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National communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

**Integration of information contained in national adaptation programmes of
action into second and subsequent national communications**

**Note by the Chair of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications
from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention***

Summary

The report provides elements for consideration in the integration of information contained in national adaptation programmes of action into second and subsequent national communications as requested by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its twenty-third session.

* This document was submitted after the due date as a result of the timing of the meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts and the need for further consultations.

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. INTRODUCTION	1–4	3
A. Mandate	1–2	3
B. Scope of the note	3	3
C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation..	4	3
II. INTEGRATION OF INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMMES OF ACTION INTO NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS	5–12	3
A. The importance of integrating information from national adaptation programmes of action into national communications	6–9	3
B. Considerations in integrating information into second and subsequent national communications	10–11	5
C. Recommendations	12	6

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) (decision 17/CP.8, annex, para. 36) provided for the reporting of programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change. The guidelines encouraged Parties, where relevant, to report on the use of policy frameworks such as national adaptation programmes (e.g. national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs)), plans and policies for developing and implementing adaptation strategies and measures.

2. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its twenty-third session, requested the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), in collaboration with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), to advise Parties on how to integrate information contained in NAPAs into second and subsequent national communications (FCCC/SBI/2005/23, para. 26). At SBI 24, the LEG reported on its work programme for 2006–2007, which included cooperation with the CGE in integrating NAPAs into national communications (FCCC/SBI/2006/9, annex I).

B. Scope of the note

3. This document contains elements that may need to be considered in the process of integrating information contained in NAPAs into second and subsequent national communications, and the possible challenges and opportunities in the integration process.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

4. The SBI may wish to consider inviting least developed country (LDC) Parties to consider building on the information they have provided in their NAPAs in their preparation of the second national communications, taking into account the elements contained in this document.

II. Integration of information from national adaptation programmes of action into national communications

5. This report has been prepared in collaboration with the LEG, as mandated by the SBI and as part of ongoing collaboration between the CGE and the LEG. At SBI 25, the Chairs of the CGE and the LEG met to discuss the arrangements and time frame for the preparation of this report. They agreed that a draft report, prepared for consideration by the SBI at its twenty-seventh session, would be circulated to the groups in August 2008. The LEG reviewed the draft report at its twelfth meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, and provided its comments for consideration by the CGE at its ninth meeting held in Cairo, Egypt.

A. The importance of integrating information from national adaptation programmes of action into national communications

6. The CGE noted that it is important for the information in NAPAs to be integrated into the second national communications, because NAPAs have several features in common with national communications, including in the areas of vulnerability to climate impacts and adaptation. For example:

- (a) The NAPA methodology is innovative and NAPAs contain elements which may assist Parties in the preparation of the vulnerability and adaptation (V&A) chapter of their second national communications;

- (b) NAPAs are intended to communicate priority activities and identify the urgent and immediate needs and concerns of LDCs relating to adaptation to the adverse effects of climate variability and extreme events. The priority activities are based on the premise that LDCs need urgent support to start adapting to the current and projected impacts of climate variability and extreme events because of their low adaptive capacity, and that these activities may not change over time;
- (c) The preparation of the second national communications and the project preparation process in NAPAs both include a stocktaking exercise. Among other provisions, the guidelines for the preparation of NAPAs¹ emphasize the need for sustainable development and for a participatory process that involves various stakeholders. The guidelines also provide for the synthesis of available information on the adverse effects of climate change and on coping strategies, and the conduct of a participatory assessment of vulnerability to current climate variability and extreme weather events;
- (d) The processes of establishing a team of experts and of consulting various stakeholders are being implemented in both national communications and NAPAs. LDC Parties may wish to include in their second national communications information on the process of establishing such teams of experts and engaging sectoral and community stakeholders;
- (e) The NAPA methodology uses a bottom-up approach for assessing vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and variability, as well as analysing future scenarios of climate change. This approach and its outcomes could be used in preparing the second national communications;
- (f) NAPAs analyse the impacts of climate change on livelihoods and society;
- (g) NAPAs contain a list of priority activities and key elements of a national adaptation strategy.

