
**Second Meeting of the Adaptation Committee
Bonn, Germany, 5–8 March 2013**

Draft information note

**For a database or clearinghouse-type mechanism for information related to
national adaptation planning**

INTRODUCTION

Scope of the paper

The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 94(d), decided that the AC should, as part of the modalities, in exercising its functions, make use of channels for sharing information, knowledge and expertise. Subsequent to this, the AC included as part of its activities under its three-year workplan an activity to establish a database or clearing house type mechanism for information related to national adaptation planning.¹

In a related effort, the LDC Expert Group (LEG), is updating and expanding the LDC Portal, among other things, through the development of a NAP common information system (NAP CIS²).³ The approach in the development of the NAP CIS is guided by existing mandates of the COP on capturing and sharing of information on adaptation to support the NAP process, and on relevant activities from the LEG and the AC.

To provide a basis for the AC to discuss the establishment of a database or clearing house type mechanism for information related to national adaptation planning at its second meeting, this information note provides an update on the development of a NAP CIS by the LEG, including examples of information systems by relevant organizations.

Relevant mandates

In establishing the Cancún Adaptation Framework, the COP decided that all Parties should use existing channels to provide information, as appropriate, on support provided and received for adaptation actions in developing countries and on activities undertaken, including, inter alia, progress made, experiences, lessons learned, and challenges and gaps in the delivery of support, with a view to ensuring transparency and accountability and encouraging best practices.⁴

By its decision 5/CP.17, the COP requested the secretariat, consistent with Article 8 of the Convention, to collect, compile and synthesize information needed by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to monitor and evaluate the progress made on the NAP process, drawing upon respective information from Parties, the LEG, the AC, other relevant bodies under the Convention, United Nations (UN) organizations, multilateral, intergovernmental and other international and regional organizations.⁵ The COP also requested the secretariat to utilize and enhance existing databases, to include information on support and other activities under the national adaptation plan process, as appropriate.⁶

Under its current mandate and work programme, the LEG is enhancing the *LDC Portal*⁷ to serve as the main knowledge base for information on the work on NAPAs and other elements of the least developed countries (LDC) work programme. Furthermore, in supporting the NAP process, the LEG is developing the

¹ FCCC/SB/2012/3, annex II, activity 12.

² NAP CIS is used as an abbreviation in this note, and not an acronym of the system.

³ FCCC/SBI/2012/27, paragraphs 35 and 36.

⁴ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 33.

⁵ Decision 5/CP.17, paragraphs 32-36.

⁶ Decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 38.

⁷ <[http://unfccc/int/ldc](http://unfccc.int/ldc)>.

NAP CIS that will bring together all relevant information on adaptation in support of the NAP process, covering inputs from as many stakeholders as possible. The NAP CIS is described in more detail below.

THE NAP COMMON INFORMATION SYSTEM

Background

At its last meeting in September 2012, the LEG discussed the different components of the enhancement to the LDC Portal, as follows:⁸

- An online collaboration platform for the LEG, the LDCs and relevant organizations, agencies and regional centres to share information, experiences and best practices and lessons learned on NAPAs, the NAP process, the LDC work programme and the work of the LEG;
- A NAPA information system to showcase information on NAPAs submitted to the secretariat, including revisions and updates, identified priorities, including by sectors and/or themes, projects being implemented under the LDCF and any other information from relevant partners on the implementation of NAPAs;
- A NAPA information system to showcase information on NAPAs submitted to the secretariat, including revisions and updates, identified priorities, including by sectors and/or themes, projects being implemented under the LDCF and any other information from relevant partners on the implementation of NAPAs;
- A NAP common information system to serve as a central hub for information on the NAP process to support COP considerations on NAPs, to show progress made by countries on their national processes, including a repository of relevant NAP documents, and to support the LDCs with links to relevant data, information and tools for the NAP process, to be populated with inputs from countries as well as from relevant organizations, regional centres and networks, and the research community. That would be realized through enhanced mobilization of those in a position to contribute data and information;
- A best practices and lessons learned platform as a central knowledge hub for sharing country experiences, case studies, and outreach materials, best practices and lessons learned in the LDCs in addressing adaptation through NAPAs, NAPs and the LDC work programme;
- A LEG platform that will serve as a user-friendly interactive interface for the compilation and dissemination of technical guides, tools, information and outputs of the LEG for easy access by the LDC Parties;
- An LDC monitor that will serve as an information system to support monitoring and evaluation of adaptation in the LDCs through NAPAs, NAPs and the LDC work programme.

At the same meeting, the LEG further refined the concept and requirements of the NAP common information system, which can serve as a global information hub for the NAP process. It would offer a gateway to the NAP technical guidelines, global and regional data and information that would be useful for the NAP process in countries, access to commonly used tools and models, and links to information sources from partnering agencies and organizations involved in supporting the NAP process. The LEG indicated that the common information system is motivated by lessons learned from the NAPA process, where multiple web sites offered information on NAPAs, but over time some sites were not updated, leading to less than optimal information being shared on NAPAs. The LEG hopes that this will reduce confusion among the LDCs and other stakeholders. As with the development of any information system, the LEG will pilot the system and collect feedback to further enhance its design, and will carefully assess its utility.⁹

Functionalities of the NAP common information system

The NAP CIS by the LEG is being designed to have the following capabilities and functions. These will be developed gradually over time and will be designed to have a user-friendly and graphic interface, offering a seamless browsing experience between different types of information. Information that is likely to change often, such as project information, will be streamed directly from original sources where possible.

⁸ FCCC/SBI/2012/27, paragraph 35.

⁹ FCCC/SBI/2012/27, paragraph 36.

