



United Nations
Climate Change

GAPS AND NEEDS RELATED TO THE PROCESS TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS (NAPS) AS MANDATED THROUGH DECISION 8/CP.24, PARA. 17

LEG Technical Brief, Issue No. 1, February 2021

Synopsis

This technical brief presents the compilation of gaps and needs of the least developed countries related to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans and the needs related to adaptation arising from the Paris Agreement, as presented in past reports of the LDC Expert Group and the Adaptation Committee.

LDC Expert Group 2021

leghelp@unfccc.int

COP 24 requested the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) within its existing mandate and workplan, and the Adaptation Committee (AC) through its task force on national adaptation plans (NAPs) and within its existing mandate and workplan, to consider gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs that have been identified through relevant work of the LEG and the AC and how to address them and include relevant information thereon in their respective reports for COP 25 ([decision 8/CP.24, paragraphs 17 and 18](#)).

The LEG developed the following steps to address the mandate:

Firstly, the compilation of the gaps and needs of the LDCs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs and the needs related to adaptation arising from the Paris Agreement, as presented in past reports of the LEG and the AC. This policy brief presents the compilation, which was also reported in the LEG 35 report to the SBI (document [FCCC/SBI/2019/5, annex II](#)).

Secondly, identifying how the gaps and needs are being addressed through the ongoing work of the LEG, the AC and relevant bodies and organizations. An updated record of this analysis is available at <https://unfccc.int/node/210550>.

Thirdly, including relevant activities in the LEG work programme to address related gaps and needs.

To facilitate the work in addressing the gaps and needs, the LEG agreed to collect information on gaps and needs at the individual country level through the Open NAP initiative, the NAP country dialogues and the support of the NAP technical working group (see document [FCCC/SBI/2020/14, Annex II](#)).

Meanwhile, COP 25 requested the LEG and the AC to continue to include in their reports information on gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs identified in undertaking its mandated work and on how to address them. COP 25 also requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its fifty-third session to consider information from the reports of the AC and the LEG, including on gaps and needs and the implementation of NAPs, and to take further action as appropriate ([7/CP.25, para 11](#)).

Table: Gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans identified as at October 2020^a

<i>Area</i>	<i>Related elements and steps of the process to formulate and implement NAPs;^a COP and CMA decisions;^b and Articles of the Paris Agreement</i>	<i>Needs^c</i>
Accessing financial and other support	All elements Decision 12/CP.18, paragraphs 1–8; decision 18/CP.19, paragraphs 4–5; decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 46; decision 4/CP.21, paragraphs 6–10; decision 6/CP.22, paragraphs 6–10; and decision 11/CMA.1, paragraphs 21–28 Article 4, paragraph 5; and Article 7, paragraph 13	Adequate and effective access to financial support, including from the GCF, as well as other forms of support for the formulation and implementation of NAPs
		Capacity to write proposals for accessing funding under the different windows of the GCF
		Understanding of the latest requirements for GCF funding proposals
		Promotion of funding proposals from multiple stakeholders, including those at the subnational and local government level
		Capacity to ensure that proposals to the GCF for the formulation of NAPs are aligned with the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, and address both the objectives and guiding principles of the process to formulate and implement NAPs
		Coordination among providers of support at all levels to ensure that their support is coherent and avoids overlaps at the national level and that such support is in line with national priorities and needs
		Systems for ensuring that countries' support needs for a long-term process are met through limited, one-off funding designed for projects over a fixed time frame
Institutional arrangements and coordination	Element A Decision 12/CP.18, paragraph 7; and decision 11/CMA.1, paragraph 30 Article 7, paragraph 7	Establishment or enhancement of institutional arrangements for the process to formulate and implement NAPs in order to foster national leadership and coordination of adaptation efforts at all levels and create a primary interface with regional and international mechanisms
		Establishment or enhancement of legal frameworks for institutional arrangements and coordination

