PRESENTATION

Advancing MEL systems for NAP processes

September 2026

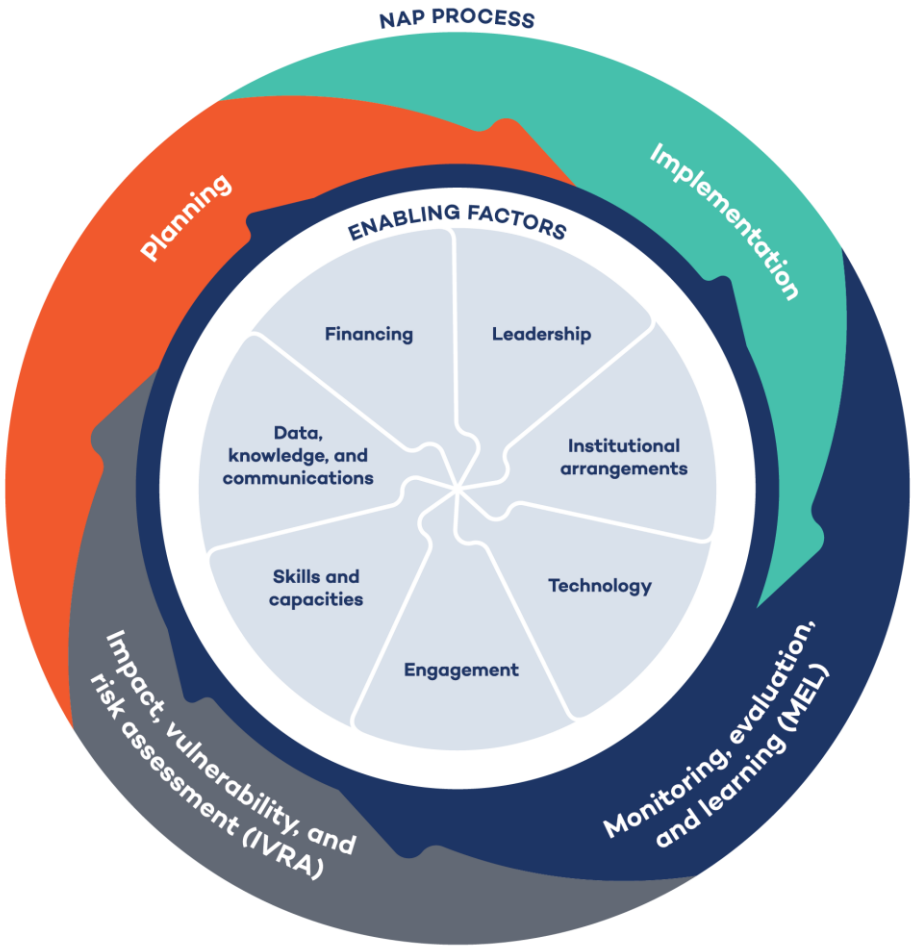
NAP Global Network



Claire Metito Lensational trainee, Kenya (2021)

What is MEL for NAP processes?

National MEL systems are the foundation of an inclusive adaptation process that learns. They show whether actions are working, inform decision-making, and underpin both finance mobilization and reporting.



→ **A distinct phase:** MEL is one of the core elements of the NAP process

→ **A continuous set of activities:** MEL runs throughout the NAP process, not just as the end

→ MEL should shift from an accountability tool towards a learning tool

Where are countries today with their MEL?

2022

n = 38 NAPs

MEL framework	**38%**
Indicators defined	**47%**
Progress reporting commitment	**65%**

2025

n = 64 NAPs

MEL framework	**73%**
Indicators defined	**67%**
Progress reporting commitment	**84%**

Source: NAP Global Network Synthesis Report on MEL for NAP Processes, September 2025

Lesson 1: Having a MEL system isn't the same as using one

The difference between functional and nominal

Nominal

Exists on paper

- Indicators identified but not used or measured
- Data collected but not analysed
- Reports produced but not read
- Findings don't change decisions

Functional

Produces evidence that gets used

- Indicators tracked
- Data informs decisions
- Findings shape the next NAP cycle
- MEL focal points are nominated and trained

Lesson 2: You don’t have to do it all at once

Four countries, four phased approaches to building a MEL system

Start where you can, build on what you have.

Peru

Planning the MEL system over dedicated stages using a roadmap.

Rwanda

Focusing on priority sectors and replicating.

