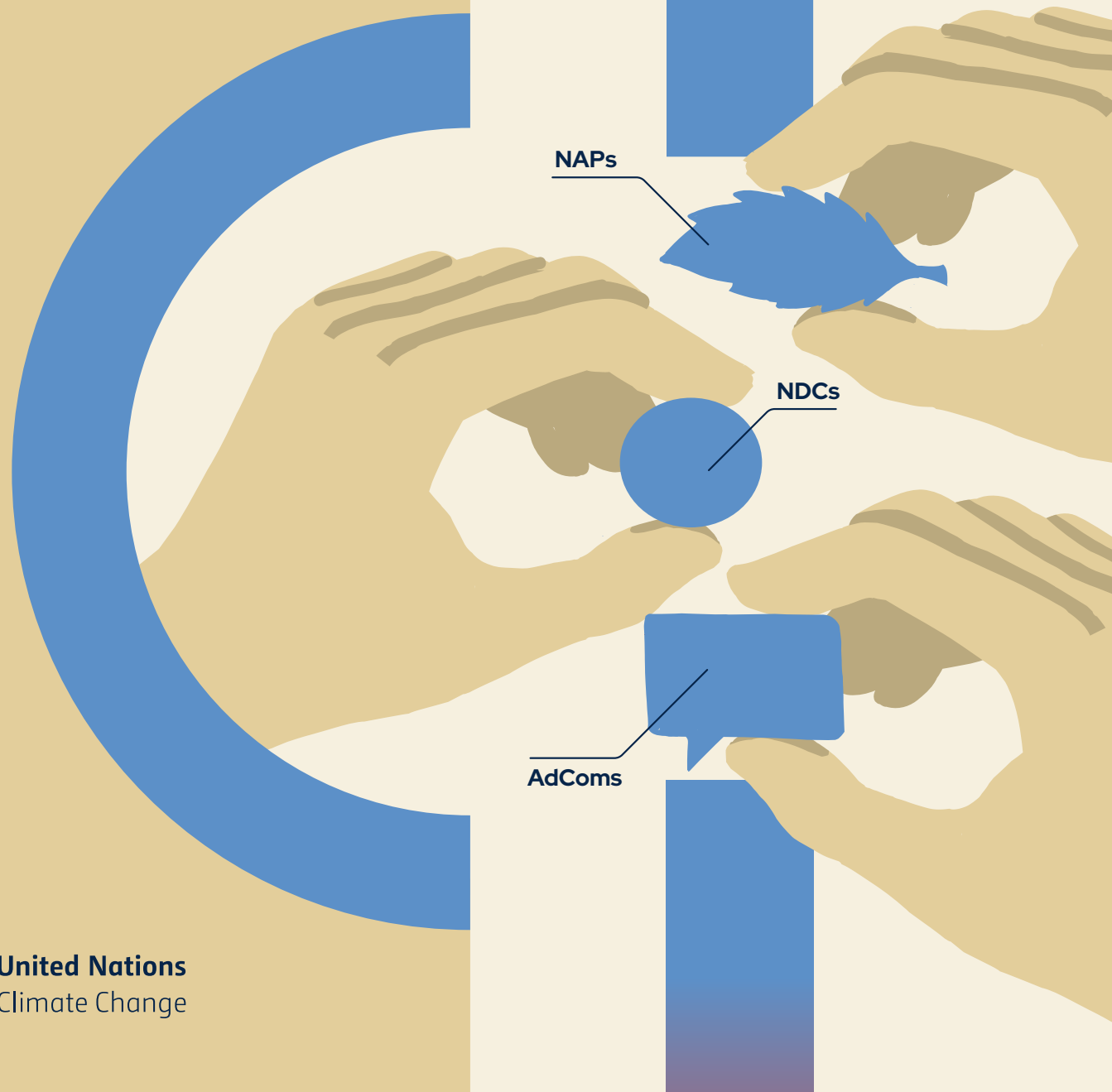


# Aligning National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions and Adaptation Communications

LDC Expert Group





# 1

## Introduction

The least developed countries (LDCs) expressed the need for technical assistance in identifying the linkages between national adaptation plans (NAPs) and nationally determined contributions (NDCs). The Conference of the Parties (COP) at its twenty-seventh session requested the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) to enhance the support provided to the LDCs for aligning NAPs and NDCs.<sup>1</sup>

This paper is aimed at providing an overview of the linkages between NAPs, NDCs and adaptation communications. It discusses the benefits and recommendations for their alignment and shares

some insights on the experience of the LDCs in linkages between their NAPs and NDCs. The paper builds on existing publications and reports, as well as analysis of the NAPs and NDCs of some LDCs and the views and experience shared by the LDCs through a survey conducted in July 2024 by the LEG.

The NDC Partnership, NAP Global Network, United Nations Development Programme and other organizations have also produced reports and briefs and conducted webinars offering guidance, sharing knowledge and providing support to countries in aligning NAPs and NDCs (see the references section of this paper).



<sup>1</sup> Decision 10/CP.27, para. 12.

## 2.1. National adaptation plans

COP 16 established the process to formulate and implement NAPs to enable the LDCs to formulate and implement NAPs with a view to identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs.

NAPs are the main instrument for building climate resilience, aimed at guiding efforts to reduce vulnerability to climate change, enhance adaptive capacity and strengthen resilience, thereby contributing towards achieving sustainable development. NAPs are an essential tool for countries in outlining national adaptation priorities for a specific time period and provide a framework for addressing those priorities. NAPs also include risk and vulnerability assessments, prioritization and appraisal of national adaptation priorities, information on their implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and details on the process to formulate and implement NAPs. They also specify how the process will be continued and supported towards the formulation of the next, improved iteration of the country's NAP.

