

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

---

## Strengthening capacity and resources of LDCs to reduce vulnerability to climate change under the UNFCCC

Paul V. Desanker, UNFCCC Secretariat  
New York, USA, 28. February 2011



**Desanker**  
LDC Pre-Conference Event 28 Feb 2011

### LDCs UNDER THE UNFCCC

---

**March 1994** -The UNFCCC entered into force and recognizes LDCs in Article 4, paragraph 9 which states that:

*"The Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology".*

**1997** – COP initiates implementation of Article 4, paragraph 9 of the Convention

**2000** – Resolution 2/CP.6 taken as input to the Third UN Conference on LDCs held in Brussels

**2001** – at COP 7 a package of Decisions is adopted for LDCs, including a special work programme, a dedicated Fund and a least developed expert group (LEG) to support LDCs.



### LDC WORK PROGRAMME

**LDC work programme** = acknowledgement of specific needs and special situations of LDCs as least capable of dealing with the adverse effects of climate change. Supported through the LDCF and through contributions from Annex II Parties.

**Six elements:**

1. Supporting the **preparation and implementation of NAPAs**;
2. Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing, **national climate change secretariats and/or focal points** to enable the effective implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol in the LDC Parties;
3. Providing ongoing **training in negotiating skills and language**, where needed, to develop the capacity of negotiators from the LDCs to participate effectively in the climate change process;
4. **Promotion of public awareness programmes** to ensure the dissemination of information on climate change issues;
5. **Development and transfer of technology**, particularly adaptation technology;
6. Strengthening the **capacity of meteorological and hydrological services** to collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support the implementation of NAPAs.



### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LDC WORK PROGRAMME

The LDC work programme under the UNFCCC is now entering its second decade with the six elements of the programme at various stages of implementation.

Among the six elements of the LDC work programme support for the preparation and implementation of NAPAs received most attention. In most LDCs, the focus in NAPAs has now moved from the preparation of the programme to its implementation.

Other elements that have been implemented partially through the UN-system are training in negotiation skills and language, public awareness and strengthening of meteorological and hydrological services.



STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NAPAS

---

**Funding available in the Least Developed Countries Fund**

As at November 2010, **donors had pledged \$ 313 million** to the LDCF

As at November 2010, cumulative net funding allocated, committed or disbursed by the GEF Council and CEO amounted \$ 154 million.

Each country has on average, USD 10 million available for projects, given the current status of funding in the fund



Pioneering Activities in Priority Sectors and Areas of Intervention

---

**Food Security and Agriculture** → drought tolerant fodder systems, seed banks, drought resistant crop

**Water Resources Management** → rainwater harvesting, micro surface and ground water treatment facilities, underground screens to prevent groundwater seepage

**Disaster Risk Management** → Integrated disaster risk management strategies, glacial lake outburst floods hazard zonation

**Community Based Adaptation** → forest management, mangrove restoration, alternative livelihoods, strengthened animal health delivery systems

**Natural Resources Management** → efficient wood management, ecotourism, fishing around mangroves, renewable energy use

**Health** → climate change challenges incorporated into HIV/AIDS programs, use of medicinal plants to treat diseases

**Infrastructure** → critical infrastructure (e.g. rain harvesting reservoirs), heavy infrastructure (e.g. heavy walls)

---



### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NAPAS

---

#### Status of implementation of NAPA/LDCF projects

The GEF reported that as at 15 October 2010:

- **38 countries had officially submitted one or more NAPA projects to the GEF.**
- **19 projects CEO endorsed:** Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Liberia, Maldives, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sudan, Tuvalu and Zambia
- at least 4 projects in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Malawi expected to have been endorsed by the CEO of the GEF before the end of 2010.



### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NAPAS

---

#### Status of implementation of NAPA/LDCF projects (end)

- 19 project identification forms (PIFs) pending approval : Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Gambia, Haiti, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu and Yemen, and five PIFs from Central African Republic, Haiti, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands and Togo are pending clearance by the CEO and approval by the GEF Council.



