

# Webinar Report: Regional Dialogue on accelerating support on Formulation and Implementation of National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in East and Southern Africa

**Date:** Wednesday, 4th June 2025

**Time:** 14:00 -16:00 EAT

## Introduction and Objectives:

The webinar, held on June 4th, 2025, brought together 96 participants from a diverse group of stakeholders from East and Southern Africa, including government representatives such as National Focal points on NAPs, international organizations, and other experts working on NAPs processes. The webinar aimed to foster collaboration, share best practices on NAPs process and knowledge on navigating challenges in the implementation and formulation of NAPs in the region.

## Opening Remarks:



Mr. William Otieno, the regional Lead for RCC EASA provided insightful remarks on the role of the Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) for Eastern and Southern Africa (EASA) in advancing adaptation efforts across the region. He emphasized the significance of various initiatives, particularly country dialogues, which have been

instrumental in identifying the needs and support requirements for countries in the formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). In his remarks, Mr. Otieno highlighted several challenges, including technical capacity gaps and significant funding issues that emerged from the country dialogues. These challenges greatly informed the objectives of the webinar. “He said”. Furthermore, he encouraged stakeholders, especially NAP focal points, to actively engage in capacity-building initiatives. Mr. Otieno stressed that these initiatives are designed to enhance and strengthen the technical capacity of countries involved in the NAP formulation and implementation processes.

**Presentation on the NAP status in East and Southern Region - Ms. Sonam Khandu, Programme officer NAP/LEG unit at the UNFCCC Secretariate, Adaptation Division.**

Ms. Sonam Khandu delivered a comprehensive presentation on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), emphasizing their development, financial support mechanisms, and the ongoing processes involved in their formulation and implementation. In her remarks, she highlighted the importance of NAPs in reducing vulnerability to climate change and integrating climate considerations into national policies. She noted that the LDC Expert Group (LEG) has updated the technical guidelines for the NAP process, which stakeholders should diligently follow as they update or develop their plans. Participants were also further reminded of the UNFCCC deadline for countries to submit their NAPs by the end of 2025 and to begin implementation by 2030.

Regarding financial support, Ms. Khandu noted that the Green Climate Fund (GCF) allocates \$3 million per country for NAP readiness support, with an additional \$3 million available for the period of 2024-2027. Furthermore, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) also plays a significant role in supporting NAPs through various funding mechanisms. On the subject of technical guidance, Ms. Khandu pointed out that the LEG provides essential support, including training and project proposal development, in collaboration with organizations such as the NAP Task Force at the UNFCCC Secretariat.

She also introduced the NAP 3.0 Initiative, launched to assist Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This initiative focuses on innovative financing, updating technical guidelines, expediting NAP submissions, and enhancing capacity building. Ms. Khandu outlined the adaptation priorities for 2025, which include conducting the second five-year assessment and establishing a support program for LDCs in NAP implementation.

Finally, she emphasized the various resources available from the LDC Expert Group, which address finance, data, and alignment with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), thus providing critical support for countries in their adaptation efforts. **Attached is her presentation.**

### **NAP formulation and Implementation Experiences: Case study from Kenya.**

Presenter: Ms. Faith Agnes Ondeng is a Knowledge Management Technical Officer at Kenya's Climate Change Directorate (CCD), Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry.

Faith Ondeng delivered an insightful presentation detailing Kenya's experience in the formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), highlighting best practices and lessons learned over nearly a decade of adaptation efforts. Key Highlights included:

- **NAP Development Timeline:**
  - Kenya began its NAP development in 2012, finalized the plan in 2015, and submitted it to the UNFCCC in 2016.
- **Implementation Pillars:**
  - **Institutional Framework:** The Climate Change Act established a robust governance structure, including the National Climate Change Council, chaired by the President, and climate change units across all 47 counties. This framework ensures accountability and oversight for climate actions.
  - **Phased Implementation:** The NAP is structured into manageable phases, facilitating alignment with political cycles, effective resource planning, and adaptability in subsequent NAP iterations.

- **Sectoral Mainstreaming:** Climate action has been integrated into 20 key economic sectors, ensuring that climate considerations are embedded within planning and budgeting processes.
- **Devolved Climate Finance:** This mechanism empowers communities to prioritize climate risks and projects, ensuring that local needs are effectively addressed within action plans and budgets.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Kenya employs multiple funding sources for adaptation, including \$23 million for ecosystem adaptation and \$10 million from the Adaptation Fund for enhancing community resilience. Additionally, the government mandates that 1.5% of county development budgets be allocated to climate initiatives, fostering ownership and sustainability.

### **Lessons Learned:**

- Strong legal frameworks are crucial for sustainable climate action.
- Breaking NAP implementation into manageable cycles enhances focus and facilitates learning and adaptation.
- Continuous knowledge sharing and technical assistance are essential for successful implementation.
- The integration of traditional and scientific knowledge in climate forecasting has strengthened community trust and awareness.
- The establishment of county climate funds has provided predictable funding, even in the absence of international support.

Despite these advancements, Kenya faces a funding gap of \$44 billion for adaptation efforts, having received only 21% of the required climate funding in recent years. Additionally, coordination complexities across 47 counties and 20 sectors present ongoing challenges.