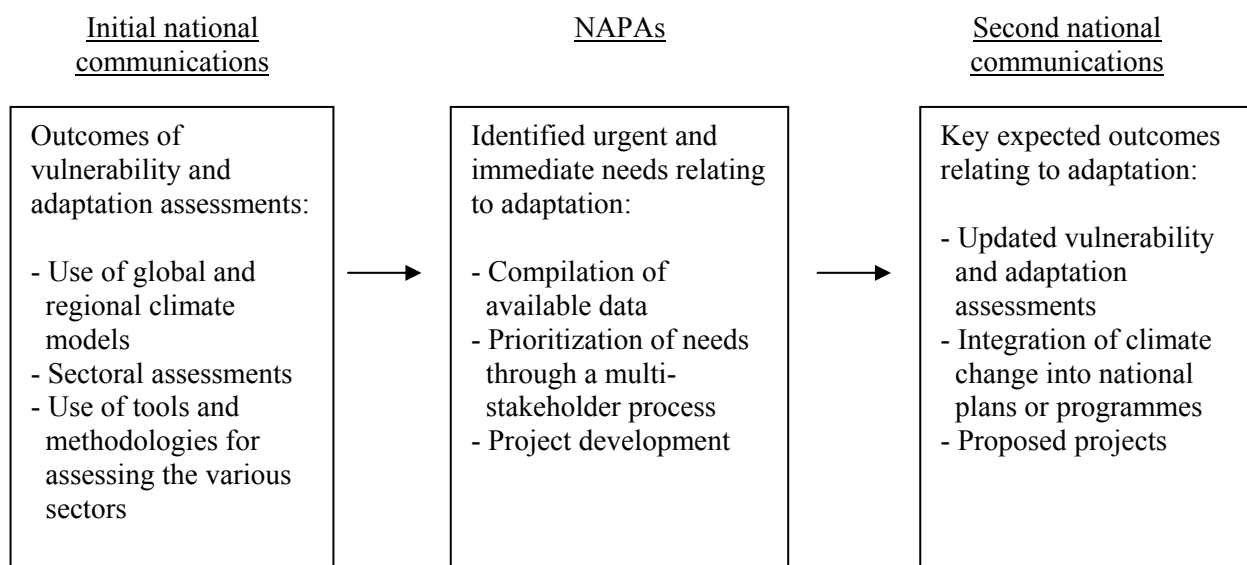
7. It should be noted that the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change contains updated information on the level of vulnerability. This may require that the information provided in the NAPAs be updated and that this information be considered in the second national communications.

8. As at September 2007, 43 LDC Parties had submitted their initial national communications, and of these, 22 have completed their NAPAs. Most countries that have completed their NAPAs are now preparing their second national communications. In most LDCs, the outcomes of the initial national communications, particularly on V&A assessments, served as useful inputs into the preparation of NAPAs. Recognizing the important contribution of the NAPA framework in the preparation of second and subsequent national communications, the Conference of the Parties, by its decision 17/CP.8, provided for possible inclusion of this framework under the section on programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change.

9. The link between the initial and second national communications and NAPAs provides a unique opportunity for LDC Parties to tackle climate change issues in a coherent, logical and progressive manner (figure 1).

¹ Decision 28/CP.7, annex.

