

SYNOPSIS SERIES NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME

Good practices and lessons learned in relation to adaptation planning processes, including processes and structures for linking national and local adaptation planning

BACKGROUND

This synopsis highlights cross-sectoral good practices and lessons learned in relation to adaptation planning, drawn from the findings of two documents recently developed under the Nairobi work programme (NWP):

Documents

“Good practices and lessons learned in adaptation planning processes addressing ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health, and in processes and structures for linking national and local adaptation planning: a synthesis of case studies” ([FCCC/SBSTA/2015/4](#); 2015)

Information source

170 case studies contributed by Parties and NWP partner organizations (see Figure 1).

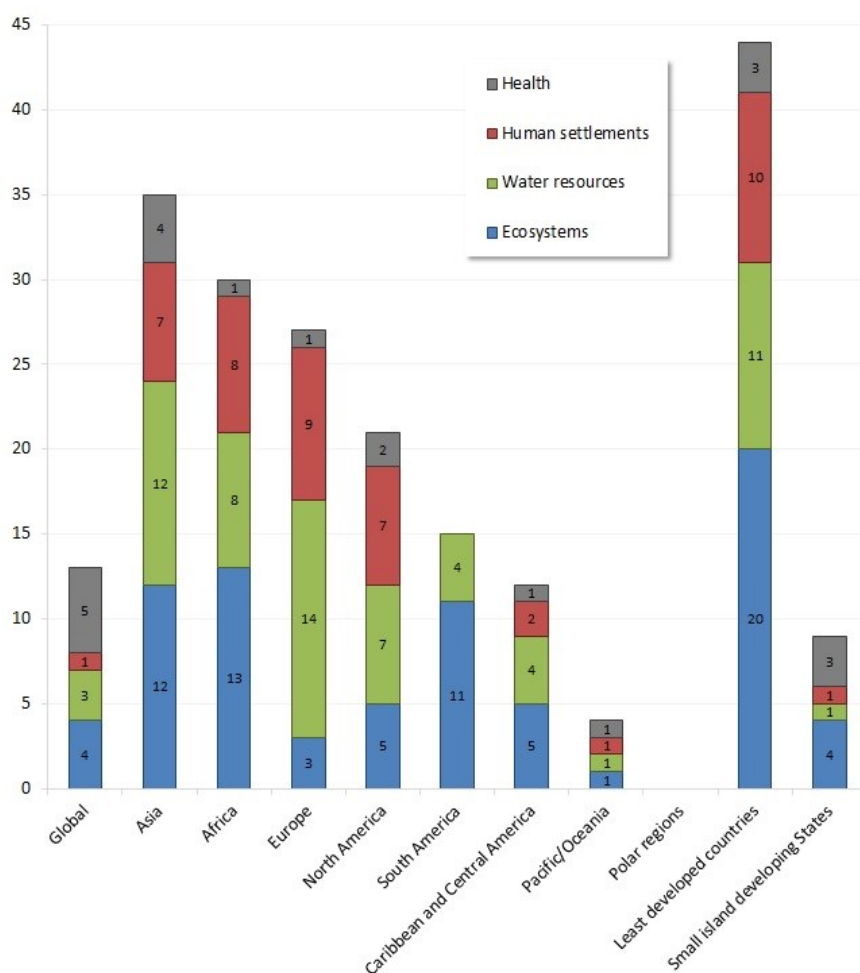


Figure 1 - Distribution of case studies by region and other groupings

(Number of case studies)

“Synthesis report on methods and tools for, and good practices and lessons learned relating to, adaptation planning processes addressing ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health, and good practices and lessons learned related to processes and structures for linking national and local adaptation planning” ([FCCC/SBSTA/2014/4](#); 2014).

Submissions from two Parties and 18 NWP partner organizations.

KEY FINDINGS

The table below presents emerging good practices and lessons learned on the various aspects of adaptation planning, as well as key recommendations to scale up adaptation planning and action.