In conclusion, Faith Ondeng's presentation underscored the significance of robust institutional frameworks, innovative financing mechanisms, and community engagement in the effective implementation of NAPs. Kenya's experience offers valuable insights for other countries aiming to enhance their climate resilience strategies and developing robust implementable NAPs.

### **Panel Discussion: Enhancing Support for NAPs:**

Considering the various financial, technical and institutional challenges in the NAP processes, the Webinar explored support from the different institutions available for countries in the region. The following speakers were invited as panelists: Mr. Liam Fee, Adaptation Planning Specialist from UNDP, Ms. Chihenyong Kangara, Regional Manager for the GCF Africa Desk and Ms. Silvia Mancini, Senior Program Officer at the Adaptation Fund.

### **Exploring NAP technical support available under UNDP in the region.**

Panelist 1: Mr. Liam Fee, Adaptation Planning Specialist from UNDP,

Mr. Liam Fee provided a detailed overview of the support offered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), particularly in the East and Southern Africa region. He highlighted key aspects of technical capacity building and outlined various programs and initiatives designed to enhance adaptation efforts.

### **Technical Capacity Support Areas:**

- **Knowledge and Information Systems:** Development of systems for data gathering, sharing protocols, and public-facing information portals to facilitate access to vital climate data.
- **Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessments:** Provision of up-to-date information on climate risks at various levels, enabling informed decision-making.
- **Understanding Adaptation Priorities:** Utilization of tools such as multi-criteria analysis to prioritize adaptation actions effectively.
- **Inclusivity in Consultation:** Engagement with diverse stakeholder groups, including women, youth, and marginalized communities, to ensure that NAPs are comprehensive and inclusive.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Systems:** Establishment of systems during the formative stages of NAPs to assess effectiveness and ensure that vulnerable populations are reached.
- **Finance and Implementation Strategies:** Support for countries in developing strategies to ensure effective implementation of NAPs.

### **Support Programs and Initiatives:**

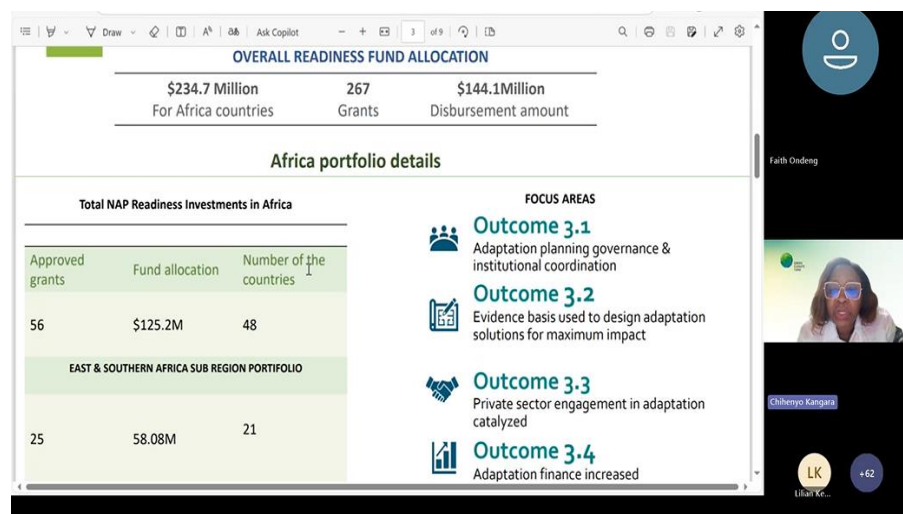
- **NAP Support Portfolio:** Funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Program, this portfolio supports 43 countries globally, including five in East and Southern Africa.
- **Climate Promise:** UNDP's primary offering for enhancing adaptation and mitigation efforts through the alignment of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and NAPs.
- **SCALA Programme:** Assists countries in translating their NDCs and NAPs into actionable climate solutions, with a focus on the agriculture and land-use sectors.
- **Adaptation Pipeline Accelerator:** An initiative aimed at transforming adaptation priorities into investment plans and project pipelines.

Mr. Fee noted the significant shortfall in climate finance for adaptation, with current funding estimated at approximately \$28 billion, compared to an estimated annual need of \$387 billion. He emphasized the critical necessity for countries to diversify their funding sources, tapping into domestic, international, public, and private financing. Additionally, he highlighted that UNDP provides a wealth of resources online, including NAP technical guidelines and supplementary materials, to support countries in their adaptation processes.

In conclusion, Mr. Fee underscored the importance of UNDP's comprehensive support for NAP development and implementation, emphasizing the need for collaboration and resource mobilization to effectively address the challenges posed by climate change.

## Navigating complexities in Finance access for NAP and support available from International Financing institutions: Presentation from Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund.