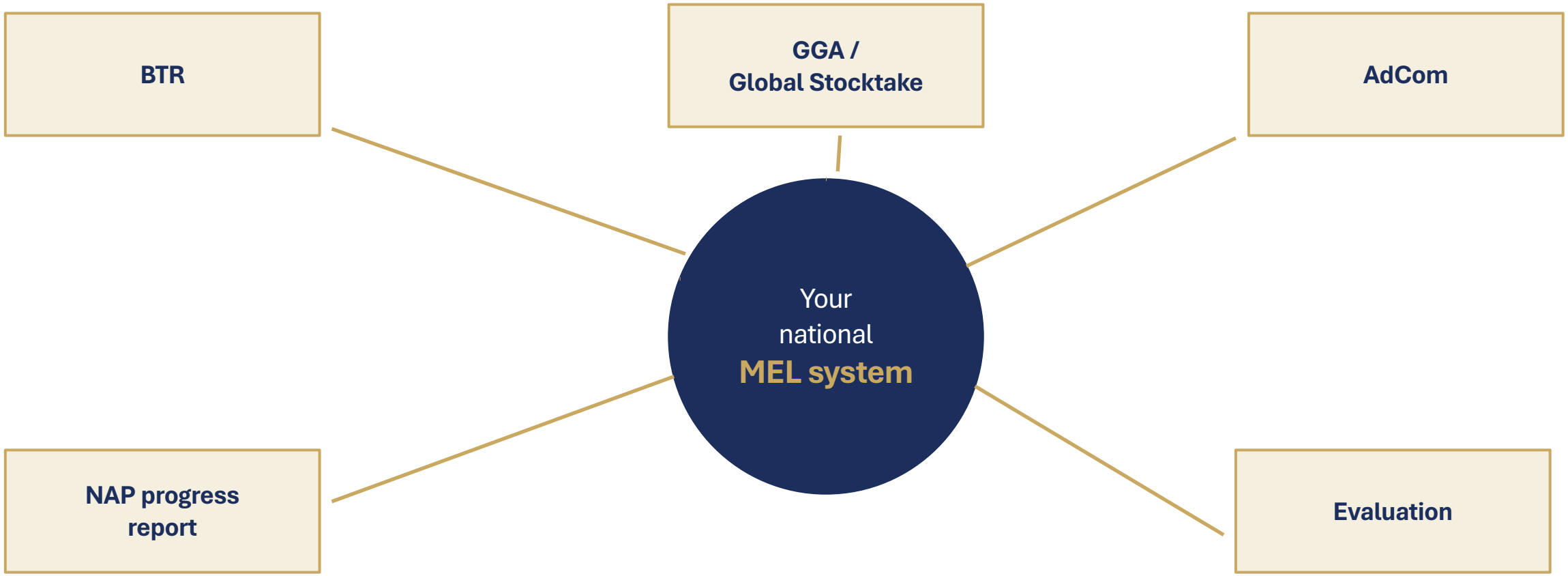
Ghana

Targeting specific districts and expanding.

Vietnam

Establishing a national MEL system before decentralizing.

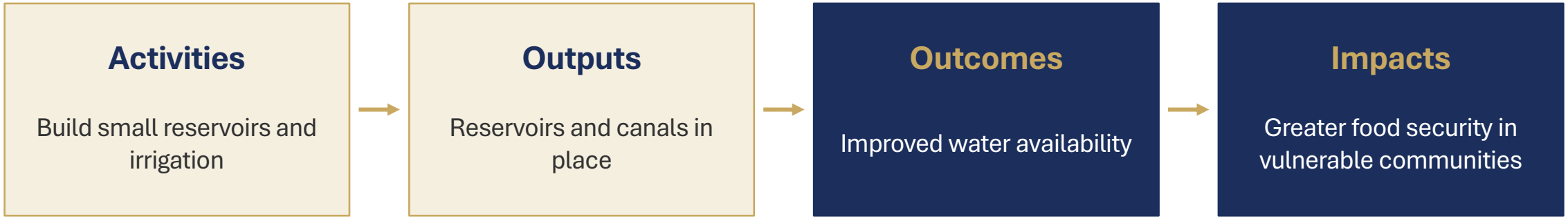
Lesson 3: Design one MEL system that serves multiple reports



Build one system. Feed many reports. Avoid parallel pipelines.

