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Submission by the NAP Global Network to the First Global Stocktake: Enhancing Gender-Responsive Adaptation Action

Mandate

Decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 19: “[The CMA] requested the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to issue a call for the inputs referred to in paragraphs 36 and 37 of the same decision, taking into account that such inputs should be submitted at least three months before their consideration in the technical assessment.”

The NAP Global Network, whose Secretariat is hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), appreciates the opportunity to provide its views and inputs for the first Global Stocktake.

This submission on gender-responsive adaptation action takes into consideration Decision 19/CMA.1,¹ the guiding questions prepared by the SB Chairs,² and the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement,³ in order to: (1) accentuate the importance of gender-responsive adaptation action by highlighting current trends and good practices, as well as challenges and barriers identified in NAP Global Network’s existing knowledge and experience; and (2) respond to the cross-cutting guiding questions, especially question 19 on “how is climate action respecting, promoting and considering Parties’ respective obligations [towards] ... gender equality [and the] empowerment of women...”

This submission is accompanied by a parallel submission on vertical and horizontal integration; monitoring, evaluation and learning of adaptation implementation; Ecosystem-based Adaptation; and strategic communications on adaptation; with gender being a cross-cutting theme.

Box 1: About the NAP Global Network

The NAP Global Network was created in 2014 to support developing countries in advancing their NAP processes, and help accelerate adaptation efforts around the world. To achieve this, the Network facilitates South–South peer learning and exchange, supports national-level action on NAP formulation and implementation, and generates, synthesizes, and shares knowledge. The Network’s members include individual participants from more than 155 countries involved in developing and implementing NAPs. Financial support for the Network has been provided by Austria, Canada, Germany, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The Secretariat is hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development. For more information, visit www.napglobalnetwork.org.

¹ <https://unfccc.int/documents/193408>

² https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Draft%20GST1_TA%20Guiding%20Questions.pdf

³ Articles 2, 7, and 14 of the Paris Agreement.

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DISCLAIMER

This submission is made without prejudice to further submissions from the NAP Global Network and the International Institute for Sustainable Development. The views and inputs stated in this submission do not necessarily reflect the views, inputs, policies or opinions of the NAP Global Network's and IISD's funders or network participants.

No liability is assumed for the accuracy or uses of the information provided. As a technical submission, the exact language used should not be understood to change or reinterpret anything contained in these relevant decisions referenced above. For purposes of clarity, in particular, the concise term "NAP process" is applied throughout the document instead of the phrase "process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans" contained in Decision 1/CP.16 and subsequent decisions. As contained in the decisions, the "NAP process" was established to enable least-developed country parties to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans, building upon their experience in preparing and implementing National Adaptation Programmes of Action. It is a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programs to address those needs. Please note that, by following this approach, this submission neither aims to reinterpret any existing decision under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change nor does it intend to preempt any potential future decisions on this issue.

Progress on Gender-Responsive Adaptation Planning

Responding to guiding question 7: What efforts are being undertaken to plan, implement and accelerate adaptation action towards achieving the goals defined in Articles 2.1 (b) and 7.1 of the Paris Agreement and with a view to recognizing the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties, what efforts have been undertaken by these Parties towards achieving these goals?

In Article 7.5 of the Paris Agreement, Parties acknowledged that adaptation action should follow a gender-responsive approach. Recognizing the importance of NAP processes in driving country adaptation efforts, the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) collaborated with the NAP Global Network to develop a [Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement NAPs](#). This toolkit comprises supplementary guidance to the technical guidance for NAPs developed by the LEG. In it, a gender-responsive approach to adaptation is defined as having three key elements:

- Recognizing gender differences in adaptation needs and capacities;
- Gender-equitable participation and influence in adaptation decision making; and
- Gender-equitable distribution of benefits resulting from adaptation investments, including finance.

The toolkit also highlights the need for an intersectional approach, recognizing that gender is only one of many factors – including age, disability, sexual orientation, and race – that influence people’s vulnerabilities to climate change and their capacities to adapt. It emphasizes that there are opportunities for gender-responsive approaches throughout the steps in the NAP process, as well as in the enabling activities, which include institutional arrangements, capacity development, stakeholder engagement, and mobilization of resources for implementing adaptation actions.

The NAP Global Network has been tracking progress on integration of gender considerations in NAP processes since 2018, resulting in a series of reports that provide a synthesis of progress at the global level. These reports draw on two main sources of information: 1) a systematic review of NAP documents submitted to the UNFCCC, and 2) information about different steps in the NAP process, captured through our engagement with countries and publicly available documents. More details on the approach can be found in the latest synthesis report, [Gender-responsive National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) Processes: Progress and promising examples NAP Global Network Synthesis Report, 2021–2022](#).