The formulation of NAPs entails active engagement of all actors and stakeholders at the national level including ministries, subnational and local governments, civil society, academia, youth, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The process to formulate and implement NAPs follows a comprehensive set of guiding principles for ensuring a continuous, progressive and iterative process that is not prescriptive; facilitating country-owned, country-driven action; ensuring a gender-sensitive, participatory and transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems; and ensuring that NAPs are based on and guided by the best available science and traditional and Indigenous knowledge.<sup>2</sup> Funding related to the formulation and implementation of NAPs is provided through the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund and other channels such as bilateral sources and through programmes. COP 17 approved the Governing Instrument for the GCF,<sup>3</sup> which supports developing countries in pursuing project-based and programmatic approaches in accordance with NAPs. Through its Readiness Programme, the GCF provides funding of up to USD 3 million per country for the formulation of NAPs or other adaptation planning processes. Additionally, COP 18 mandated the Global Environment Facility to provide funding for activities to enable the preparation of NAPs through the Least Developed Countries Fund for the LDCs and through the Special Climate Change Fund for developing countries that are not LDCs.<sup>4</sup> COP 21 requested the GCF to expedite support for the LDCs and other developing country Parties for the formulation of NAPs and for the subsequent implementation of policies, projects and programmes identified therein.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Decision 5/CP.17, paras. 2–4.

<sup>3</sup> Decision 3/CP.17, para. 2. The Governing Instrument for the GCF is contained in the annex to that decision.

<sup>4</sup> Decision 12/CP.18, paras. 1 and 4.

<sup>5</sup> Decision 1/CP.21, para. 46.





## 2.2. Nationally determined contributions

In accordance with the Paris Agreement, each Party is to prepare, communicate and maintain its successive NDCs that it intends to achieve. All Parties are to undertake and communicate ambitious efforts as defined in Articles 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13 of the Paris Agreement with a view to achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement as set out in Article 2. The aggregated ambitions of NDCs indicate whether the world is on track to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, with the aim of reaching global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible and undertaking rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with best available science, so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century. Each successive NDC should represent a progression, reflecting each Party's highest possible ambition, covering the entire spectrum of climate action.

The first global stocktake recognized that the Paris Agreement has driven near-universal progress on climate action; however, despite the overall progress, the world

is not on track to meet the long-term temperature goal of the Agreement, reach the necessary level of climate resilience, and mobilize and align the necessary financial flows. The NDCs to be submitted by 10 February 2025,<sup>6</sup> also known as NDCs 3.0, are to be informed by the outcome of the first global stocktake.

In 2023, 81 per cent of Parties (158 in total) included an adaptation component in their NDC, 13 per cent of which were designated as adaptation communications. The 2023 NDC synthesis report further noted that the number of NDCs containing adaptation information has increased in comparison with previous NDCs.<sup>7</sup> The adaptation components of NDCs, where included, indicate an increased focus on national adaptation planning, in particular on the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The new or updated NDCs include, in comparison with the same Parties' previous NDCs, more information on time-bound quantitative adaptation targets and the associated indicator frameworks, more specific information on the contribution of adaptation efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and more specific information on the synergies and co-benefits between adaptation and mitigation.

<sup>6</sup> [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PAICC\\_11\\_meeting\\_report.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PAICC_11_meeting_report.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://unfccc.int/ndc-synthesis-report-2023>

## 2.3. Adaptation communications

Adaptation communications were established in Article 7, paragraphs 10–11, of the Paris Agreement, according to which each Party should, as appropriate, submit and update periodically an adaptation communication, which may include its priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions. The purpose of the adaptation communication is to:<sup>8</sup>

- Increase the visibility and profile of adaptation and its balance with mitigation;
- Strengthen adaptation action and support for developing countries;
- Provide input to the global stocktake;
- Enhance learning and understanding of adaptation needs and actions.

Adaptation communications can be submitted as a component of or in conjunction with other communications or documents, including NAPs, national communications, NDCs or biennial transparency

reports (BTRs). Adaptation communications are country-driven and flexible, including in the choice of communication or document and should not pose any additional burden on developing country Parties.<sup>9</sup> The elements of an adaptation communication, as set out in decision 9/CMA.1, are listed in annex I for reference. The LDCs that submitted adaptation communications are listed in annex II.

## 2.4. Biennial transparency reports

Under the enhanced transparency framework, Parties to the Paris Agreement are required to submit BTRs every two years, with the first submission due by 31 December 2024. According to the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement (annex to decision 18/CMA.1), BTRs should include information on national inventory reports, progress towards NDCs, policies and measures, climate change impacts and adaptation, levels of financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support, capacity-building needs and areas of improvement. Small island developing States and the LDCs may submit the information required for BTRs at their discretion.

<sup>8</sup> Decision 9/CMA.1, para. 1.

<sup>9</sup> Decision 9/CMA.1, para. 2(a–b).



# 3

## Benefits for alignment of NAPs, NDCs and adaptation communications

The range of issues to be addressed by the LDCs and all other Parties under the UNFCCC process has significantly widened over the years. These include the need for effective implementation of many elements of the Paris Agreement, in addition to existing responsibilities under the Convention.

