



## RCC East and Southern Africa

# CASE STUDY: RCC EASA Support for Angola's National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

### Executive Summary

The UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) and the Adaptation Division provided targeted technical support to Angola to accelerate the development of its National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Leveraging the UNFCCC's NAP technical guidelines, the RCC facilitated the drafting of an initial NAP framework using existing national data and facilitated collaborative refinement sessions with Angola's government, led by its National Focal Point (NFP). With supplementary expertise from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the draft underwent comprehensive climate risk assessments, culminating in a finalized NAP document submitted to Angola's Cabinet for approval.

This support is nationally significant as Angola—a Least Developed Country (LDC) highly vulnerable to climate impacts like drought and flooding, now has a robust roadmap to mainstream adaptation into development policies. Regionally, it sets a precedent for efficient NAP development, while globally, it exemplifies how coordinated technical assistance can advance the Paris Agreement's adaptation goals.

### Context and background

Angola is an LDC facing acute climate vulnerabilities, including erratic rainfall, desertification, and coastal erosion, which threaten agriculture, water security, and livelihoods. Despite submitting an updated NDC in 2021, Angola lacked a formal National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to systematize adaptation actions. Institutional responsibility rests with the Ministry of Environment, supported by the NFP, but limited technical capacity delayed progress. The development of a NAP is critical to enable Angola to identify priority adaptation needs, strengthen institutional coordination, and access international climate finance.

**Request for support:** While no formal request was submitted, the RCC together with the Adaptation Division proactively identified Angola's need for NAP development support during Country NAP Dialogues. This aligned with the UNFCCC's mandate to assist LDCs in adaptation planning.



## Support design: the RCC operational reality

**Objectives:** The RCC support aimed to:

- Assist Angola in drafting a structured and technically sound NAP in line with UNFCCC Updated NAP technical guidelines.
- Strengthen national ownership and coordination of the NAP process.
- Facilitate partnerships to enhance analytical depth, particularly climate risk assessment.
- Support the submission of a finalized NAP for national approval and eventual communication to the UNFCCC secretariat.

**Theory of Change:** By providing immediate technical inputs for the draft NAP and convening partners, the RCC aimed to overcome capacity barriers, ensuring Angola could meet UNFCCC NAP submission deadlines and access adaptation finance.

**Format and Partners:**

- During the initial phase, the RCC and the Adaptation Division undertook the task of creating a NAP outline informed by the UNFCCC's Updated NAP Technical Guidelines, synthesizing Angola's climate policies, vulnerability studies, and Adaptation priorities from the NDC.
- As part of the collaborative refinement stage, virtual meetings were convened by Angola's NFP and their team, integrating inputs from sectoral ministries. GGGI was engaged to further conduct climate risk assessments, while UNEP provided financial and technical review.
- The support provided spanned a timeline from May to September, concluding within a four-month period. The key outputs of this endeavor included a structured draft NAP framework and a revised draft NAP incorporating risk assessments and stakeholder feedback.
- In terms of funding, the initial drafting efforts were supported by the RCC's core resources, while both GGGI and UNEP generously contributed their technical expertise on a pro bono basis.

## Results and outcomes

**Accelerated NAP Development:** Angola transitioned from having no structured NAP to a Cabinet-ready document within a year, avoiding typical delays faced by LDCs. The finalized



NAP enables Angola to unlock climate finance (e.g., Green Climate Fund access) and aligns adaptation with national development plans.

The support exceeded expectations by delivering an actionable, evidence-based NAP ahead of schedule, directly addressing Angola's urgent adaptation needs.

## Lessons learned and follow-up

### What Worked

- Early development of a clear NAP outline aligned with UNFCCC Updated NAP Technical guidelines helped structure the process efficiently.
- Close coordination with the National Focal Point ensured national ownership and legitimacy.
- Strategic partner engagement (GGGI and UNEP) filled technical gaps, particularly on climate risk assessment, and enhanced the quality of the final document.

### Bottlenecks and Challenges

- Limited availability of up-to-date and centralized climate data initially slowed consolidation efforts.
- Coordination across multiple ministries required sustained engagement and follow-up.
- Integrating detailed risk assessments into an already drafted framework required iterative revisions.

Addressing these challenges required flexibility, clear division of roles, and sustained communication among partners.

### Replicability and Added Value

This approach is transferable to other LDCs/SIDS with similar capacity constraints. RCC's role as a "first responder" in drafting, followed by partners support, offers a template for efficient NAP development.

The added value of the RCC support lays in: Acting as a neutral technical convener, bridging national authorities with international expertise and translating global guidance into practical, country-specific outputs.

**Follow-Up:** Once Cabinet approval is secured, follow-up support may focus on:



Communicating the NAP to UNFCCC Secretariat, developing an implementation roadmap and investment plan and strengthening monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems for adaptation through capacity building.

This case illustrates how targeted RCC engagement can transform fragmented adaptation.