The systematic review of NAP documents submitted to the UNFCCC as of the end of 2021 illustrates progress in a number of areas, as described below.

Framing of gender issues: An increasing trend in the proportion of NAP documents which make reference to gender equality and gender-responsive approaches has been noted. More than half of the NAP documents submitted to the UNFCCC refer to the concept of gender equality, compared to a single document in the 2018 review. Almost one-third of the documents refer to gender-responsiveness, with the greatest increase since 2020, which coincides with the establishment of the enhanced Gender Action Plan (GAP) under the UNFCCC. As well, more NAP documents are including references to other concepts that may provide entry points for an intersectional approach to adaptation planning. For example, 71% of the reviewed documents include references to

concepts like inclusion, empowerment, human rights, and discrimination. Many documents also include references to vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, youth, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, and others from other socially marginalized groups.

Positioning of women: Though there are still a larger number of NAPs that position women as a particularly vulnerable group (approximately 75%), we are seeing an increasing number where the potential of women as agents of change in adaptation is recognized. Approximately half of all NAPs now recognize that the inclusion of women and the recognition of their lived experiences can strengthen the outcomes of adaptation planning processes.

Use of gender analysis to inform adaptation planning: Gender analysis is a tool increasingly being used by countries to inform their NAP processes and build in gender considerations into planning and decision making. Of the NAP documents reviewed for the latest synthesis report, 71% show some evidence that gender analysis either informed the framing of the document or pointed to the need to build gender considerations into the implementation of the NAP. With support from the NAP Global Network, 10 countries have completed targeted gender analyses to inform their NAP processes – these are available on the [NAP Global Network website](#), along with a [brief](#) that synthesizes lessons from the processes in 6 African countries.

Box 2: Gender analysis: Understanding the Role of Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviours in Advancing a Gender-Responsive NAP Process in Chad

In 2021, the Government of Chad, led by the Department of Environmental Education and the Fight against Climate Change, conducted a gender analysis to understand the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours of national actors related to the link between gender and adaptation and how these can inform recommendations for the NAP process.

The study engaged a range of climate change and gender actors from government and civil society representatives and that while some level of knowledge about the link between gender and climate change exists among the national actors surveyed, this knowledge is not uniform, and major gaps remain. The analysis highlighted attitudes against women that acted as significant barriers to the inclusion of women in decision making for adaptation.

Recommendation informed by the outcomes of the analysis included that the use more intersectional language on equality and human rights when speaking on gender is critical to getting relevant decision-makers and civil

society actors on board and that the engagement of civil society organizations working for gender equality in the NAP process, as well as the engagement of one or more gender experts to accompany the process is needed to ensure that a gender-responsive approach is adopted.

Further information: Connaissances, attitudes et comportements en lien avec le genre et les changements climatiques au Tchad: Pistes de réflexion pour éclairer le processus de plan national d'adaptation (PNA). (<https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/genre-et-les-changements-climatiques-au-tchad/>)

Consideration of gender in institutional arrangements for adaptation: The integration of gender ministries or departments into the institutional arrangements for NAPs is increasing, with a growing number of NAP documents including references to gender ministries or departments responsible for gender equality in their NAPs institutional arrangements. Countries are choosing to

integrate gender departments in coordination mechanisms responsible for the NAP process, as well as identifying them as responsible agencies for the implementation of specific adaptation actions or thematic work programs.

Capacity building on gender and climate change in the NAP Process: Nearly two thirds of the NAP documents submitted to the UNFCCC between 2020 and 2021 made reference to the need to build capacity on the intersections of gender and climate change. Prior to this, very few NAPs made reference to this challenge. Capacity building for ministries, line agencies, and departments responsible for NAPs as well as for women and marginalized groups were identified by countries in their NAPs.

Integration of gender considerations in adaptation M&E: The M&E systems are increasingly being seen by countries as an important entry point for the integration of gender considerations. Just under half of all NAPs submitted to the UNFCCC have indicated that their M&E systems will address gender issues. For example, countries have specified that their M&E systems will collect gender disaggregated data, contain indicators to track the participation of women in NAP processes, and assess the extent to which adaptation action address inequality and that the benefits from adaptation are equitable.

Box 3: Gender-Responsive M&E Systems: Integrating Gender Considerations in Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for Sector-Based Adaptation Actions in Suriname

Suriname's NAP includes a specific sector adaptation strategy and action plan (SASAP) for the water resources sector. The SASAP applies a gender lens to adaptation in the water resources sector, providing government actors and NAP stakeholders with a clear set of actions that can be taken and importantly, gender considerations are integrated into the monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework for the SASAP.