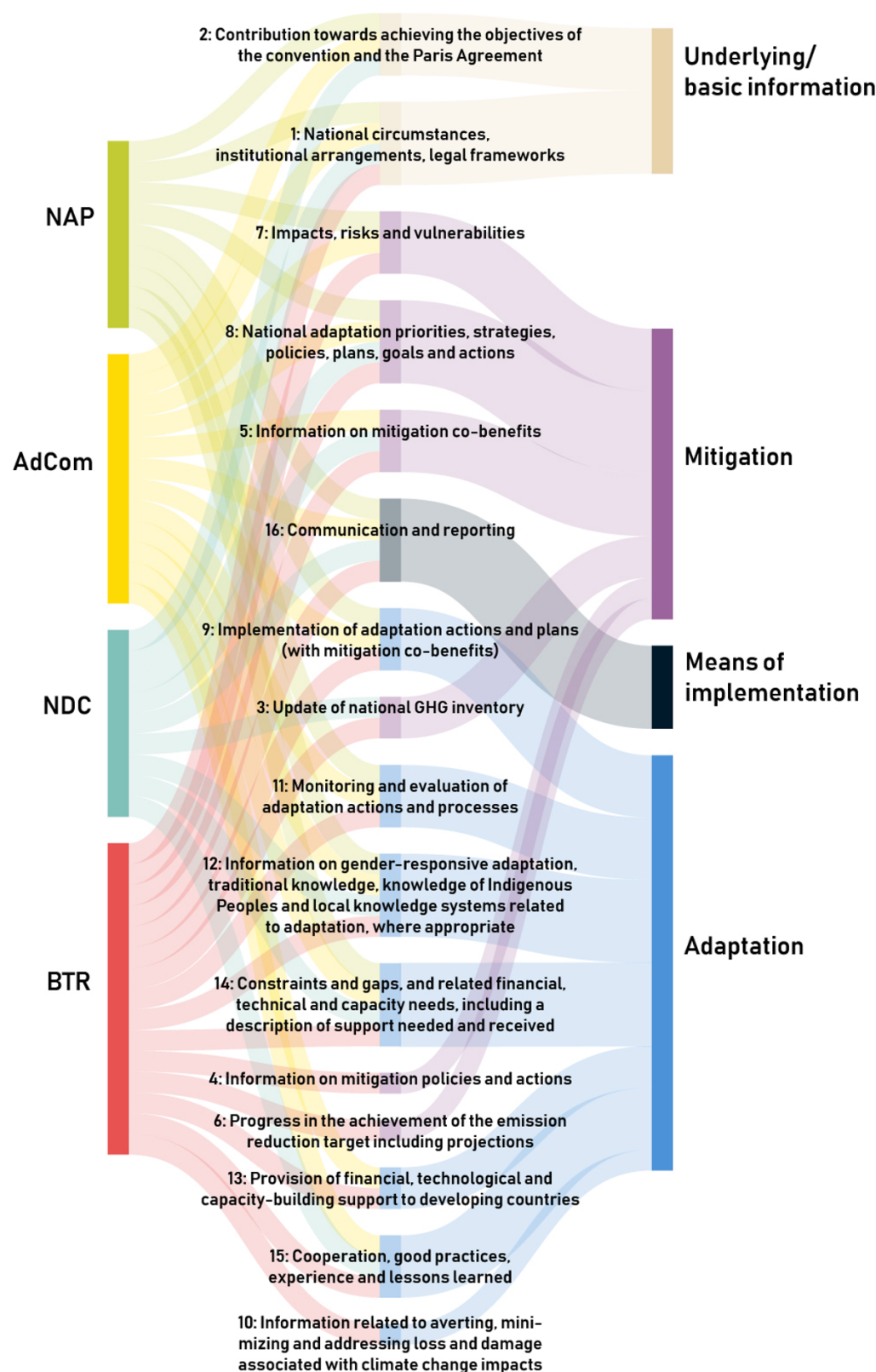
Aware of these challenges, the LEG developed the Paris Agreement alignment (PA-ALIGN) tool in 2021 to guide the LDCs in effectively and efficiently navigating

and addressing the many elements of the Paris Agreement.<sup>10</sup> Specifically, the PA-ALIGN tool can help the LDCs identify linkages to harmonize information requirements and deliverables at the national and international level, such as national strategies, NDCs, NAPs and adaptation communications. Figure 1 shows the interconnections in the information requirements across reports, communications and plans prepared by Parties under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.



<sup>10</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PA-ALIGN-tool-brochure2021.pdf>

**Figure 1** Interconnections in the information requirements across national reports and documents



**Abbreviations**

- Adaptation communication (AdCom)
- Biennial transparency report (BTR)
- National adaptation plan (NAP)
- Nationally determined contribution (NDC)



### 3.1. Improved efficiency and coordination

Countries are increasingly seeing the value in synergizing the various reporting requirements under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. A mapping of the linkages between NAPs, NDCs, adaptation communications and BTRs is shown in figure 2.

The alignment of NAPs, NDCs, adaptation communications and BTRs can help to improve efficiency at the national level. Climate change activities at the national level are often undertaken in fragmented stages with heavy implications on resources, efficiency, synergies and coherence. Each team (working on NAPs, NDCs, national communications, etc.) might conduct separate assessments, consultations and planning, resulting in redundant efforts and suboptimal use of resources. Harmonizing these processes could lead to the following:

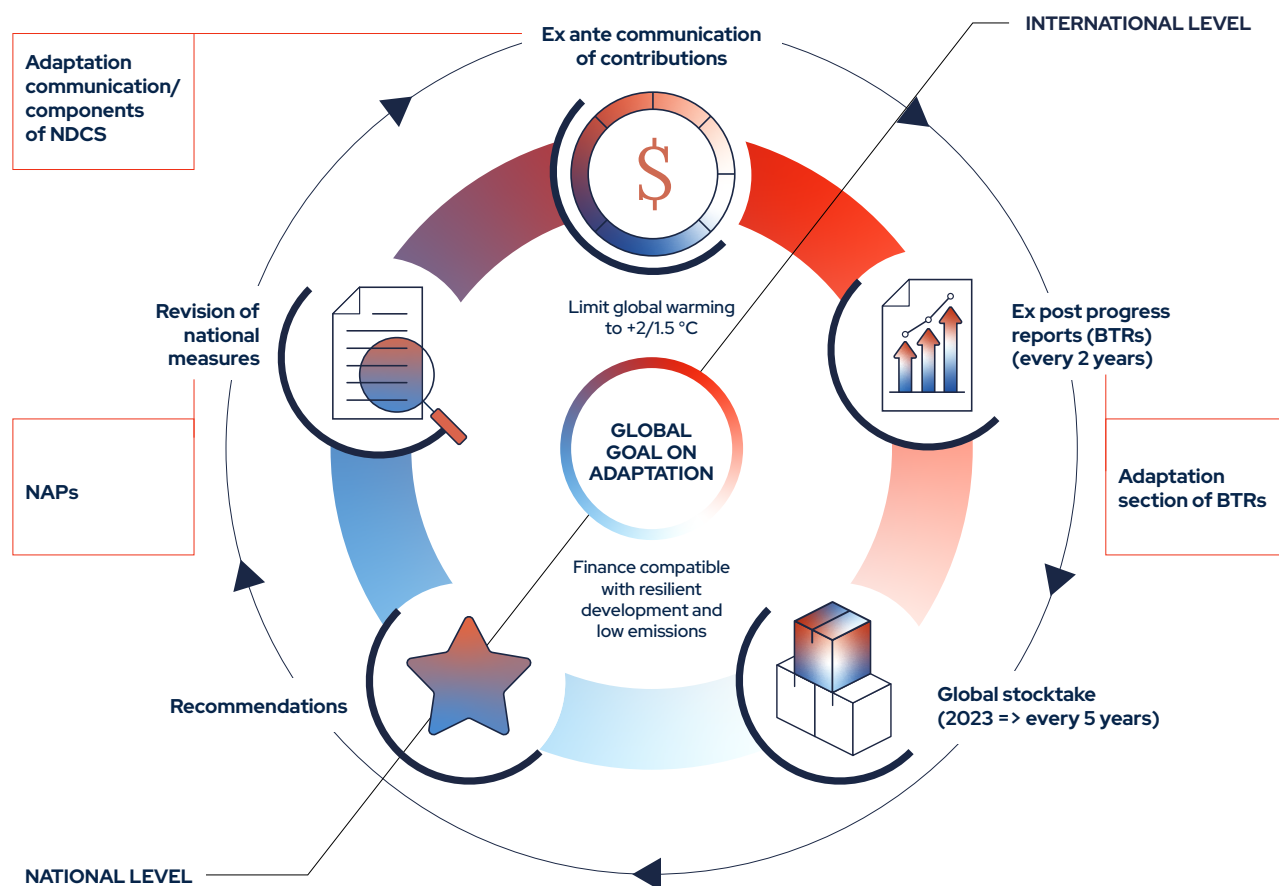
- **Resource optimization:** Shared assessments, stakeholder consultations and integrated planning efforts can reduce redundancies, saving time and financial resources. For example, the assessments,

climate projections and priorities identified in the national communications can also be used in the preparation of NAPs, NDCs and adaptation communications;

- **Coordinated implementation:** A whole-of-government approach in the implementation phase ensures that all climate actions are consistent, reducing overlaps and gaps. Promoting interministerial and cross-sectoral collaboration strengthens institutional frameworks and enhances the ability to implement comprehensive climate actions;
- **Streamlined reporting:** Common reporting frameworks and timelines can reduce the administrative burden on national institutions and improve the quality of reporting to international bodies.

Communicating the same adaptation priorities in NAPs and NDCs and streamlining the implementation of activities will enhance efficiency, optimize coordination, ensure coherence, avoid duplication of efforts, optimize use of time and resources and streamline adaptation priorities across national planning frameworks to effectively contribute towards the national vision and goals.

**Figure 2** Mapping of the linkages between NAPs, NDCs, adaptation communications and BTRs



Source: UNFCCC 2023, Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) regional training workshop materials, Chapter 1.3 Arrangements and linkages.

### 3.2. Enhanced policy coherence

Coordination of NAPs, NDCs, adaptation communications and BTRs can contribute to climate policies and actions that are coherent and mutually reinforcing. This coherence is essential for:

- **Integrated climate action:** Policies and measures outlined in NAPs and NDCs can be designed to complement each other, enhancing overall climate resilience and mitigation efforts;
- **Clear communication:** Consistent messaging in NAPs, NDCs and adaptation communications provides clear information to national stakeholders and the international community about a country's climate commitments and priorities.

### 3.3. Better promotion of mitigation and adaptation actions

The streamlining of NAPs and NDCs will promote both adaptation and mitigation by clarifying the contexts of each. Whereas NDCs are a national communication and reporting instrument under the Paris Agreement, outlining the mitigation efforts of the country, the process to formulate and implement NAPs involves supporting adaptation actions through an integrated approach using observations and research and through analysis, assessments, priority-setting and adaptation plans and their implementation, followed by reporting, monitoring and review. NAPs represent an opportunity for countries to identify and set a long-term vision that defines a road map towards transformational change to adapt to climate risks.

The purpose of the alignment is not to present NAPs and NDCs as one replacing the other, but rather to ensure that they promote both mitigation efforts and adaptation priorities equally at the political level.

### 3.4. Comprehensive approach to climate change

Adaptation and mitigation actions often bring co-benefits, and several countries emphasized the need for a holistic and integrated approach to mitigation and adaptation and to prioritize actions that create synergies and co-benefits for adaptation and mitigation, thereby maximizing the impact of climate change investments. Such recognition of interconnections can be achieved if the NDC and process to formulate and implement NAPs are coordinated and inform each other, including through exchanges with respective expert groups and teams.

Additionally, several NAPs also mention loss and damage and some identify actions on loss and damage as part of their adaptation measures. As such, some of the measures to address loss and damage will also become part of the adaptation component of the NDC. This presents an opportunity to address climate change holistically.

### 3.5. Facilitating access to climate finance

Coherent climate plans can enhance a country's ability to access international climate finance. Donors and funding mechanisms often prefer to support well-coordinated and strategic initiatives. It will result in:

- **Attractive proposals:** Countries can develop stronger, more compelling funding proposals that demonstrate a clear, integrated approach to addressing climate change;
- **Efficient use of funds:** Funds received are used efficiently and effectively, avoiding duplication and ensuring that investments achieve maximum impact.

In order to understand the experience of the LDCs, this section provides an analysis of their NAPs and NDCs, presented on the basis of the order of their submission, to understand whether countries draw linkages between the two documents.

The table in annex III shows the order of NDC and NAP submissions for the 22 LDCs that had submitted their NAPs as at 24 September 2024, based on three categories:

- **The LDCs that submitted their NAPs before submitting their NDCs (32 per cent):** Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kiribati, Madagascar, Sudan, Timor-Leste and Togo;
- **The LDCs that submitted their NAPs after submitting their NDCs (59 per cent):** Bangladesh, Benin, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Zambia;
- **The LDCs that submitted their NDCs and NAPs concurrently (9 per cent):** Central African Republic and Liberia.

