



NAP Global Network

Capacity-building support for adaptation, with a focus on addressing gaps and needs related to formulating and implementing national adaptation plans

Supplemental information for PART II

In your experience, what are the key capacity gaps and needs of developing countries related to formulating and implementing NAPs?

Analysis by the NAP Global Network of 37 multi-sector NAP documents submitted to the UNFCCC as of October 22, 2022, found that 97% of NAPs mention capacity building. In terms of how capacity building is framed, it is most commonly integrated throughout the document, though over half of the NAP documents analyzed included capacity building as a “cross-sectoral or strategic priority” (NAP Trends, 2023).

The capacity gaps and needs related to the different areas are outlined below.

Accessing financial support (NAP Global Network, 2017)

- Costing of adaptation actions to identify finance gaps.
- Identifying financing options for prioritized adaptation actions (including public and private, domestic and international sources).
- Preparing project concept notes and proposals for implementation of adaptation actions.
- Financial management, including tracking and reporting on adaptation spending.
- Strengthening the climate rationale of adaptation project proposals looking for funding.

Implementation strategies

- Integrating climate change in government budgets at different government levels.
- Development of resource mobilization strategies at different governance levels.
- Stakeholder engagement, communications, and public outreach.
- Feasibility studies, needs assessments, to translate priorities into specific actions.

Institutional arrangements and coordination

- Operational resources for meetings, consultations, and dialogue among diverse stakeholders.
- Sufficient human resources for effective coordination and collaboration.
- Enabling strategic linkages between different governance levels, sectors, and stakeholders.
- Facilitation of dialogue, consensus building, and conflict resolution.

Monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), including active learning from practice

- Design and operationalization of MEL systems for adaptation.
- Data collection, analysis, and management.
- Methodologies for evaluating adaptation outcomes.



- Facilitation of participatory learning and reflection processes.
- Communication of results and lessons learned from adaptation action.

Risk and vulnerability assessment and risk management

- Methodologies for assessing risks and vulnerabilities.
- Facilitation of participatory risk and vulnerability assessment processes.
- Data collection, analysis, and management.

Other

- Integrating gender equality and social inclusion in NAP processes (knowledge of these approaches, skills to facilitate them, time and resources for the process).
- Information and knowledge management systems to ensure access to data and evidence for better informed decision making.
- Strategic communications to engage key stakeholders in the NAP process.

In your experience, what have been the key challenges with regard to the provision of capacity-building support in this area to date?

| Challenge | How could this challenge be addressed? |
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| Turnover within NAP teams | Target capacity building to a broader group of adaptation actors within government, including representatives from ministries responsible for priority sectors, social and gender ministries, etc. Also invest in capacity building for non-governmental stakeholders, including civil society organizations and private sector actors. |
| Ineffectiveness of general and/or one-off training approaches | Provide training as part of a broader capacity development strategy. Focus on demand-driven and needs-based training on a sustained basis, combined with other capacity building strategies including peer learning, mentoring, reflective learning practices, etc. Provide role-specific training to individuals rather than generalized group training. |
| Language barriers | Provide more opportunities for capacity building in languages other than English. |
| Reliance on short-term consultants | Invest in government systems and structures by building both individual and institutional capacities. Leverage expertise available in other government ministries or organizations outside the government, including research and educational institutions. Use consultants more strategically, for example as embedded advisors or through longer-term assignments to support NAP teams. Build capacities of local and national experts rather than relying on international consultants. |
| Lack of equity in opportunities for capacity building | Establish strategies and tracking systems for ensuring equitable access to training opportunities for people who are typically underrepresented in adaptation decision making, including women, |

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| | ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, and youth. |
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How can existing capacity building efforts be improved and what kind of new or additional capacity-building efforts are needed to ensure the effective formulation and implementation of NAPs?

The solutions to address identified challenges mentioned above provide a good summary of how capacity building efforts could be improved for national-level actors.

Who should be the target recipients of such capacity-building, and who could provide it?

Recipients: Capacity building for the NAP process should target the multilevel government actors involved in coordination, planning, implementation, and MEL of adaptation, as well as non-governmental stakeholders, including civil society organizations and private sector actors. In the 37 NAP documents submitted to the UNFCCC as of October 22, 2022, 97% mention capacity building, with over half of the documents including it as a cross-sectoral or strategic priority. In terms of NAPs that target specific actors for capacity development, the most commonly identified actor has been “communities and local actors” and “sector ministries”. Other commonly identified actors have been: civil society organizations; NAP coordinating ministry; private sector actors; ministries of finance or other responsible for budgeting and resource allocation; researchers and the academic community; sub-national authorities; and government service providers (NAP Trends, 2023).

Providers: Given the range of capacity gaps and the need for more sustained approaches to capacity building, there are roles for local experts, academic institutions, development partners, etc. International actors such as the NAP Global Network and UN agencies can play a key role in identifying needs, facilitating access to capacity building, fostering learning across countries, and documenting experience and lessons from capacity building efforts.

Case studies, good practices, tools, lessons learned, or examples of support:

The following are good practices to increase effectiveness of capacity building for NAP processes:

- Adopt a demand-driven and needs-based approach to capacity building.
- Provide training as part of a broader, long-term strategy for capacity development that includes other approaches such as peer learning and mentoring.
- Use and enhance local and national expertise.
- Invest in individual and institutional capacities that strengthen government systems and structures for adaptation.
- Increase access to capacity building opportunities by expanding the offer in terms of language and approaches.



- Commit to equity in opportunities for capacity building, recognizing barriers faced by groups that are typically underrepresented in adaptation decision making.

References

NAP Global Network (2017) *Financing National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Processes: Contributing to the achievement of nationally determined contribution (NDC) adaptation goals. Guidance Note.*

<https://napglobalnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/napgn-en-2017-financing-nap-processes.pdf>

NAP Global Network (2020) sNAPshot | Strategic Communications in Peru's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process. <https://napglobalnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/napgn-en-2020-strategic-communications-in-peru-nap-process.pdf>

NAP Global Network. (2023). *NAP Trends*. <https://trends.napglobalnetwork.org/>