Included in the MEL framework are specific indicators on the gender balance in key decision-making structures and the collection of gender-disaggregated data on participants in climate change stakeholder institutions. Beyond these output-oriented indicators, the framework provides guidance on evaluating outcomes with consideration of gender issues, for example by comparing the reduction in time spent by people of different genders and ages to fetch drinking water in both "normal" times and during droughts and floods. The learning component explores questions related to the guiding principles for the NAP process, including related to how participation in decision making in the water resources sector can be increased for underrepresented and vulnerable groups

Further information: Sector adaptation strategy and action plan (SASAP) for water resources in Suriname. (<https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/sasap-for-water-resources-in-suriname/>)

Beyond the NAP documents, countries are making progress in integrating gender in the different steps and enabling activities of their NAP processes. Promising examples are presented throughout this submission. More details and additional examples can be found in the [latest synthesis report](#) and the [toolkit](#).

Referenced Resources

- Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). (<https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/toolkit-for-gender-responsive-national-adaptation-plans/>)
- Gender-Responsive National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Processes: Progress and promising examples - NAP Global Network Synthesis Report, 2021–2022. (<https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/gender-responsive-nap-processes-progress-promising-examples/>)
- Conducting Gender Analysis to Inform National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Processes: Reflections from six African countries. (<https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/conducting-gender-analysis-to-inform-nap-processes-reflections-from-six-african-countries/>)

Barriers and Challenges in Gender-Responsive Adaptation Planning

Responding to guiding question 10(b): What are the barriers and challenges, and how can they be overcome at national, regional and international levels?

There are a number of barriers and challenges that countries may encounter in their efforts to undertake gender-responsive NAP processes, as described below. Suggestions for how they can be overcome are provided in the following section.

Gaps in the evidence base: In many countries, the availability and/or accessibility of disaggregated data is limited, which can create challenges in undertaking gender analysis. Further, countries may lack information on gender and climate change linkages in their specific contexts or in climate-vulnerable sectors. Information and data to support intersectional approaches are a particular gap.

Discriminatory social and cultural norms: Social and cultural norms can negatively affect gender dynamics within institutions responsible for NAP processes, which can undermine efforts to incorporate gender-responsive approaches. These norms also influence who is able to participate in adaptation planning processes and whose voice is heard in decision making, making it more likely that people who are typically underrepresented will continue to be left out.

Institutional barriers: In some contexts, the ministries responsible for climate action and for gender equality have not traditionally worked together. In others, the framing of adaptation as a technical challenge may lead to the ministries responsible for gender and social issues not being included as core members of planning and coordination teams, meaning that important perspectives are left out.

Capacity gaps: Capacities for gender-responsive adaptation planning include technical knowledge of gender and adaptation issues, but also skills in gender analysis and facilitation of inclusive dialogue. These may not always be present within the teams leading NAP processes. At the same time, gender actors may not have the background in adaptation that they need to effectively engage in discussions about adaptation.

Process resources: The extent to which adaptation planning is gender-responsive is largely dependent on the process, in terms of which stakeholders have participated, how decision-making bodies are structured, what criteria have been used for prioritization, etc. Facilitating participatory and inclusive processes requires time, human resources, and funding, which are often in short supply when it comes to NAP processes.

Referenced Resources

- Towards Gender-Responsive NAP Processes: Progress and Recommendations for the Way Forward - Synthesis Report, 2017-18. (<https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/towards-gender-responsive-nap-processes-progress-recommendations-way-forward/>)
- Gender-Responsive Resilience Building in the Caribbean: Understanding the role of knowledge, attitudes, behaviours, and practices in coordination mechanisms for climate change and disaster risk reduction. (<https://www.iisd.org/publications/gender-responsive-resilience-building-caribbean>)

Enhancing Gender-Responsive Adaptation Action

Responding to guiding question 9: How can the implementation of adaptation action towards achieving the goals defined in Articles 2.1(b) and 7.1 of the Paris Agreement be enhanced, taking into account the adaptation communication referred to in paragraph 10 of the Paris Agreement?

To build on the progress that has been made to date, there are a number of areas that require further attention and investment to enhance gender-responsive adaptation action, as described below.

Mechanisms for inclusive stakeholder engagement: Stakeholder engagement is more than a consultation – it should be a sustained process that builds ownership of NAPs, facilitates implementation, and generates learning about adaptation. For NAP processes to be gender-responsive, stakeholder engagement must be gender-balanced and bring together a diversity of voices. This requires human and financial resources, as well as soft skills to facilitate inclusive dialogue among stakeholders.