Lesson 4: Start with the theory of change

The logic that connects what you do to what you are trying to achieve



Make the assumptions explicit: *what must be true for each link in the chain to hold?*

Why it matters

Without a theory of change, data gets collected without knowing what story it should tell. MEL slides back to tracking outputs and loses sight of outcomes.

What we found

52% of NAP documents include some form of logic model. But even when it exists on paper, it doesn't always guide the MEL system in practice.

Lesson 5: Use progress reporting as an entry point

You don't need a fully operational MEL system to start

Reporting is a learning process

- Makes visible what you don't yet know
- Clarifies roles and responsibilities
- Creates accountability

Countries already doing it

Saint Lucia · Guatemala · Kiribati · Grenada · Fiji · Chile · Brazil · Suriname · Costa Rica · Honduras

Five principles

01	Start early, start simple
02	Build each reporting cycle on the last
03	Use what you already have: existing data and sectoral systems
04	Involve key actors from the start
05	Tailor format and language to the audience

A progress report is a bridge. Keep building toward a more robust MEL system.

Lesson 6: Indicators are a tool

Quality matters more than quantity

2 in 3

NAPs now include specific indicators

Good for

Showing whether something has changed over time

Limited in

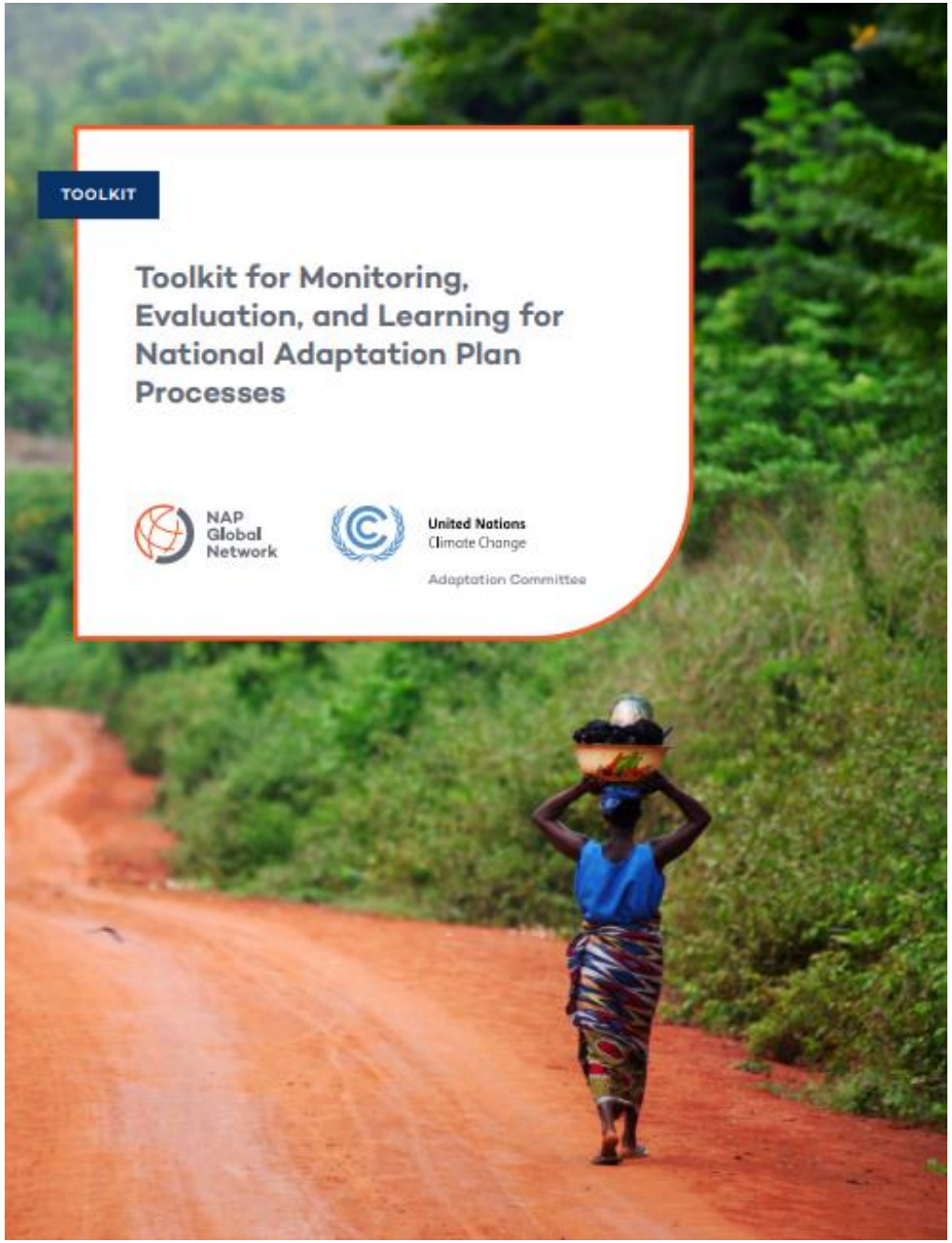
Explaining how or why it changed. That needs qualitative methods: interviews, case studies, contribution analysis