### LEG MAJOR PAST ACTIVITIES (1/6)

---

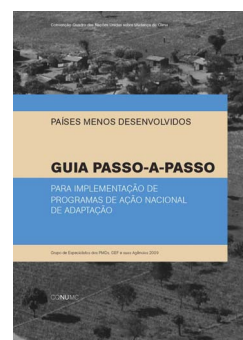
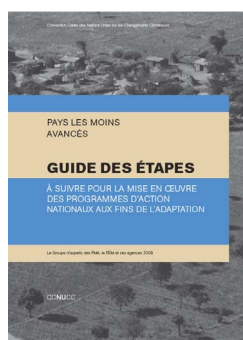
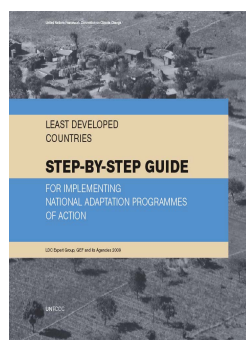
#### Development of methods and tools for the preparation and implementation of NAPAs

- **Technical papers:** synthesis of available information for the preparation of NAPAs; synergy among multilateral environmental agreements and regional synergy; elements for implementation strategies; overview of preparation; design of implementation strategies and submission of revised project lists and profiles.
- **Publications:** the NAPA Primer, a selection of examples and exercises drawn from regional NAPA preparation workshops, a brochure on LDCs under the UNFCCC, an information on support needed to fully implement NAPAs
- **Step-by-step guide for implementing NAPAs** in English, French and Portuguese & NAPA Source Kit CD-ROM
- **Database** on submitted NAPAs, NAPA priority project profiles, and projects under implementation, available through the LDC Portal on the UNFCCC website;
- **A list of Frequently asked questions** about LDCs, the LEG and NAPAs



### STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR IMPLEMENTING NAPA IN ENGLISH, FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE

---



### LEG MAJOR PAST ACTIVITIES (4/6)

---

#### Monitoring preparation and implementation of NAPAs

through the provision of the following updates at each SBI session :

- **Feedback from countries on their experiences in preparing and implementing theirs NAPAs**
- **Number of completed NAPAs and number of NAPAs still under preparation**
- **Number of countries that initiated process of accessing funds from the LDCF**
- **Number of countries that had started actual implementation of their NAPA projects**
- **Analysis of the sectors covered in the NAPA projects**



### RECENT DEVELOPMENT RELEVANT TO LDCs UNDER THE UNFCCC (1/3)

---

**COP 16 in Cancun: extension of the mandate of the LEG for five years (2011-2015).** Now, LEG will also provide technical guidance and advice on the following:

- Revision and update of NAPAs to further improve their quality, to facilitate the integration of adaptation actions of LDC Parties into development planning and to reflect increased adaptation knowledge and changed priorities in the countries, upon request by LDC Parties;
- Identification of medium- and long-term adaptation needs, their integration into development planning and the implementation of identified adaptation activities;
- Strengthening gender-related considerations and considerations regarding vulnerable communities within LDCs;
- Implementation of the elements of the LDC work programme other than the preparation and implementation of NAPAs that are relevant to the expertise of the LEG.



RECENT DEVELOPMENT RELEVANT TO LDCs UNDER THE UNFCCC (2/3)

**COP 16 in Cancun: LDCs to be supported to address their medium- and long-term adaptation needs**



**Building on experiences gained from the NAPA process**



**Formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans**



RECENT DEVELOPMENT RELEVANT TO LDCs UNDER THE UNFCCC (3/3)

**Several other important developments for LDCs coming out of Cancun :**

***The Green Climate Fund with representation of LDCs and SIDs on its Board;***

***A work programme on loss and damage;***

***A Technology Executive Committee;***

***An Adaptation Committee; the acknowledgement of the need for further support to LDCs for research and systematic observation.***