Acquiring “actionable” knowledge	
How to acquire ‘actionable’ knowledge?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a structured and iterative knowledge co-production process that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Combines multidisciplinary scientific information and traditional knowledge; * Involves all members of a community (including men, women and indigenous people).
Which co-benefits can be expected?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top down and bottom-up approaches are harmonized ; • Local communities and institutions are empowered, and their capacity to implement locally appropriate adaptation actions is strengthened.
Setting priorities	
Key objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce current and future vulnerabilities across all sectors; • Increase the climate change adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable people and communities.
How to achieve equitable adaptation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address social inequalities and differentiated vulnerability, including gender considerations, from the local level to the national level.
Multisectoral planning at all governance levels	
Key objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation planning should be integrated into legislation, regulations, existing strategies, standards, planning tools and assessment frameworks.
Key requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify roles and responsibilities, and effectively coordinate among ministries and between various governance levels; • Mobilize financial resources from both dedicated climate funds and domestic budgets; • Develop partnerships with other governments, regional bodies and international actors to access international funding; • Establish a flexible and decentralized funding structure for local and vulnerable communities to scale up adaptation planning and practices; • Political will, local institutional set-up (or local ownership) and financial commitment among countries is crucial to ensuring successful coordinated action to reduce the vulnerability of transboundary resources.
How to facilitate linkages between national and local adaptation planning?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs), so as to strengthen the capacity of public institutions and facilitate coordination between different governance levels; • Recognize and leverage networks and partnerships that already exist in cities and countries, and between countries; • Enhance the knowledge of local communities, including through the transfer of national financial resources; • Strengthen national and local institutional frameworks so as to catalyse transformational change and help replicate good practices; • Increase local technical capacity to analyse risks and plan for effective adaptation; • Integrate climate change adaptation considerations into the sectoral and development planning processes of local bodies and governments.

Case study 1 - Nepal Climate Change Support Programme

Undertaken by the Government of Nepal, the programme facilitated the development of 100 local adaptation plans of action (LAPAs) in 14 districts of Nepal. Once approved by the National Planning Commission, the LAPAs were transformed into annual workplans which address local priorities in the fields of agriculture, livestock and food security, forest management and biodiversity, alternative energy, climate-induced hazards and physical infrastructure, human resources, livelihood and capacity-building, and human health.

Case study 2 - Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE)

The Government of the United States of America provides funding and technical assistance to 18 state and city health departments to develop and implement health adaptation plans that address gaps in critical public health functions and services. The BRACE framework has been used to identify the likely climate impacts in the respective communities, the potential health effects associated with those impacts, and the populations and locations most at risk. The BRACE framework has a built-in evaluation process with a full-time evaluation fellow. The framework is designed to be an iterative process, including a specific step to evaluate impacts and improve the quality of activities.

Strengthening monitoring and evaluation

How to create robust indicators?

- Indicators should be measurable and clearly linked to available or acquirable data sets, as well as to climate change exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity;
- Stakeholder consultation is critical;
- Institutional coordination is essential to ensure that indicators capture cross-sectoral activities.

How to achieve an effective evaluation of climate impacts?

- Collect reliable relevant baseline information;
- Track planned and implemented resilience-building activities against the defined indicators and the occurrence of a climate-/weather-related extreme event, following which the effectiveness of the interventions can be assessed;
- Track the dynamic qualities of resilience inherent to ecological systems and that enable auto-adaptation, such as connectivity, integrity of the disturbance regime and habitat heterogeneity.

How to set up an effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism?

- Combine both traditional reference-state M&E systems;
- Ensure that adequate resources are dedicated to M&E, and that the M&E mechanism is established from the start of the planning process.

Fostering systematic knowledge management

Systematic learning and knowledge management is needed to link the lessons learned from projects at the local level to the national and international levels, and to convey appropriate information on adaptation priorities.

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS FOR ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE SUPPORT

Making knowledge more relevant and accessible

- Reaching out to practitioners through:
 - * Carefully designed activities and knowledge products;
 - * Regional learning workshops and forums that facilitate a South–South learning exchange;
 - * Regional and global adaptation knowledge management initiatives to share knowledge and experiences, learning and collaboration;
- Supplementing the co-production of knowledge (i.e. scientific, local and traditional knowledge) with effective training, ongoing learning and communication of results and outcomes of adaptation projects and practices to the knowledge holders;
- Establishing a regular review of the knowledge base for adaptation planning and action, in the light of new knowledge and unexpected events, as well as changes in institutional arrangements, sociopolitical contexts and capacity at different levels.

Addressing critical knowledge gaps

- Specific guidance, measures and mechanisms are needed to link local experiences with national priority-setting exercises under the process to formulate and implement NAPs;
- Disaggregated measures of effectiveness to demonstrate the impact on reducing the vulnerability of different groups, sectors and locations, should be investigated;
- An understanding of the time required to obtain positive results in relation to the adaptation goals of different adaptation approaches should be developed;
- The information required for assessing the replicability of adaptation approaches, such as the resources required, and more detailed information on the scale of the intervention and how this relates to the scale of the impacts should be investigated in order to ensure effective adaptation planning and practices.

For further information, the [Adaptation knowledge portal](#) provides access to:

- Documents [FCCC/SBSTA/2015/4](#) and [FCCC/SBSTA/2014/4](#);
- Detailed [case studies](#) on adaptation planning;
- Further information on [tools and methods](#) for adaptation planning;
- [Additional knowledge resources](#).