Web interface / gateway

A web interface/gateway will provide an entry point to the system. It will provide a dynamic interface that allows users to navigate information by adaptation themes, countries or regions. It will be linked to a database engine/server where most information will reside. Every effort will be made to design the database to minimize duplication of effort and redundancies in the data. On the home page, users will be able to access services such as the following:

- Latest projects, submissions, or entries into the system;
- NAP partners' windows that show direct feeds from the stakeholders: e.g. UN agencies, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), regional centres, and others;
- NAP interactive window serving as a moderated blog-type platform between NAP stakeholders, offering answers to frequently asked questions, and an opportunity for limited online discussion;
- A hierarchical menu to access all components of the system, including links to thematic portals and a core database as described below.

Specific thematic portals

- Individual pages/mini sites/micro-portals on specific themes of the NAP process, such as:
 - Methods and tools for steps of the NAP process, such as vulnerability and risk assessment, decision support tools including economic appraisal, ranking and prioritization, training, public awareness, etc;
 - Support materials for the implementation of adaptation actions;
 - Support materials on monitoring and evaluation;
 - Compilation and syntheses of assessments by threats/risks, sectors and regions, where these exit, to promote regional collaboration and synergy.
- Experiences, best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation planning and implementing, using the materials in the recent LEG publications on best practices and lessons learned in LDCs as a starting point;
- Information on technical guidance and support by the LEG, the AC and other bodies established under the Convention relevant to adaptation planning and implementation;
- Links to relevant organizations, regional centres and networks that could support the NAP process in the developing countries.

Potential sources of information

Information for the NAP CIS will be extracted from a variety of sources and on-going efforts by bodies and programmes established under the Convention, including, but not limited to:

- Technical guidelines and other relevant information established under the process to support the NAP process;
- NAPA documents, NAPA projects submitted under the Least Developed Countries Fund,
- Publications and other outputs from the NAP processes in countries, including information compiled from formal progress reports submitted to the Convention;
- Information supplied by countries through surveys that the LEG conducts with LDCs during subsidiary body sessions and at other times;
- Links to relevant organizations, regional centres and networks;
- Links to other external sources such as the GEF projects database, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Data Distribution Centre, etc., designed to stream information to the NAP CIS automatically where possible, or through regular queries.

Core database

To support the NAP CIS, a database is being constructed to manage all data and information that will be displayed. The database would be directly searchable, and would serve the functions of a clearing house mechanism. The contents of the database will be managed to offer dynamic links to data, showing related content, and relevant information will be extracted from documents to provide examples of methods and tools, based on synthetic work undertaken by the LEG, NWP partners, and others.

Progress to date and plans

The NAP CIS is being designed as a prototype, with flexibility to expand and adjust the functions based on experience, feedback and support needs. A prototype version offering most of the key functions is under design and implementation by web developers in the secretariat, and it is anticipated that a live demo will be available for the June 2013 sessions during the LEG NAP event that is tentatively planned for 1-2 June 2013 just before SBI 38.

EXAMPLES OF EXISTING RELEVANT SYSTEMS

The NAP CIS will be built to complement existing systems and enhance complementarities by providing linkages. It will draw on the systems available on the secretariat website on adaptation, and consolidate and present in a coordinated manner all the information that is relevant for the NAP process. Examples of related websites/systems include:

- The LDC Portal: <<http://unfccc.int/ldc>>;
- LEG support to the NAP process: <<http://unfccc.int/nap>>;
- Database on Local Coping Strategies: <<http://maindb.unfccc.int/public/adaptation/>>;
- Nairobi work programme: <<http://unfccc.int/nwp>>.

The websites listed in the following table are being used as samples to guide in the technical design and implementation of the prototype:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Information type</i>	<i>Link</i>
a. European Climate Adaptation Platform (CLIMATE-ADAPT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expected climate change in Europe - Current and future vulnerability of regions and sectors - National and transnational adaptation strategies - Adaptation case studies and potential adaptation options - Tools that support adaptation planning 	http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/
b. Pacific Climate Change Science Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Past climate trends and variability and regional and national climate projections in the Pacific Island countries - Scientific assessments and publications 	http://www.cawcr.gov.au/projects/PCCSP/index.html
c. United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case studies on how other organisations are approaching and dealing with climate change adaptation in the UK - Information on current climate trends and on adaptation - Tools & methods for understanding current climate vulnerability and to plan for future climate change 	http://www.ukcip.org.uk/
d. United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate assessment reports of global climate change impacts in the United States - Annual reports to the Congress on recent achievements, near term plans, and progress in implementing long term goals 	http://globalchange.gov/
e. IPCC Data Distribution Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate, socio-economic and environmental data, from the past and scenarios projected into the future; - Technical guidelines on the selection and use of different types of data and scenarios in research and assessment 	http://www.ipcc-data.org/
f. WMO Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on past, present and future climate and its impacts on natural and human systems 	http://www.wmo.int/pages/gfcs/index_en.php
g. GEF Projects & Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Database of projects funded through the GEF on climate change, and other GEF focal areas; - Includes projects funded under the LDCF, SCCF and the GEF Trust Fund 	http://www.thegef.org/gef/gef_projects_funding

h. UNDP Adaptation Learning Mechanism	- Country led programmes and projects financed by the LDCF, SCCF, AF, bi-lateral donors and UNDP's Down to Earth: Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC) project.	http://www.undp.adaptationlearning.net/
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NEXT STEPS

The AC may wish to use information provided in this note on the work being carried out by the LEG to develop a NAP CIS in further developing its scoping efforts for the proposed database and a clearing house mechanism. For example, the AC may consider, among others, the following aspects for the establishment of the database and clearing house mechanism:

- (1) The scope and focus of the mechanism in accordance with its mandates;
 - (2) Technical approaches; and
 - (3) Modalities to collaborate with the LEG and other relevant organizations to build on their relevant work and activities.
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