Box 4: Visual Storytelling as a Tool for Amplifying Underrepresented Voices in the NAP Process in Ghana and Kenya

A pilot project initiated by the NAP Global Network and the non-profit social enterprise Lensational in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency in Ghana and the Climate Change Directorate within the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Kenya showcases a unique approach to elevating underrepresented voices in adaptation decision making.

This initiative had groups of women from underrepresented groups and communities in Ghana and Kenya receive training in photography and new approaches to storytelling that enabled them to capture the impacts of climate change on their lives and on their communities, as well as their visions of resilience. Policy dialogues held in March 2022 gave the trainees the opportunity to share their stories with national decision-makers, including the NAP teams within government and develop a shared understanding of the effects of climate change on women's lives and the adaptation priorities for their communities.

Further information: Elevating Women’s Voices in Climate Change Adaptation Through Visual Storytelling. (<https://napglobalnetwork.org/stories/elevating-womens-voices-in-climate-change-adaptation-through-visual-storytelling/>)

Capacity development for gender-responsive adaptation action: Ongoing, well-targeted investments in capacity development are needed, at multiple levels: within government teams coordinating NAP processes, within gender ministries, for civil society organizations working on gender and/or adaptation, and for grassroots actors. Capacity needs will differ as countries move from planning to implementation, however ‘soft’ skills will be important at every stage.

Application of gender analysis throughout implementation and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL): To ensure informed and evidence-based decision making, gender analysis must be applied throughout the NAP process, not only during the planning stages. This is essential to ensure that implementation of adaptation actions is gender-responsive, and that benefits are equitably distributed across genders and social groups. Gender expertise, data and information systems, and resources for participatory processes must be in place to facilitate gender analysis.

Vertical integration of adaptation: By strengthening the linkages between national and subnational adaptation decision making, countries can move toward a better understanding of context-specific gender issues that must be considered at different levels. Capacity building for subnational authorities and local organizations to facilitate inclusive decision-making processes and do gender analysis is essential to ensure that gender-differentiated priorities are articulated and communicated to the national level. At the same time, national-level policies and plans must create an enabling environment for gender-responsive action at subnational levels. Countries will need resources and support to ensure that these linkages are in place and functioning effectively.

Gender-responsive adaptation finance: As countries secure finance for the implementation of adaptation actions, there are opportunities to apply a gender-responsive approach at different decision points. Governments can undertake gender-responsive planning and budgeting for public sector spending on adaptation. International finance mechanisms demand that gender considerations be integrated in funding proposals; however, we need to ensure that these commitments carry through implementation and that adequate resources are allocated for gender expertise and capacity building for this to be effective. As well, more effort is needed to bring private sector actors into the conversation about gender and climate change, to ensure that women’s leadership is promoted and that investments yield gender-equitable benefits.

Integration of gender considerations in MEL systems for adaptation: As countries establish their MEL systems for adaptation, it will be important to ensure that gender issues are integrated, in an intersectional approach, from the outset. This will require attention to collection of disaggregated data, ensuring participatory approaches to MEL, and identifying metrics that track gender-differentiated impacts of adaptation investments as well as progress on gender-responsive processes.

Referenced Resources

- Gender-Responsive National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Processes: Progress and promising examples - NAP Global Network Synthesis Report, 2021–2022.

[\(https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/gender-responsive-nap-processes-progress-promising-examples/\)](https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/gender-responsive-nap-processes-progress-promising-examples/)

- Advancing Gender-Responsive Climate Action Through National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Processes - NAP Global Network Synthesis Report, 2019–2020. [\(https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/gender-responsive-nap-processes-synthesis-report-2019-2020/\)](https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/gender-responsive-nap-processes-synthesis-report-2019-2020/)
- Unpacking Gender-Responsive Adaptation Finance: Key issues and the way forward. [\(https://napglobalnetwork.org/2020/03/unpacking-gender-responsive-adaptation-finance-key-issues-and-the-way-forward/\)](https://napglobalnetwork.org/2020/03/unpacking-gender-responsive-adaptation-finance-key-issues-and-the-way-forward/)

Good Practices for Gender-Responsive Adaptation Action

Responding to guiding question 10(c): What are the opportunities, good practices, lessons learned and success stories?

The [gender toolkit](#) for NAP processes identifies a set of principles to be applied to guide integration of gender considerations throughout the steps and enabling activities of the NAP process. These principles represent good practices in relation to gender-responsive approaches to adaptation. They are presented below, along with practical examples of the principle being applied in country NAP processes.