Figure 1. Links between the national communications and national adaptation programmes of action

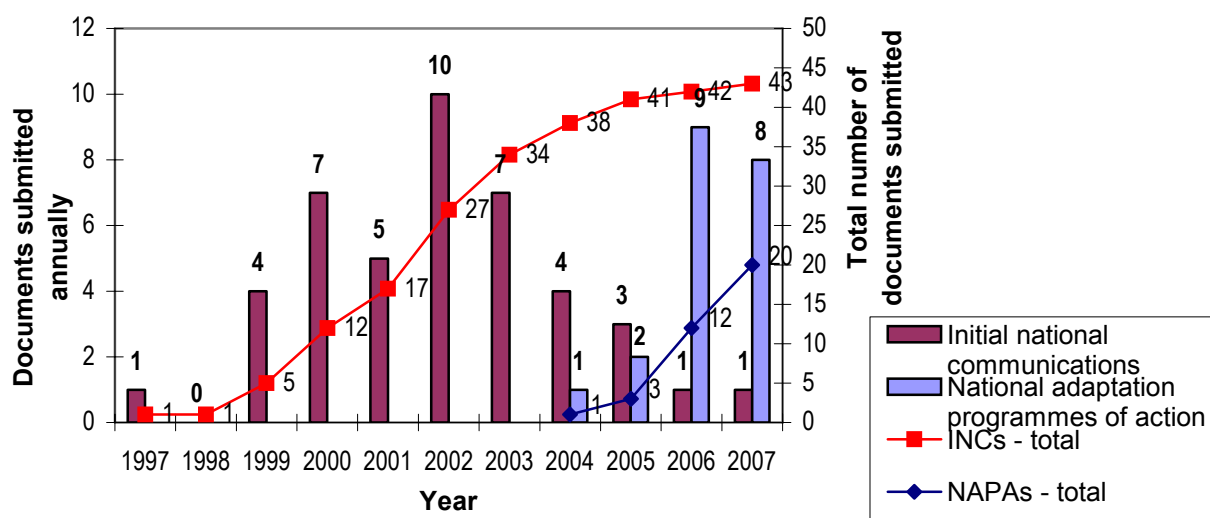


B. Considerations in integrating information into second and subsequent national communications

10. It should be noted that the second national communications target a wider range of issues in general, and in the area of adaptation in particular. While NAPAs address immediate adaptation needs (vulnerability in the short term), the second national communications cover both short-term and long-term assessments of a country’s vulnerability.

11. Countries that have submitted their initial national communications before starting work on their NAPAs may include the information contained in the initial national communications in their NAPAs (figure 2). However, LDC Parties that have completed their NAPAs may be able to integrate the information contained in NAPAs into their second national communications.

Figure 2. Status of submissions of national communications and national adaptation programmes of action



C. Recommendations

12. NAPAs should be used as a part of the analysis of the V&A section of the second national communications, as well as other relevant areas such as national circumstances and the cross-cutting themes, particularly on stakeholder consultations and public awareness. The CGE, therefore, makes the following recommendations:

- (a) LDC Parties that have prepared NAPAs may build on the information contained in NAPAs to prepare the second national communication. The complementarity between national communications and NAPAs would strengthen coordination between the two, and allow for a continuous flow of information on V&A;
- (b) LDC Parties should involve experts that are working on both NAPAs and national communications to ensure consistency of information reported, and to strengthen the capacity of national experts to assess and develop adaptation strategies;
- (c) LDC Parties should make use of the data generated during the process of preparing NAPAs, particularly the link between climate change and economic development, as inputs into national communications. The rationale underlying both processes is to address climate change issues while contributing to improving socio-economic conditions, particularly in LDCs;
- (d) LDC Parties may take into account the varying stages in the preparation of national communications and NAPAs in the process of integration of information. The possibilities for LDC Parties to integrate information from NAPAs into the second national communications will depend on how these two processes are performed over time;
- (e) Parties may consider building institutions at the national and regional levels to strengthen the national communications and NAPA processes and to facilitate the formulation, and consequently to respond to any adaptation activities. The CGE noted that, apart from the NAPA team, new committees, sub-committees and task forces are formed to ensure that the national communication process is transparent and involves a wide range of stakeholders;
- (f) LDC Parties may wish to highlight the implementation of measures identified in national communications and NAPAs to make the processes relevant at the national level;
- (g) Parties may integrate measures identified in national communications and NAPAs into national development programmes and plans to ensure sustainability.