The following analysis does not include all countries that submitted NAPs and NDCs but provides information on the experience of some of the LDCs under each of the three categories.

### Category 1: The LDCs that submitted their NAPs before submitting their NDCs

- **Ethiopia (NAP March 2019; NDC July 2021):**  
Ethiopia used both the NAP and NDC to increase adaptation action. The adaptation component of the NDC is based on a review of existing documents, including Ethiopia's NAP and NAP implementation road map, with further prioritization of the adaptation interventions identified therein, as well as its resource mobilization strategy and various sector-based vulnerability assessments. The elements Ethiopia took into consideration while updating the NDC were related to updating and adding information on (1) trends in relation to impacts and vulnerabilities; (2) current and near-term planning and action; (3) monitoring and evaluation learning plans; (4) the national long-term goals or vision; and (5) gaps and barriers.
- **Kiribati (NAP January 2020; NDC March 2023):**  
Kiribati's NAP is referred to as the Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management 2019–2028. Its NDC highlights that Kiribati's national adaptation priorities, as set out in the Joint Implementation Plan, are included in the revised NDC.

<sup>11</sup> <https://unfccc.int/documents/500082>

- **Madagascar (NAP May 2022; NDC January 2024):** Madagascar finalized the formulation of its NAP in 2021 and submitted it in 2022. The NAP lists seven priority sectors in accordance with the intended nationally determined contribution (INDC), which was submitted in 2016. The second NDC of Madagascar was submitted in January 2024. Its adaptation component outlines general objectives, followed by information on its seven priority sectors and respective envisaged adaptation measures for each. It refers to the NAP as the strategic framework to guide adaptation actions in the medium and long term. The adaptation communication,<sup>11</sup> submitted in 2022, refers to the INDC, the NDC and the NAP, and elaborates on progress and the country's needs for support for implementing the NAP, in line with the seven priority sectors.
- **Sudan (NAP September 2016; NDC September 2022):** Since the submission of its INDC in 2015, the Sudan has identified and been implementing adaptation measures across the 18 states in the country to build resilience in vulnerable sectors. According to the Sudan's NDC, the NAP, which was submitted in 2016, has emerged as the central policy framework for proposing necessary action by the Government in reshaping its current programmes and protocols to ensure that adaptation and climate risk management are integrated into the wider national sustainable development planning process. The adaptation component of the updated NDC was informed by these activities as well as by the ongoing NAP Readiness Project (2021–2022), which emphasizes the need for capacity-building, institutional coordination and enhancing climate change data and information systems for supporting mid- and long-term adaptation planning. The adaptation component was also informed by a vulnerability assessment of crop production and livestock to climate change undertaken for the country's third national communication.
- **Timor-Leste (NAP March 2021; NDC November 2022):** Timor-Leste's first NAP contains several programmes and projects that were identified on the basis of its first NDC (submitted in 2016), national adaptation programme of action (NAPA) and initial and second national communications, as well as its recently developed GCF Country Programme and

other national and international efforts to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters. Timor-Leste mentioned that the submission of its first NAP will facilitate implementation of adaptation actions, help inform the revision of its NDCs, and be submitted as the adaptation communication. The NDC further illustrates Timor Leste's commitment to operationalizing the NAP.

## Category 2: The LDCs that submitted their NAPs after submitting their NDCs

- **Bangladesh (NAP March 2023; NDC August 2021):** Bangladesh's NDC contains an adaptation component that describes the efforts Bangladesh has already undertaken with regard to climate change adaptation. It also outlines the priorities for its long-term vision for adaptation, maintaining synergies with mitigation actions. The NDC further states that since the development of a comprehensive NAP was under way at the time of preparation of the NDC, the adaptation communication will be informed by inputs from the NAP, and that the NAP formulation will identify co-benefits so that synergies between adaptation and mitigation can be fully achieved. The adaptation component of the NDC recognizes that mitigation and adaptation often coexist, and that many adaptation actions have mitigation co-benefits.
- **Benin (NAP July 2022; NDC October 2021):** Benin submitted its NDC in 2021. It started the NAP formulation process in 2013 and submitted its NAP in 2022. The two documents contain references to each other. In developing its NAP, Benin ensured coherence with its NDC and mentions the NDC as one of the strategies and policies with which the NAP is aligned. In turn, the NDC mentions the NAP as one of the cross-cutting strategies that will enable the implementation of adaptation actions. The NAP identifies the eight most vulnerable sectors: water resources, agriculture, health, energy, forestry, coastal zones, infrastructure and urban planning, and tourism. The priority sectors outlined in the NAP are slightly different from those listed in the adaptation component of the NDC, namely agriculture, water resources, forestry, coastal zones, health and tourism.



- **Cambodia (NAP July 2021; NDC December 2020):** Cambodia's NDC emphasizes that adaptation is of great importance, both in the initial NDC and the updated NDC, owing to the country's continued high vulnerability to climate change. It indicates that the NAP and NDCs are linked and also mentions that the development of the NAP was under way at the time of preparation of the NDC, which identifies climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation actions for the country. The NDC indicates the linkages between the NAP. The NAP builds on the work conducted under the NAPA, the second national communication and the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan, among others.

- **Sierra Leone (NAP February 2022; NDC July 2021):** Sierra Leone's NAP indicates that it is an integral part of the components of the country's updated NDC for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. It mentions that the NAP will further help to identify and address key adaptation challenges, gaps, priorities and resource needs for more effective adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring in support of the NDCs and the Paris Agreement. The NAP is aligned with the National Climate Change Policy Framework (2012), the updated NDC (2021), national communications and the NAPA. The NAP supports the implementation of these policies and the forthcoming updated NDC. Sierra Leone recognizes that establishing synergies and linkages between the NAP and those other key processes is essential for:

- Contributing to achieving the global goal on adaptation by reducing vulnerability through integrating adaptation considerations into all relevant plans, policies and strategies, and prioritizing and planning for adaptation;
- Ensuring that the adaptation component of the NDCs becomes a strategic and ambitious vehicle for capturing, reporting and updating commitments and progress;
- Aligning long-term national development priorities with the Sustainable Development Goals framework.