**Penalist 2: Ms. Chiheny Kangara, Regional Manager for Africa Desk, Division of Country Programming, GCF.**



Ms. Chiheny Kangara provided a comprehensive overview of the funding landscape for adaptation in the East and Southern Africa region, emphasizing the complexities that countries encounter in accessing financial resources. She detailed the support available from the Green Climate

Fund (GCF) to help navigate these challenges. The major highlights of her presentation included:

- **Establishment of the Africa Department:** The GCF has established a dedicated Africa Department, led by Director Katherine Kaufman, to enhance support for countries in the region. This department aims to improve engagement with nations regarding direct access to funding.
- **Funding Allocations:** To date, the GCF has allocated approximately \$6.32 billion to Africa, with a significant focus on adaptation efforts amounting to about \$2.3 billion. The GCF's Vision aims to double funding for adaptation by 2030.
- **Readiness Fund:** The Africa Readiness Fund has allocated \$234.7 million, with \$144.1 million disbursed through 267 grants. This fund is critical for building the capacity necessary for countries to mobilize investments for adaptation.
- **Transition to New Readiness Strategy:** The GCF is transitioning from its previous readiness portfolio to a new strategy that emphasizes country-centered approaches. This new strategy aims to address the challenges faced in direct access to funding, streamline processes, enhance effectiveness, and ensure country ownership.
- **Focus Areas for Readiness:** The new readiness strategy prioritizes adaptation planning, governance, institutional coordination, evidence-based solutions, and private sector engagement to increase adaptation financing.
- **Regional Allocations:** In the East and Southern Africa sub-region, approximately \$58 million has been allocated across 21 countries, resulting in 25 approved projects under the previous readiness framework.

In support of navigating financial complexities, Ms. Kangara noted that the GCF is committed to providing countries with the necessary tools and resources to effectively address financing issues. This includes deploying GCF liaison officers in countries to support local consultants and enhance

communication between national designated authorities (NDAs) and the GCF. She also highlighted successful examples from Kenya and Liberia, where NAP readiness facilitated the development of bankable proposals that secured GCF funding, demonstrating the readiness process's effectiveness.

To date, the GCF has received requests from several countries, including Burundi, Cameroon, Somalia, Uganda, Rwanda, Namibia, and Seychelles. Ongoing discussions will focus on effectively deploying these resources as new modalities are implemented. In conclusion, Ms. Kangara reaffirmed the GCF's commitment to enhancing adaptation funding in the region while addressing the complexities of accessing these funds. The ongoing support and new strategies are designed to empower countries to develop and implement effective adaptation initiatives.

Penalist 3: Ms. Mancini – Adaptation Fund/ Countries and Partnerships Team Lead- Senior Program Officer.

Ms. Silvia Mancini provided a detailed overview of the funding opportunities available through the Adaptation Fund, addressing the communication challenges associated with accessing these funds and outlining the support offered to countries. The major highlights from her presentation include:

### **Funding Opportunities:**

- The Adaptation Fund is transitioning to exclusively support the Paris Agreement and aims to triple its annual outflow from 2022 levels by 2030.
- Recent board decisions have doubled the funding caps: country projects can now receive up to \$40 million (up from \$20 million), while regional projects can receive up to \$30 million (increased from \$14 million).
- A new regional aggregator program has been launched, allocating \$13 million to channel grants to non-accredited entities.

Ms. Mancini noted that approximately 36% of the current funding portfolio is focused on Africa, reflecting significant demand for resources. This is evidenced by 200 active projects globally, totaling \$1.4 billion. The fund has recently approved \$137 million for new projects, including 16 concrete adaptation initiatives across various countries.

To address funding rejections and communication difficulties, Ms. Mancini emphasized the importance of clear criteria for project eligibility and funding requests. This clarity is essential for facilitating understanding and transparency among countries. She further noted that Projects must align with national policies and strategies, be endorsed by designated authorities, and demonstrate a clear justification for climate adaptation. Additionally, proposals should comply with environmental, social, and gender policies, with a focus on cost-effectiveness and sustainability.

For Adaptation Support to countries on NAPs, Ms Silvia noted the following:

- The Adaptation Fund supports capacity-building initiatives through its enhanced readiness strategy, which emphasizes country-driven approaches and streamlining access to funding.

- Accreditation processes for implementing entities have been expedited, facilitating faster access to financial resources.
- The fund collaborates closely with other multilateral climate funds and engages in bi-weekly meetings to align efforts and share best practices.

In conclusion, Ms. Mancini highlighted the Adaptation Fund's commitment to providing meaningful funding opportunities while addressing communication challenges. The ongoing support and enhanced readiness strategy are designed to empower countries to develop and implement effective adaptation initiatives.

**Closing Remarks:**

Mr. William Otieno expressed gratitude and active participation of all the participants during the webinar and insights presented by the speakers and presenters. He emphasized the valuable lessons learned from both experts and country presenters and further presented upcoming NAP related events organized by the RCC EASA such as the SBs Engagement happening in June in Bonn, the Africa Climate Weeks, Project Writer Workshops and the Global NAP Expo: which will take place in August in Zambia, serving as a platform for further discussions and sharing of best practices related to National Adaptation Plans. Mr. Otieno encouraged all NAP focal points to be proactive and responsive to these initiatives, as they are crucial for building technical capacity and strengthening adaptation efforts aligned with the NAPs. In conclusion, he thanked everyone for their participation expressing anticipation for future engagements.