Box 5: Entry Points, Principles, and Practice Examples to a Gender-Responsive NAP Process

Principle

Practice Example

Entry Point: Launching the NAP process

Commit to a gender-responsive NAP process

Peru’s Gender and Climate Change Action Plan, developed in 2014, guides actions of the different entities of the Peruvian State in order to face climate change and also contribute to the reduction of gender inequalities in the country. The Gender and Climate Change Action Plan was developed through a consultative process involving sector representatives, civil society organizations and representatives of women’s organizations, which has created strong ownership of the plan. It identifies actions in eight priority areas, including forests, water resources, health and disaster risk management, which have been identified as priorities for adaptation in Peru’s NDC. Collaboration between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations has demonstrated strong political will and created the conditions for the plan to be implemented. This has created a mandate for integration of gender in the NAP process, across sectors, levels and actors. The implementation of the plan is facilitated by training and tools to enable different actors to integrate gender in climate actions.

Entry Point: Stocktaking

Identify available information and knowledge to support integration of gender considerations in the NAP process

In the initial stages of its NAP process, Guinea prioritized a gender analysis to explore the information and opportunities available to support the integration of gender in adaptation planning and implementation. The analysis found that, in general, Guinean women are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to gender-based roles, barriers in accessing resources, social marginalization and weak participation in decision making, both in the household and beyond.

These issues—illustrated by the high occurrence of gender-based violence and female genital mutilation, low literacy rates among women and low representation in government—have significant implications for adaptation; however, there has been limited analysis to date of the gender dimensions of vulnerability to climate change. At the policy level, there are weak linkages between gender and climate change, though both are identified as pillars in the country’s vision for 2040. Despite these challenges, the report identifies a number of opportunities for Guinea to integrate gender into the NAP process as it advances, including through the establishment of functional linkages between the coordination mechanisms for climate change and gender, as well as building the capacities of gender and adaptation actors to better collaborate on integrated approaches.

Entry Point: Assessing climate vulnerabilities and identifying adaptation options

Analyze and address gender differences in adaptation needs and capacities

Madagascar completed a gender analysis in early 2019 to inform its NAP process. This included an analysis of the ways in which the impacts of climate change affect women and men differently. For example, female farmers tend to earn less money and have less access to financial services than their male counterparts, which constrains their options when their crops are affected by drought. To address this inequity, the report recommends that adaptation options for the agriculture sector include investment in microfinance and tailored insurance products for women, as well as the establishment of climate information services and training programs in ways that promote equitable access for women. Similar recommendations were made for other sectors, including water, biodiversity and coastal zones, providing Madagascar with a basis for identifying adaptation options in a gender-responsive manner

Entry Point: Reviewing and appraising adaptation options

Consider gender equality in prioritization of adaptation actions

Developed in 2015, Burkina Faso’s NAP makes an explicit link between vulnerability to climate change and gender inequality, highlighting the importance of gender-equitable participation in adaptation actions. The NAP was developed by a multidisciplinary team of experts that included women’s associations and civil society organizations. The resulting plan assesses the specific adaptation needs of women, in terms of access to decision-making forums and knowledge of adaptation practices. It identifies priority adaptation options that include building the capacity of women’s associations to implement adaptation actions, promotion of income-generating activities for women and actions to address water scarcity. In addition to these targeted options, the plan notes that gender is a cross-cutting issue that needs to be systematically considered across the implementation of all adaptation actions and that women and women’s organizations must be involved in adaptation decision making.

Entry Point: Compiling and communicating NAPs

Address gender considerations throughout NAPs

Fiji’s NAP document was finalized in 2018. It identifies a gender- and human rights-based approach as a value underpinning the plan, in line with the National Gender Policy and SDG 5. Gender is treated as a cross-cutting issue that is integrated throughout the plan. Stakeholders involved in plan development included actors representing low-income and otherwise disadvantaged groups, including women and gender experts. In line with a gender-responsive approach, the NAP aims to support efforts to ensure women’s full and effective participation in decision-making processes, equal opportunities for leadership, equitable rights to economic resources and financial services, as well as opportunities stemming

from adaptation planning. The plan highlights the importance of sex- and age-disaggregated data, gender analysis and gender-responsive budgeting, as well as the role of gender specialists and focal points, in operationalizing a gender- and human rights-based approach. Further, gender-responsiveness was applied as a criterion in the prioritization of adaptation actions to be included in the plan, leading to the identification of priorities such as mainstreaming of gender analysis into adaptation decision making.