- **Zambia (NAP November 2023; NDC July 2021):** Zambia's NAP states that it will contribute to the implementation of its national development frameworks such as Vision 2030, the National Development Plan and the NDC. It has also linked

the monitoring and reporting of NAPs at two levels, based on the NAP monitoring, evaluation and learning framework, and on the outcome aggregate indicators provided in its NDC, which are:

- The level of resilience of natural or physical systems achieved;
- The level of adaptive capacity of human systems attained;
- The level of knowledge for adaptation planning and response;
- The level of capacity of human resources for addressing climate change.

### Category 3: The LDCs that submitted their NDCs and NAPs concurrently

- **Central African Republic (NAP February 2022; NDC January 2022):** The Central African Republic submitted its NAP in 2022, its first NDC in 2015 and its updated NDC in 2022. It states that the priorities of the updated NDC are aligned with the NAP, and that the adaptation component of the updated NDC was informed by the NAP. It also states that the adaptation priorities for the NAP were derived, inter alia, from the NDC, the national communication and the GCF Country Programme. The NAP further explains that some activities were undertaken for both the NAP and the NDC (e.g. a mapping of stakeholders involved in the implementation of the NDC and the NAP). The NAP also explains that the predecessor of the NAP, the NAPA, informed the adaptation component of the first NDC in 2015.

- **Liberia (NAP December 2021; NDC August 2021):** The NDC refers to Liberia's National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change, which is aimed at ensuring that a qualitative, effective and coherent climate change adaptation process takes place and serves as the pillar for comprehensive sectoral strategies and action plans. The NDC does not refer directly to the NAP but does make reference to NAPAs. Liberia's NAP shows clear linkages between their NAPs and NDCs. It mentions that the NAP can help identify NDC adaptation goals and that it is the vehicle for implementing the adaptation component of the NDC.

On the basis of the three categories defined above, the following conclusions can be drawn from the experience of the LDCs with their NAPs and NDCs:

- **Linkages between NAPs and NDCs:** Several countries, regardless of whether they submitted their NDCs before or after their NAPs, emphasized the importance of aligning the two documents. They aimed to ensure coherence, avoid duplication of efforts and streamline adaptation priorities across national planning frameworks;
- **Integration of adaptation and mitigation:** Many countries highlighted the interconnectedness between adaptation and mitigation actions, recognizing that addressing climate change requires simultaneous efforts in both areas, and sought to identify synergies between adaptation and mitigation strategies;
- **Use of existing frameworks and strategies:** Countries often built upon existing national policies, strategies and frameworks related to climate change adaptation and mitigation when developing their NDCs and NAPs. This helps to establish continuity and coherence with ongoing national development processes;
- **Stakeholder engagement and consultation:** Stakeholder engagement and consultation were recurrent themes in the development of both NDCs and NAPs. Countries emphasized the importance of involving various stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, civil society organizations and international partners, to ensure ownership, legitimacy and effectiveness of climate actions;
- **Mainstreaming adaptation within development planning:** Many countries underscored the importance of integrating adaptation considerations into broader national development planning processes. They viewed adaptation not as a stand-alone issue but as an essential component of sustainable development, integrating adaptation priorities in long-term national development goals and strategies;
- **Capacity-building and institutional strengthening:** Capacity-building and institutional strengthening emerged as critical elements in the development and implementation of both NDCs and NAPs. Countries recognized the need to enhance institutional capacity, coordination mechanisms, and data and information systems to support effective climate action and adaptation planning.

These commonalities suggest a holistic and integrated approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation, emphasizing alignment with national development priorities, stakeholder engagement and institutional capacity-building.