The pattern we see

A lot of effort goes into indicator frameworks during NAP formulation, often with external technical support. Over time, those indicators fade into the background. Not for lack of rigour, but because the conditions to use them over time weren't planned from the start.

A better sequence

Start with the theory of change → **Let indicators emerge from that logic** → **Be honest about what you can sustain**



Toolkit and Online Course: MEL for NAP Processes

Goal: to support countries in the development and implementation of national MEL systems for NAP processes, by producing actionable guidance.

Toolkit also available in French and Spanish

Online course (free)

About the NAP Global Network

Our goal: Enhance national adaptation planning and action in developing countries

Funded by: Canada, Germany, Ireland, Climate Works Foundation

What we do:



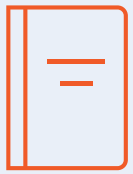
Support national-level action on NAP development & implementation.

71 developing countries have received direct technical support.



Help countries learn from each other through South-South peer learning and exchange.

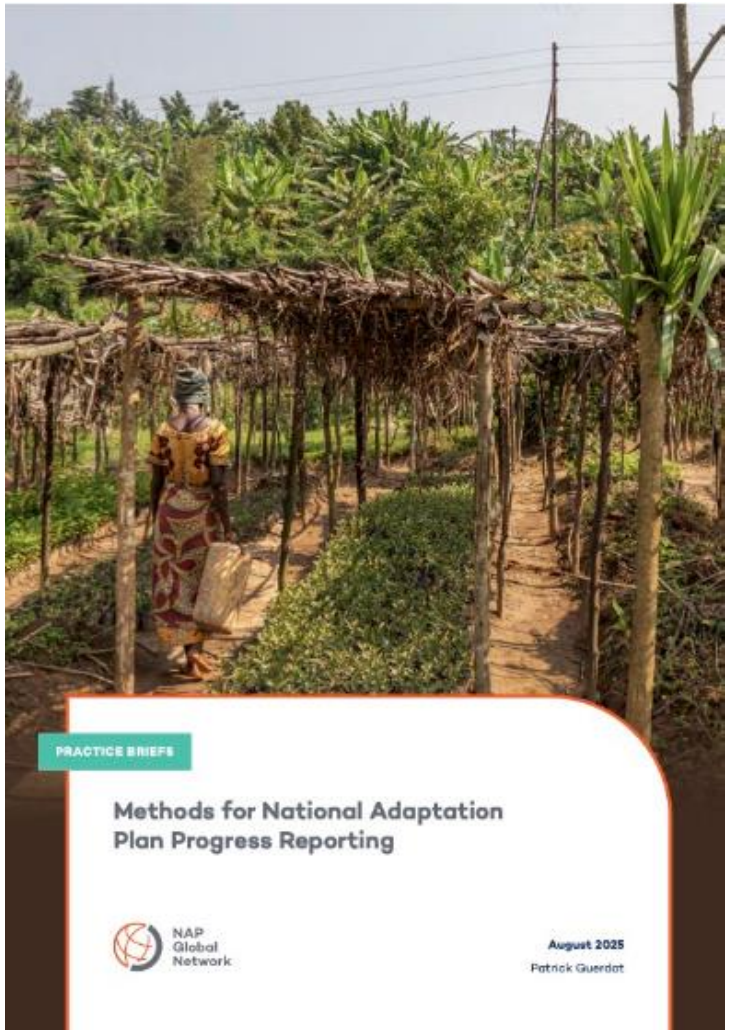
Over **800** people from *80 countries* have participated in peer learning and exchanges.



Generate, synthesize, & share knowledge on NAP processes.

Over **350** knowledge materials have been produced.

Resources: Practice Briefs





Thank you!

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