Entry Point: Integrating climate change adaptation in development planning for sectors

Address climate change and gender as interrelated cross-cutting issues in sector planning

Uruguay is taking a sectoral approach to its NAP process; in 2016, the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, with support of the NAP-Ag program, began developing a NAP for the agricultural sectors. As part of this process, it was found that a lack of sex-disaggregated data in the sector represented a barrier to understanding the different issues relevant to men and women in response to climate change, as well as a barrier to establishing a baseline for monitoring progress on gender equality. In response, a study was conducted to investigate women's and men's perceptions of climate change and its role in adaptation decision making. This was meant to inform and offer recommendations for gender-responsive adaptation planning in the agricultural sector. The study recognized that undertaking gender analysis makes adaptation planning more robust. Recommendations included investments in the collection of sex-disaggregated data, especially as it pertains to household dynamics and generational perspectives; optimizing communication about adaptation programs for women; and incorporating gender perspectives into impact evaluations.

Chile is also developing sector-based adaptation plans in line with its 2014 NAP. As part of the process of developing these sectoral plans, the government has analyzed the gender implications and developed gender-related recommendations for each sector. For example, for the fishing and aquaculture sector, recommendations related to fishing include involving women in income-generating activities related to fisheries and developing targeted training for fishers, shellfish harvesters, fish processors and marketers on the gender dimensions of climate change adaptation. For aquaculture, an analysis of gender differences is needed to identify adaptation actions that promote equality between women and men. Similar recommendations have been identified for other sectors, including agriculture, forestry, biodiversity and tourism, providing a basis for integrating gender considerations in national-level adaptation plans across the sectors.

Entry Point: Integrating climate change adaptation in subnational development planning

Address locally specific gender and climate change issues in subnational planning

Research conducted by the Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions (ASSAR) project explored the gender dimensions of adaptation in the Bhavani basin in southern India, where water scarcity is a growing concern. The area has experienced a shift from subsistence, rain-fed agriculture to irrigated cultivation of cash crops. This has shifted control over water resources from communities to individuals, and now boreholes financed through credit are creating a cycle of chronic indebtedness to local money lenders. This has had negative impacts on women, who may be called on to provide domestic work and, in some cases, are sexually exploited as part of the repayment system. They may also be required to sell assets such as jewellery to service the debts. Men, on the other hand, are more likely to migrate for off-farm work, with differing implications for the women left behind: the research found that better-off women experienced increased

decision-making power, while poor women and those from marginalized groups suffered from increased work burdens and less support. These, among other findings, illustrate the complexity of gender issues at the local level and how they intersect with other factors such as caste and ethnicity to influence vulnerability to climate change. To be effective, efforts to integrate adaptation into subnational planning must also address these gender dynamics, recognizing that they change over time and as circumstances change.

Entry Point: Developing implementation strategies for adaptation

Develop gender-responsive and inclusive implementation strategies for adaptation actions

Ethiopia's Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission undertook a gender analysis to inform the implementation of its NAP. This analysis highlighted a number of gender differences in adaptation needs and capacities, and generated concrete recommendations for implementing adaptation actions in a gender-responsive manner. These recommendations have been integrated into the implementation roadmap for the NAP, which will guide the Commission and other actors in implementing adaptation actions between now and 2030. In the roadmap, the implementation strategies for each of the adaptation options and strategic priorities in the NAP include recommendations for addressing gender considerations. By ensuring that gender is integrated throughout this strategic document, Ethiopia is raising awareness of gender among all actors involved in NAP implementation and creating accountability for addressing gender issues across adaptation actions.

Entry Point: Monitoring the NAP process

Integrate gender in NAP M&E systems

In 2017, UN Women undertook a study on climate change interventions in Bangladesh to assess whether adaptation projects that incorporate gender considerations are more cost-effective in achieving adaptation. Based on an evaluation of three projects that addressed gender considerations to differing degrees (gender-transformative, gender-specific and gender-neutral), the study concluded that the gender-transformative project was most cost-effective in terms of increasing awareness of the adoption of resilient practices and increasing community capacities for adaptation. The purpose of the study was not necessarily to compare one intervention against another but instead to provide insights on how to M&E the gendered impacts of adaptation initiatives. The results demonstrate both the value of gender-responsive approaches and the importance of monitoring and evaluating gender equality results from adaptation investments. Further, the study was meant to inform and influence future adaptation actions in Bangladesh, in order to increase ambition on gender in adaptation policies and programs—including the NAP process.

Entry Point: Reviewing the NAP process

Review progress on gender equality and women's empowerment through the NAP process

In early 2018, the NAP Global Network brought 20 countries together at the Targeted Topics Forum to learn about gender-responsive NAP processes. Part of this involved a self-assessment process that facilitated reflection on progress in integrating gender considerations in their NAP processes and identifying concrete next steps they could take to improve gender-responsiveness going forward. Common themes among the next steps included: capacity development for NAP teams, gender actors and stakeholders in the NAP process; conducting a gender analysis to inform the NAP process; addressing gaps in institutional arrangements; and improving stakeholder involvement in the NAP process. The structured review

process enabled participating countries to find the most relevant and feasible entry points for addressing gender in their NAP processes.