<i>Area</i>	<i>Related elements and steps of the process to formulate and implement NAPs,^a COP and CMA decisions,^b and Articles of the Paris Agreement</i>	<i>Needs^c</i>
		<p>Establishment or enhancement of systems at the national level to facilitate the flow of resources and information across different levels of government (climate-responsive budgeting)</p> <p>Ensuring the existence of stakeholders or focal points within different institutions with clearly defined roles and responsibilities</p> <p>Technical guidance and capacity-building for national working groups for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, and the preparation of proposals to access funding from the GCF</p> <p>Institutional arrangements and systems for monitoring and evaluation</p>
Climate scenarios, science and translation to local context	<p>Step B.1</p> <p>Decision 5/CP.17</p> <p>Article 7, paragraphs 7 and 9</p>	<p>Capacity for national, subnational and sectoral experts to work effectively with climate data and climate change scenarios that facilitate considering long-term climate impacts in decision-making</p> <p>Availability and accessibility of climate data and climate change scenarios to underpin effective adaptation assessment, planning and implementation, taking into account specific needs at the national, subnational and sectoral level</p> <p>Capacity-building for national, subnational and sectoral experts on the application of climate change scenarios in climate change adaptation decision-making</p> <p>Methods and tools for translating climate data and climate change scenarios to the local context</p> <p>Ways to effectively translate long-term vision and planning from the national to the subnational level in order to guide assessments</p>
	Steps B.2 and B.3	Capacity to frame, analyse and define baselines, and assess, manage and monitor climate change risk and vulnerability at relevant levels and scales

Area	<i>Related elements and steps of the process to formulate and implement NAPs;^a COP and CMA decisions;^b and Articles of the Paris Agreement</i>	<i>Needs^c</i>
Risk and vulnerability assessment and risk management	Decision 5/CP.17; and decision 11/CMA.1, paragraph 5 Article 7, paragraphs 7 and 9	Specific methodologies and guidelines that facilitate understanding of the baseline and the progression of vulnerability and risk, which is an important aspect of measuring and assessing progress in reducing vulnerability
		Comprehensive risk and vulnerability assessments covering all key sectors and systems at the national, subnational and sectoral level as well as vulnerability hotspots
		Institutionalization of risk and vulnerability assessment and risk management at all levels of governance and in key sectors
		Ways to build evidence for adaptation additionality arguments in funding proposals to the GCF
		Technical support to identify effective adaptation solutions and actions after the assessment of climate vulnerabilities and risk
		Ways to promote consistency, synergy and coherence among different risk and vulnerability assessment and risk management frameworks
		Ways to improve the quality of assessments over time, for example through peer-review processes
Implementation strategies	Element C	Technical capacity to develop proposals to access funding from the GCF and other sources
		Ways to link the implementation strategy for the NAP with the GCF country programme
		Technical capacity and tools for ranking and prioritizing adaptation options
Access to and use of technology	Element C	Application of the latest technologies in climate change adaptation planning and implementation (e.g. big data, artificial intelligence and machine learning)