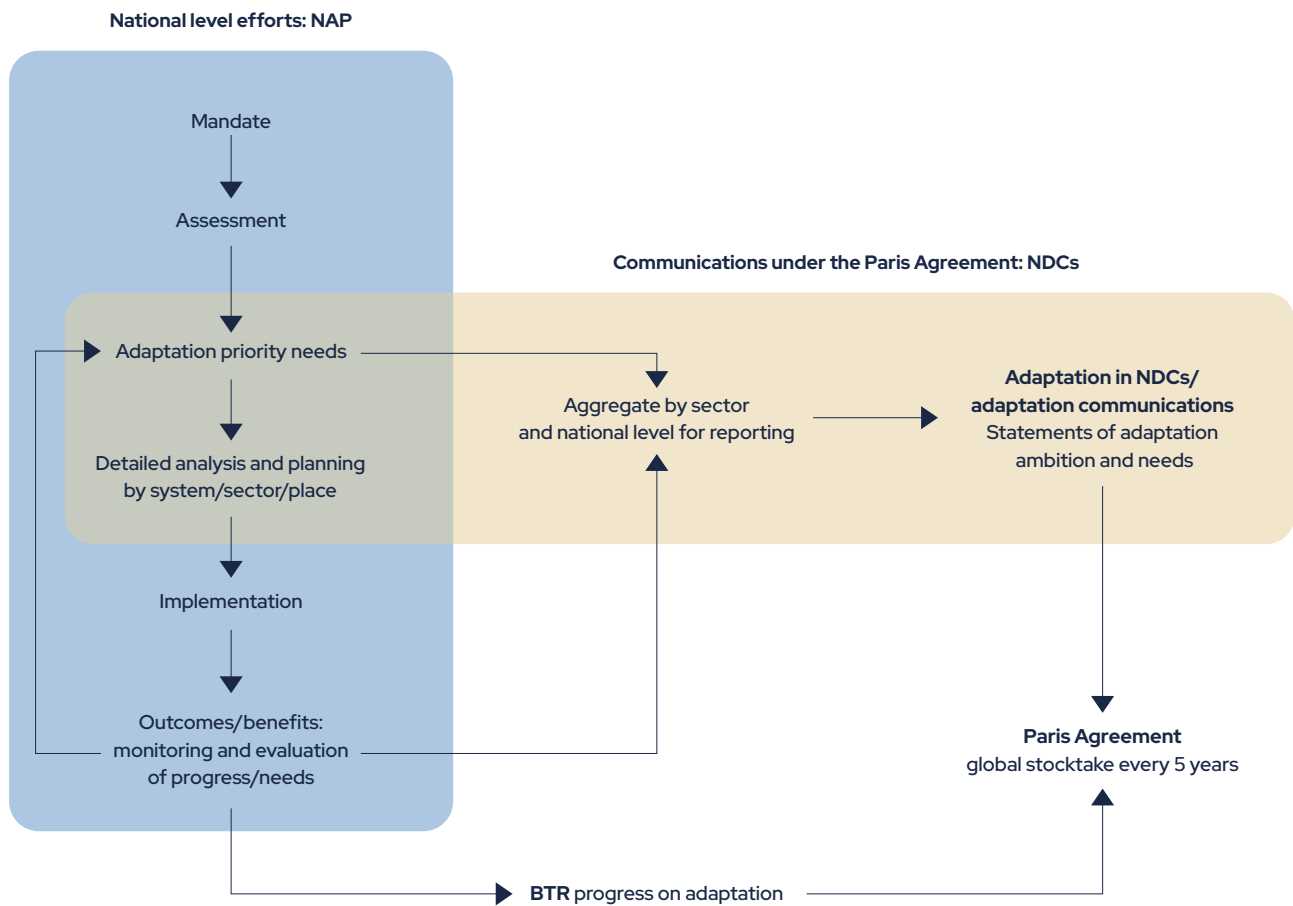
# 5

## Recommendations for aligning NAPs, NDCs and adaptation communications

This section lists some recommendations for aligning NAPs, NDCs and adaptation communications depending on the timing of their submissions (see figure 3). It also

draws on the series of briefs developed by the NAP Global Network on alignment to advance climate-resilient development (2018–2019).<sup>12</sup>

**Figure 3** Overview of steps involved in developing a NAP and how these relate to the production of NDCs, adaptation communications and progress reporting in BTRs, ultimately contributing to the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement



<sup>12</sup> <https://napglobalnetwork.org/themes/ndc-nap-linkages/>





## 5.1. Coordinating NDC and NAP reporting

NDCs are submitted to the secretariat every five years, with two NDC iterations submitted to date and the next NDCs (NDCs 3.0) to be submitted in 2025. Countries that have submitted NAPs can draw from their NAPs to reflect their adaptation priorities as the adaptation components of their NDCs. Countries that are in the process of formulating their NAPs and planning to have an adaptation component in their NDCs could indicate that their NAP will form the basis of their NDC adaptation component, as a series of assessments is undertaken for NAPs to identify and prioritize adaptation actions. The coordination between NAPs and NDCs is an iterative process that benefits from regular monitoring, evaluation and learning from the process.

## 5.2. Using NAPs to define the adaptation component of NDCs

The formulation of a NAP undergoes a robust process of stocktaking exercises, stakeholder consultations, risk and

vulnerability assessments, and prioritization and appraisal of adaptation priorities. Therefore, the adaptation component of the NDC can be a subset of the NAP, focusing on the key objectives, strategies and priorities identified in the NAP. The detail provided in the NAP can clarify the basis for the adaptation component of the NDC.

## 5.3. Using NAPs as an implementation plan for the adaptation component of NDCs

NAPs provide information on, inter alia, national circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks; impacts, vulnerabilities and risks; implementation strategies; gaps and needs; financial costs for adaptation actions; gender-responsive adaptation; and monitoring, evaluation and learning. NDCs that have an implementation plan can synergize the implementation of the adaptation component with that of the implementation plan of the NAP to ensure coherence. Coherent reporting in both documents can help improve the basis for coordinated programming for the implementation of both plans.



## 5.4. Communicating NAPs as the adaptation communication

Adaptation communications can be submitted as a component of or in conjunction with other communications/documents, including NAPs, national communications, NDCs or BTRs. They are country-driven and flexible, including in the choice of communication or document, and should not pose any additional burden on developing country

Parties.<sup>13</sup> Countries may choose to submit their NAP as their adaptation communication or use the information contained in them to ensure consistency in communicating their adaptation plans. Some LDCs<sup>14</sup> have communicated their NAP as their adaptation communication. All these reporting requirements could be broadly harmonized with national development planning cycles so that countries integrate climate change into their national plans and programmes.

A set of frequently asked questions has been developed to assist countries (see the box below).

### Box 1 Frequently asked questions (FAQs)



- 1 Can a country include adaptation information in the NDC?**  
Yes. Most countries (81 per cent of Parties) included adaptation-related information in their NDCs, based on the 2023 NDC synthesis report.
- 2 From where/from which sources can a country draw adaptation information to include in the NDC?**  
The adaptation component of the NDC could be a subset of the NAP, focusing on the key objectives, strategies and priorities identified in the NAP.
- 3 If a country's NAP has not yet been formulated, what sources can it use to inform the adaptation component of the NDC?**  
In many cases, adaptation priorities are well known based on past experience of impacts and are often also reflected in national communications. In such cases, countries can communicate best available information. It should follow that the NAP would then present the same priorities and more, with additional details.
- 4 Does including an adaptation component in the NDC replace the need for a NAP?**  
No. The alignment of NAPs and NDCs does not mean presenting them as one replacing the other, but rather ensuring that they promote both mitigation efforts and adaptation priorities equally at the political level.
- 5 What are the latest efforts to ensure that NAPs are given the same level of recognition as NDCs?**  
The NDCs to be submitted by 10 February 2025, also known as NDCs 3.0, are to be informed by the outcome of the first global stocktake. With the second five-yearly review of progress on NAPs being concluded at COP 29, NAP 3.0, proposed by the UNFCCC Executive Secretary at the 2024 NAP Expo, refers to the third cycle, with a focus on transformational NAPs that attract and secure financing from a wider variety of channels and modalities, in order to accelerate the achievement of adaptation goals. NAP 3.0 mirrors NDC 3.0 in advancing climate ambitions.