Entry Point: Iteratively updating the NAPs

Increase ambition on gender-responsiveness in the NAP process over time

In 2014, Kiribati developed what is recognized as its NAP document, the Joint Implementation Plan on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (KJIP). The document consolidates its national and sectoral policies and identifies priority actions for climate change and disaster risk management from 2014 to 2023. In an effort to enhance the gender-responsiveness of the document, an analysis of the gender dimensions of the KJIP recommended that it focus more on the capacities of women as opposed to their vulnerabilities, strengthen the linkages between climate change adaptation and women's economic empowerment, and reinforce the role of Kiribati's Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport and Social Affairs in the NAP process. Kiribati has taken up these recommendations and more in their updated KJIP for 2019–2028. For example, the document integrates the gender dimensions of climate vulnerability, highlighting the intersection of gender with other socio-cultural characteristics such as race, disability and age. It emphasizes the importance of income generating activities and improved access to markets for women to enhance resilience, and highlights the role of women's organizations as key stakeholders in the NAP process. This update has served to more comprehensively integrate gender considerations into the country's NAP process, providing a strong basis for gender-responsive implementation of adaptation actions.

Entry Point: Outreach and reporting

Communicate progress and lessons learned on integrating gender considerations into the NAP process

As part of its reporting to the UNFCCC, the Republic of Albania released its Third National Communication on Climate Change in 2016, outlining the country's progress and lessons learned on its adaptation and mitigation efforts. The report devotes a chapter to Albania's ongoing work on mainstreaming gender in climate change adaptation and mitigation programs, noting its preliminary successes as well as next steps. In particular, the chapter highlights the Ministry of Environment's participation in gender working groups driven by other sectors, and how this participation can be built upon to drive future consultations and coordination on climate action. Following stakeholder consultations, the chapter also presents findings regarding barriers to gender mainstreaming. It identifies the lack of sex-disaggregated data as a key obstacle in integrating gender considerations into the NAP process but highlights that the collection and dissemination of this data, as well as the establishment of gender-sensitive indicators in the NAP's monitoring framework, should be prioritized moving forward.

* Additional information on the entry points, principles, and practice examples presented in Box 5 can be found in the [gender toolkit](#).

Box 6: Enabling Activities, Principles and Practice Examples to a Gender-Responsive NAP Process

Principle

Practice Example

Enabling Activity: Establishing institutional arrangements

Ensure that institutional mechanisms for the NAP process are gender-equitable, inclusive and include gender expertise

In 2019, the government of Côte d'Ivoire developed a decree for the creation of a National Commission on Climate Change, which is a multisectoral, multidisciplinary body that will oversee climate action in the country, including both adaptation and mitigation. Once endorsed, the Commission will provide a platform for consultation, analysis and discussion among actors engaged in climate action. It comprises three bodies: a higher-level steering committee, which includes the minister responsible for the promotion of women and families; a scientific and technical committee, which involves a representative of the national observatory for gender and equity; and an executive secretariat, where the gender and climate change focal point for the government sits. Ensuring that gender actors are involved in these key bodies will help to influence the framing of adaptation issues in the country and will support the integration of gender considerations in Côte d'Ivoire's NAP process as it moves forward.

Enabling Activity: Capacity development

Enhance the capacity of all relevant actors to facilitate gender-responsive approaches in the NAP process

In September 2018, Jamaica's Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation hosted more than 30 government representatives from Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Antigua and Barbuda at a workshop on integrating gender considerations into the NAP process. The participants served as either the gender or climate change focal point for their ministry, department, or agency. The goal of the workshop was to bring these diverse policy-makers and practitioners together in a participatory dialogue and learning process on the topic of gender while establishing concrete next steps for ensuring a gender-responsive NAP process. This served as a prime opportunity for capacity development, in which the gender focal points were briefed on the NAP process, its guiding principles and climate change adaptation options, while the climate change focal points were introduced to gender-responsive approaches in adaptation. Together, the participants developed a shared understanding of gender and climate change, forged partnerships across ministries and developed concrete next steps to address gender inequalities exacerbated by climate change impacts.

