



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Submission to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) on information about the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action including on accessing funds from the Least Developed Countries fund, requested for Under Decision 5/CP.14 (4)

Geneva, August 2010

1.0 NAPA PREPARATION PROCESS

1. Since 1997, UNITAR is supporting developing countries to effectively participate in the implementation of the UNFCCC decisions, primarily by supporting the development of human capacity within these countries by planning and organizing training workshops, and by implementing climate change projects.
2. Supporting countries to formulate their National Adaptation Programmes of Action is another example of how UNITAR supported countries to engage in the UNFCCC Process. In 2003, UNITAR implemented a GEF/UNDP project (UNDP/GLO/03/G35) aimed at building institutional capacity and technical aid for climate focal points in 44 LDCs, for NAPA preparation. Four regional workshops were organized in Asia (Thimphu), the Pacific Islands (Samoa), and Anglophone Africa (Addis Ababa). The fourth a Francophone Africa (Ouagadougou) and the fourth were made possible with further support from the GEF (UNDP GLO/03/G37). The training materials used during these workshops built upon the Annotated guidelines for preparing NAPAs, developed by the LDC Expert Group (LEG), established by the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) and comprised of climate adaptation experts. The LEG members were actively involved in these workshops, acting as resource persons and working with government representatives to improve the NAPA process and quality.
3. Participants to these four regional workshops developed and used analytical skills to assess climate risk information and also learnt how to evaluate various adaptation options. The analytical work was carried out in collaboration with national experts, resource persons, implementing agencies and country team members. These trained persons were a valuable resource, providing regular support to NAPA country teams as they prepared their county profiles.
4. Furthermore, UNITAR, GEF Implementing Agencies, and UNITAR's Southern partners continued to provide online support and targeted assistance to the NAPA country teams from Anglophone and Lusophone African LDCs (Angola, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia). This support included providing access to NAPA relevant information and data, and regular technical follow-up with the teams using a question and answer forum in order to address the problems or issues faced by NAPA teams.
5. UNITAR further implemented a number of measures to ameliorate the progress of the country teams. In countries where internet access was effective, an online NAPA platform was set up and served as a support mechanism to enable country team's benefit from expert advice. Since 2005, UNITAR has been using an on-line website (<http://www.napa-pana.org/>) and an interactive NAPA Database (available via the website) to facilitate the sharing of information and communication between NAPA country teams, and implementation and funding agencies, as well as technical experts. Some of the important resources that could be found on the website included;
 - **NAPA Resources** / library sections containing lists of websites, publications with summaries and other tools that may be of use to NAPA. It also included key IPCC relevant chapters and other related adaptation publications.
 - A **NAPA Document Database** comprised of NAPA country team documents, NAPA guidance documents, risks assessment and adaptation resources, as well as contact information for NAPA experts and platform users;

- **Briefing Notes** published on the website and sent out to all of the NAPA users (a briefing note was published in August 2007 outlining NAPA country team progress, upcoming and recent events, and updates on the NAPA website); and
- **NAPA Project Profiles** (Outputs of NAPA Step 8), which can be searched by thematic area, making the distribution of information to other NAPA users, implementing and funding agencies more efficient and effective.

2.0 PARTNERS

6. The activities of the UNITAR Climate Change Programme to support NAPA preparation were made possible following grant contributions from the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark, the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (SIDS LDCs), the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Francophone Africa LDCs) and the UK Department of International Development (Asian LDCs)
7. Between November 2006 and January 2007, UNITAR finalized two documents entitled “Technical Support for Step 2 of the NAPA Process” and “NAPA Step 8 Project Profiles: Suggestions to Formulate their Content” an outcome from the lessons learned and gaps identified during the Nairobi workshop and also from comments made by potential donors for NAPA projects. These documents were finalized with the technical expertise of the Stockholm Environment Institute (Oxford) and ENDA-TM. UNEP and UNDP–GEF.
8. Southern partners included: The Miombo Network, the Least Developed Country Environment Center (LEC) based in Kampala, and ENDA-TM.
9. Northern partners included – SEI Oxford together with MudSprings Geographers, who provided scientific support on a regular basis.

3.0 EVALUATION OF THE PROCESS

10. Most LDCs have now completed or are in the final stages of completing their NAPA documents. Technical support and capacity building to date have focused on NAPA preparation, and in particular to refine methods and approaches at the beginning of the process, to obtain better scientific analysis of the situation and at the end of the process to provide solid information to facilitate the analysis of project profiles that could be funded in the next phase of the process. One well known principle is that training requires time and should be done continuously. The training offered over a few days to get acquainted with new tools was attractive to most participants (this activity was rated with 70 to 100 % satisfaction by all the trainees). It was clear however that this kind of training needs a much longer time frame and in country work to obtain a sufficient level of results.

4.0 Next steps 2010 and beyond

11. As many of the LDC and SIDS countries complete the formulation of their NAPA documents, that list their priority adaptation projects, and these countries move towards implementation, UNITAR ‘s climate Change Programme will continue as before to provide capacity development to LDC and SIDS countries as they move to

project implementation. In preparation for this phase UNITAR continues to work with other partner Agencies such as the UNFCCC secretariat and IFAD towards preparing countries for NAPA implementation. In 2008 two capacity building workshops were organized for staff of IFAD under the CLIMTRAIN initiative. Staff of IFAD was made aware of the main features relevant to the climate change discussions so as to then integrate actions on climate change into IFAD's operations.

12. UNITAR also commits to continue supporting the activities of the UNFCCC and in particular the LDC Work Programme and the work of the LEG, by participating in the LEG meetings and workshops with the intention of sharing the experiences from capacity building support and providing technical expertise, in efforts to ensure support to LDCs to adapt to climate change.
13. In 2010 UNITAR plans to organize a NAPA implementation workshop together with the UNFCCC Secretariat, for LDC and SIDS countries ready for NAPA implementation. The focus of the workshop will be on planning and implementation of adaptation projects. This planned initiative is supported by the Danish government who have generously made available funds for this workshop.
14. In parallel the UNITAR Climate Change Programme is the team leader of the EU Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) an initiative that seeks to support LDC and SIDS countries to address climate change through dialogue and exchange of experiences, and also by providing technical and financial support to targeted countries. UNITAR intends to support the NAPA implementation process using the platform the GCCA provides.
15. Finally the lessons learned and the knowledge resulting from the *project Advancing capacity to support Climate change Adaptation (ACCCA)* are an important resource available to share with the adaptation community, specifically on risk communication methods, engaging policy-makers and local actors, implementing adaptation projects, gathering baseline knowledge. The ACCCA project brought together scientists, researchers, local communities and government officials from 19 Pilot actions located in Asia and Africa, to engage in activities that, enhance knowledge and raise awareness about climate change adaptation, build capacity to address threats from climate change and finally list adaptations options that can mitigate the climate change risks.