Area	<i>Related elements and steps of the process to formulate and implement NAPs,^a COP and CMA decisions,^b and Articles of the Paris Agreement</i>	<i>Needs^c</i>
	Decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 20; and decision 11/CMA.1, paragraph 29 Article 10, paragraphs 1–6; and Article 11, paragraph 1	<p>Promotion of technological developments related to climate change adaptation in climate services, agriculture, water systems, health systems, disaster management, banking and other sectors</p> <p>Mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of available technologies</p> <p>Capacity-building, training and awareness-raising on available technologies within the LDCs</p> <p>Access to information and experience of other countries in applying different adaptation technologies to facilitate the selection, installation and operation of appropriate technologies for local problems</p> <p>Systems to stay abreast of the latest developments in technical guidance and assistance</p>
Monitoring, evaluation and learning	Element D Decision 5/CP.17; and decision 8/CP.24, paragraph 19 Articles 7, 13 and 14	<p>Establishment or enhancement of national monitoring and evaluation systems</p> <p>Establishment of linkages to broader national monitoring and evaluation systems related to development</p> <p>Systematic monitoring and observation relevant to adaptation planning and implementation, and subsequent monitoring and evaluation of adaptation outcomes and impacts</p> <p>Methodologies and guidelines for applying quantitative and qualitative metrics and indicators when analysing and assessing vulnerabilities, hazards and systems, including examples thereof</p> <p>Development of theories of change in relation to climate change adaptation</p> <p>Compilation of information to support monitoring, review and evaluation of progress in addressing adaptation</p> <p>Mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of support received</p>
Linkage with the development agenda	Steps A.4, B.5, C.1, C.4 and D.4 Decision 5/CP.17	Capacity to effectively address climate change adaptation in the national context within the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs

Area	Related elements and steps of the process to formulate and implement NAPs;^a COP and CMA decisions;^b and Articles of the Paris Agreement	Needs^c
	Article 2; and Article 7, paragraph 1	<p>Articulation of the co-benefits of climate change adaptation proposals to the GCF</p> <p>Understanding of the concept of integrating adaptation into development planning, and of ways to integrate international processes that are relevant to adaptation planning using the appropriate frameworks, such as the SDGs, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the New Urban Agenda</p> <p>Identification of effective entry points for the integration of adaptation into development planning</p> <p>Prioritization of adaptation in development, including by communicating the development or economic value and benefits of implementing adaptation measures</p>
Active learning from practice	<p>Element D</p> <p>Decision 12/CP.18, paragraph 9; decision 3/CP.20, paragraph 9; decision 6/CP.22, paragraph 12; and decision 11/CMA.1, paragraph 13</p> <p>Article 7, paragraph 9</p>	<p>Capacity to apply the experience of and lessons learned during adaptation planning and implementation to future adaptation efforts, including by identifying and promoting best practices</p> <p>Facilitation of true learning beyond the documentation of experience and lessons learned</p> <p>Promotion of learning platforms to facilitate the sharing of experience and learning, especially at the regional level</p> <p>Expansion of South–South exchanges to capitalize on experience with similar or common climate shocks</p>
Guiding principles	<p>All elements</p> <p>Decision 5/CP.17, paragraphs 2–5</p> <p>Article 7, paragraph 5</p>	<p>Adequate engagement of multiple stakeholders at the national and subnational level, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, city governments and other subnational authorities, youth, local communities and indigenous peoples, in managing adaptation planning and implementation, taking into account elements of successful adaptation (guiding principles)</p> <p>Adequate analysis of which communities, groups and ecosystems are the most vulnerable</p> <p>Deeper and more consistent consideration of how the general concept of gender sensitivity can be applied to practical actions that lead to a reduction in gender-driven vulnerabilities</p>

Area	<i>Related elements and steps of the process to formulate and implement NAPs;^a COP and CMA decisions;^b and Articles of the Paris Agreement</i>	<i>Needs^c</i>
		Ways to identify and effectively manage trade-offs between different adaptation actions and approaches, and between development and ecological protection

Note. This table updates the information contained in document FCCC/SBI/2019/16, annex I. A detailed table of the gaps related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs as well as of the activities of the LEG, the AC and relevant organizations related to addressing the gaps and needs is available and will be updated periodically at <https://unfccc.int/node/210550>.

^a As contained in the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, available at <https://unfccc.int/node/319>.

^b Decisions that contain mandates from the COP or the CMA related to supporting developing countries in the process to formulate and implement NAPs and that refer to any of the following bodies or entities: the AC; the LEG; Parties; United Nations organizations; specialized, bilateral and multilateral agencies; and other relevant organizations.

^c The needs represent countries' expected competencies, essential skills or services at the national, subnational or sectoral level required for the formulation and implementation of NAPs.