<sup>13</sup> Decision 9/CMA.1, para. 2(a–b).

<sup>14</sup> Nepal, Timor-Leste and Zambia. See <https://unfccc.int/ACR>.

# 6

## Conclusions and next steps

For the NDCs to be submitted by 10 February 2025 (NDCs 3.0), coordination between the drafting of NAPs and NDCs and the respective informing of the related processes can lead to greater ambition and presents an opportunity to work in an integrated manner at the national level, taking an overall strategic approach to climate action.

The alignment of NDCs, NAPs and adaptation communications can improve efficiency and coordination and raise the profile of each document in signalling to the global community the mitigation commitment and adaptation priorities of the country. It can also provide an opportunity to streamline

reporting, ensure broader synchronization with development planning cycles and address climate change holistically.

In order to facilitate and support the alignment of NAPs, NDCs and adaptation communications, the LEG will:

- Continue to collect and share information on the synergies and co-benefits of coordinating and streamlining NAPs, NDCs, adaptation communications and other reporting requirements;
- Facilitate sharing of experience and best practices between countries..





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## Annex I: Elements of an adaptation communication<sup>1</sup>

An adaptation communication may include information on the following elements:

- (a) National circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks;
- (b) Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities, as appropriate;
- (c) National adaptation priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions;
- (d) Implementation and support needs of, and provision of support to, developing country Parties;
- (e) Implementation of adaptation actions and plans, including:
  - (i) Progress and results achieved;
  - (ii) Adaptation efforts of developing countries for recognition;
  - (iii) Cooperation on enhancing adaptation at the national, regional and international level, as appropriate;
- (iv) Barriers, challenges and gaps related to the implementation of adaptation;
- (v) Good practices, lessons learned and information-sharing;
- (vi) Monitoring and evaluation;
- (f) Adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including those that result in mitigation co-benefits;
- (g) How adaptation actions contribute to other international frameworks and/or conventions;
- (h) Gender-responsive adaptation action and traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems related to adaptation, where appropriate;
  - (i) Any other information related to adaptation.

<sup>1</sup> See the annex decision 9/CMA.1.



## Annex II: Submissions of adaptation communication<sup>2</sup> by the LDCs as at 24 September 2024

N.	COUNTRY	REGION	ADCOM SUBMISSION	DOCUMENT TYPE
1	Angola	Africa	31 May 2021	NDC
2	Benin	Africa	15 December 2022	Adcom
3	Burkina Faso	Africa	16 February 2022	Adcom
4	Burundi	Africa	05 October 2021	NDC
5	Haiti	Latin America and the Caribbean	15 July 2022	Adcom
6	Liberia	Africa	11 December 2021	Adcom
7	Madagascar	Africa	29 May 2022	Adcom
8	Mauritania	Africa	12 October 2021	NDC
9	Nepal	Asia-Pacific	31 October 2021	NAP
10	Rwanda	Africa	29 October 2021	Adcom
11	Somalia	Africa	09 May 2023	Adcom
12	Sudan	Africa	22 September 2022	NDC
13	Timor-Leste	Asia-Pacific	31 March 2021	NAP
14	Togo	Africa	25 July 2023	Adcom
15	Zambia	Africa	11 November 2023	NAP

<sup>2</sup> <https://unfccc.int/ACR>

## Annex III: Submission of NAPs<sup>3</sup> and NDCs<sup>4</sup> by the LDCs as at 24 September 2024

**Category 1** The LDCs that submitted their NAPs before submitting their NDCs

N.	COUNTRY	REGION	NAP SUBMISSION	NDC SUBMISSION
1	Burkina Faso	Africa	15 October 2015	9 October 2021
2	Ethiopia	Africa	1 March 2019	23 July 2021
3	Kiribati	Asia-Pacific	21 January 2020	2 March 2023
4	Madagascar	Africa	29 May 2022	29 January 2024
5	Sudan	Africa	26 September 2016	22 September 2022
6	Timor-Leste	Asia-Pacific	31 March 2021	8 November 2022
7	Togo	Africa	17 January 2018	12 October 2021

**Category 2** The LDCs that submitted their NAPs after submitting their NDCs

N.	COUNTRY	REGION	NAP SUBMISSION	NDC SUBMISSION
1	Bangladesh	Asia-Pacific	23 March 2023	26 August 2021
2	Benin	Africa	8 July 2022	12 October 2021
3	Burundi	Africa	4 December 2023	5 October 2021
4	Cambodia	Asia-Pacific	7 July 2021	31 December 2020
5	Chad	Africa	15 February 2022	19 October 2021
6	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Africa	6 July 2022	28 December 2021
7	Haiti	Latin America and the Caribbean	5 January 2023	1 June 2022
8	Mozambique	Africa	7 July 2023	27 December 2021
9	Nepal	Asia-Pacific	30 October 2021	8 December 2020
10	Niger	Africa	14 November 2022	13 December 2021
11	Sierra Leone	Africa	8 February 2022	31 July 2021
12	South Sudan	Africa	1 November 2021	21 September 2021
13	Zambia	Africa	11 November 2023	30 July 2021

**Category 3** The LDCs that submitted their NDCs and NAPs concurrently

N.	COUNTRY	REGION	NAP SUBMISSION	NDC SUBMISSION
1	Central African Republic	Africa	16 February 2022	24 January 2022
2	Liberia	Africa	16 December 2021	4 August 2021

<sup>3</sup> <https://napcentral.org/submitted-NAPs>

<sup>4</sup> <https://unfccc.int/NDCREG>

# About the LEG

The Least developed countries expert Group (LEG) was established in 2001 and is mandated to provide technical guidance and support to the LDCs on the process to formulate and implement NAPs and the implementation of the LDC work programme.

The LEG is also mandated to provide technical guidance and advice on accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, together with the GCF secretariat. Furthermore, the LEG is mandated to engage a wide range of organizations in implementing its work programme.



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For more information, please visit:

<https://unfccc.int/LEG>

<https://napcentral.org/>