Enabling Activity: Stakeholder engagement

Undertake inclusive, gender-equitable stakeholder engagement in the NAP process

Gender and social inclusion have been at the centre of Nepal's NAP process since the beginning. In the first phase, a multistakeholder working group guided the analysis of gender and social inclusion issues on climate change adaptation and identified adaptation pathways for addressing these issues. The launch of the current phase, which is undertaken with readiness support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), involved reviving the gender and social inclusion working group and also a series of provincial-level stakeholder workshops, where participating institutions were encouraged to facilitate women's participation. During the workshops, stakeholders discussed the differential impacts of climate change on women and men in each of the thematic areas identified by the latest Climate Change Policy. Through the discussions, they identified a number of different adaptation options that address gender dimensions, including multiple water use systems for drinking and irrigation, drip irrigation, solar water pumps

and integrated pest management. The feedback from the provincial workshops will inform the NAP process as it advances, providing a basis for addressing gender issues throughout the process.

Enabling Activity: Integrating adaptation in budgets

Channel resources for adaptation in ways that generate equitable benefits for people of all genders and social groups

Mexico has adopted a gender-responsive budgeting approach for climate change. There are seven priority agendas that are tracked in the National Annual Budget, two of which are climate change and gender equality. The gender equality agenda is tracked through a series of tools, which categorize programs in terms of three gender equality goals: eradicating discrimination against women, ending violence against women and achieving gender equality. The system also tracks the expenditures of different government institutions on women and men. Climate change (both mitigation and adaptation) is tracked at the program level, but there is a plan to link the two agendas through a gender mainstreaming approach. The process will involve a gender diagnostic to assess differences and inequalities, as well as a sector-based gender analysis. This will yield recommended changes to programs and reallocation of the budget for gender-responsive actions. Spending will be tracked in terms of changes in equality, looking at process, results and impacts.

Enabling Activity: Securing finance from international sources

Ensure that adaptation finance from international sources generates equitable benefits for people of all genders and social groups

The coastal belt of Bangladesh is increasingly susceptible to cyclones, storm surges and sea-level rise, resulting in saltwater intrusion into freshwater resources. This in turn impacts the availability of water for domestic use and for livelihood activities. Women are especially vulnerable to these impacts, given their role in water security and household resilience and their socioeconomic marginalization in the region. To address this, Bangladesh submitted a proposal to the GCF to enhance the “adaptive capacities of coastal communities, especially women, to cope with climate change induced salinity”. Approved in March 2018, the proposal seeks to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups, and in particular women and girls, by diversifying freshwater-dependent livelihoods and investing in access to year-round safe drinking water; in doing so, women and girls can invest their time instead in education or income-generating opportunities. As part of the country’s ongoing NAP and NDC processes, this proposal demonstrates how countries can utilize international adaptation finance both to allocate targeted resources to vulnerable groups and to empower women and girls as agents of change in NAP processes.

Enabling Activity: Securing finance from international sources

Ensure that access to information on adaptation and the NAP process is equitable for people of all genders and social groups

The Adaptation Learning Program implemented by CARE International uses Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) processes to deliver user-responsive climate information services. The PSP process brings stakeholders together to undertake the collective interpretation of seasonal climate forecasts, taking uncertainty into account. During the PSP workshop, forecasts are shared, interpreted and translated into a localized forecast with likely scenarios and potential hazards. Participants, including male and female community representatives, develop actionable advisories in response, as well as communication plans. The downscaled forecast and advisories are then communicated to communities and local actors by the participants and through the various agreed channels. A recent

evaluation of the process in Kenya found differences in how women and men prefer to receive the information: men generally preferred public assemblies or radio, while women preferred to receive the information through meetings of established groups, such as women's groups or village savings and loans associations, where they could discuss freely and ensure a common understanding of the information. This also helped to increase the reach, as group members passed the information along to other women who were not present at the meetings. The evaluation highlighted the importance of using a range of appropriate communication channels to reach different groups, as well as the benefits of dialogue in increasing trust in the information and comfort in its application.

* Additional information on the enabling activities, principles, and practice examples presented in Box 6 can be found in the [gender toolkit](#).

Referenced Resources

- Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). (<https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/toolkit-for-gender-responsive-national-adaptation-plans/>)

About the NAP Global Network

The NAP Global Network was created in 2014 to support developing countries in advancing their NAP processes and help accelerate adaptation efforts around the world. To achieve this, the Network facilitates South-South peer learning and exchange, supports national-level action on NAP formulation and implementation, and generates, synthesizes, and shares knowledge. The Network's members include individual participants from more than 155 countries involved in developing and implementing National Adaptation Plans. Financial support for the Network has been provided by Austria, Canada, Germany, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The Secretariat is hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). The ideas, opinions and comments therein are entirely the responsibility of its author(s) and do not necessarily represent the NAP Global Network's funders' policies.



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