledge Portal through increased social media promotion, integration with knowledge products, targeted outreach and trainings
- Improve M&E capabilities, including user metrics and gap analyses, to inform continued design and outreach improvements
- Expand Knowledge Portal resources and trainings in other languages, such as French and Spanish

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION REPORT

The Partnership in Action (PiA) report is the NDC Partnership's flagship annual publication which showcases the work of the Partnership over the last year. The report is produced by the Support Unit with contributions from Partnership members. Each PiA report has a dedicated theme, such as [Keeping Ambition Alive \(PiA 2020\)](#) and [Climate Ambition and Economic Recovery \(PiA 2021\)](#). The PiA is promoted through a dedicated microsite to generate more engagement with target audiences and help position the report as the go-to source for information about NDC implementation globally.

PUBLIC EVENTS AND OUTREACH

Outreach events

Public-facing events organized by the Support Unit or members, including online webinars, in-person workshops or hybrid events, serve to share information, best practices, lessons learned and Partnership perspectives with a wider audience, including nonmembers. Typically, public events are organized around Action Areas of the NDC Partnership (see **Section 2**). Many of the NDC Partnership's public outreach events take place during international conferences, such as a [side event with Peru during the 2021 New York Climate Week](#) focused on innovations in mitigation measures.

Youth Engagement Forum

As part of its [YEP](#), the Partnership hosts an annual convening with young people to gather youth perspectives on NDC processes and implementation projects on the ground. The first [Youth Engagement Forum](#) took place in July 2021 and brought together youth constituencies and partners to discuss the success stories and challenges of incorporating young people in climate action. As part of the Youth Engagement Forum, the Partnership also offered teach-ins for youth to provide exposure to critical NDC topics and opportunities for deeper exchange with Partnership members.

Finance convenings

As part of the implementation of its [Finance Strategy](#), the Partnership will convene several types of country-led convenings, including:

- Roundtables led by the finance & planning ministries, where Partnership members can present NDC-related national financing priorities
- Private-sector roundtables to highlight investment opportunities and get private-sector input and buy-in on financing strategies and enabling conditions
- Roundtable discussions with the private sector and subnational-level actors

- Business-to-government or government-to-business matchmaking forums with international financial institution (IFI) donors and development partners to help countries improve their project pipelines

Blogs

The Partnership regularly publishes [blogs](#) that focus on the impact of the Partnership's work. With their shorter, more accessible and easy-to-read format, blogs are a unique tool by which the Partnership can reach a general, nontechnical audience and share relevant and timely examples of collective action, lessons learned and – in the context of knowledge and learning – ways in which information and tools can be applied to inform climate action by relevant stakeholders. The Knowledge and Learning team drafts blogs to promote learning around Action Area topics, to share emerging trends around Rising Priorities and to highlight impactful stories from the Partnership's in-country engagement. Members can also be invited to draft blogs to promote their Partnership activities. On the topic of NDC enhancement, the NDC Partnership published a series of blogs by members which highlighted the work they completed as part of the CAEP. For example, Burkina Faso published a blog on their [efforts to incorporate COVID-19 recovery and climate change action into national development planning](#).



THE NDC PARTNERSHIP KNOWLEDGE PORTAL

The [Knowledge Portal](#) is the Partnership's primary tool for publicly sharing good practices, tools, platforms and other resources related to NDC enhancement and implementation and sustainable development.



CONCLUSION

The knowledge and learning products and activities of the NDC Partnership have grown rapidly in scope and scale since the founding of the Partnership in 2016. Aligned with the [2021-2025 Work Program](#), this Knowledge and Learning Strategy outlines the updated scope of outputs and activities which its members will collectively undertake in order to support countries in their efforts to implement and enhance their NDCs while driving sustainable development. The 2021-2025 period will be a critical window for action on NDC implementation and enhancement ahead of the next Paris Agreement enhancement cycle. In this urgent context, the Support Unit will continue to adapt this strategy as the Partnership's work evolves in response to changes in member countries' needs and as lessons learned from our Country Engagement inform our efforts to accelerate NDC ambition and implementation.

For more information about the NDC Partnership's Knowledge and Learning activities, please contact the NDC Partnership Support Unit at supportunit@ndcpartnership.org.

ENDNOTES

- 1 The Country Engagement cycle was adjusted in the [Country Engagement Strategy](#), which was updated in 2022.
- 2 This Knowledge and Learning Strategy builds upon the successes and lessons learned from the NDC Partnership's first [Knowledge and Learning Strategy for the period 2018-2020](#).
- 3 NDC Action Plans are national government-owned plans outlining how a country will implement or enhance their NDC, supported by the NDC Partnership. These instruments include, but are not limited to, Partnership Plans (PPs), Request for Support Letters (RSLs), Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) support and economic advisory (EA) support. Additionally, some countries may refer to their NDC Action Plans as NDC Implementation Plans.
- 4 Implementing partners are any partners (member or nonmember) that provide support to country requests through the Partnership. Development partners are countries providing official financing administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as an objective.
- 5 For more information about the NDC Partnership's Country Engagement Process, see also the 2022 [Country Engagement Strategy](#).
- 6 Scoping Reports replace earlier iterations of the NDC Partnership's initial overview report formats, including the Scoping Mission Reports and Rapid Situational Assessments (RSAs). The first Scoping Report using the new format is being produced for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in Fall 2022.
- 7 In instances where an implementing partner is leading scoping, the Support Unit will work with them to jointly produce the Scoping Report. In cases where Knowledge and Learning team members join the scoping mission, they will support the full development of the Scoping Report.
- 8 Stop-and-reflect meetings are exercises in which the Focal Points, in-country facilitator and partners assess progress and evolving needs, funding gaps, changing conditions and opportunities to increase ambition and update the Partnership Plan accordingly.
- 9 All NDC Partnership members have access to the kNook knowledge management system. Individual users affiliated with members can request a kNook account [here](#) or access the kNook dashboard, which provides high-level snapshots of the kNook data and charts. Guidance documents, training videos and FAQs for the kNook can be found directly on the system under the "Help" section.
- 10 Partnership convenings are either organized (or co-organized) by the Support Unit, or they are organized by members with an explicit link to the Partnership—e.g., presenting Partnership success stories or using kNook data to inform discussions, etc.
- 11 The [Good Practice Database \(GPD\)](#) is a joint database collectively supported by the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement (PATPA), the UNDP NDC Support Programme, the LEADS Global Partnership (LEADS GP) and the NDC Partnership Support Unit.
- 12 Formerly called the [Climate Finance Explorer](#).



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