

Proven impact:
25 years of supporting the LDCs

United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

PROVEN IMPACT

25 years of supporting the LDCs

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Learn more about LDC adaptation support at
www.napcentral.org
https://unfccc.int/LEG

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The 25-year journey

An occasion both to celebrate and reflect



The year 2026 marks 25 years since the establishment of the LDC work programme, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and the beginning of dedicated support for adaptation planning in least developed countries (LDCs) under the UNFCCC process.

This anniversary is an occasion both to celebrate and reflect. The institutions and frameworks established at COP 7 in 2001 have endured and evolved in response to the changing needs and priorities of LDCs. The LEG's work reflects this evolution, from supporting countries in addressing urgent and immediate adaptation needs through national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), to supporting national adaptation plans (NAPs) that address medium- and long-term adaptation needs.

Central to the LEG's work has been sustained engagement with LDCs. This dialogue has enabled the LEG to tailor its support to different national circumstances and stages of the NAP process, helping countries strengthen their capacity, institutions and ownership of adaptation action.

This publication reflects on that 25-year journey through the experiences of those who helped shape, champion and sustain these efforts. It celebrates what has been achieved while demonstrating the value of dedicated, country-driven support and the partnerships that have made progress possible.

Much remains to be done. As climate risks intensify, the priorities identified by LDCs need to be translated into implementation at scale. The LEG remains committed to working closely with LDCs to strengthen their institutional and technical capacities, support the formulation and implementation of NAPs, address emerging gaps and needs, and facilitate access to the technical and financial support required to advance adaptation action. Building on 25 years of experience and partnership, we will continue to evolve our support so that it remains responsive to the priorities of LDCs and helps them turn their adaptation ambitions into tangible and lasting results.

Mokoena France

Chair of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

The legacy of Marrakech

Supporting LDCs is both an obligation grounded in equity and an investment in climate resilience



Climate change impacts intensify each year, with the heaviest burdens falling on the most vulnerable. Least developed countries (LDCs), despite contributing the least to global emissions, face some of the gravest consequences. The catastrophic glacial collapse and flash floods in Nepal and China this year underscored the escalating risks and urgent need to strengthen resilience in these countries.

The UNFCCC recognized the specific needs and circumstances of LDCs from the outset. Twenty-five years ago, COP 7 in Marrakech translated this recognition into action through a landmark package of decisions, including the LDC work programme, to help countries address the adverse effects of climate change.

Since then, the programme has amplified LDC voices, highlighted their priorities and helped mobilize support, contributing to wider recognition of their challenges and needs beyond the UNFCCC.

This publication brings together the experiences and lessons of those who have built and sustained this unique support architecture over the past 25 years, while also looking ahead to new challenges and opportunities.

The past 25 years have shown that supporting LDCs is both an obligation grounded in equity and an investment in climate resilience. LDCs have demonstrated determination, innovation and leadership despite immense challenges. They now need continued support that matches their ambition and the risks they face.

The legacy of Marrakech shows what sustained commitment can achieve: stronger institutions and communities, and lasting resilience.

I hope this publication inspires a renewed sense of purpose among Parties and partners, helping mobilize the resources, collaboration and political will needed to accelerate adaptation in LDCs for decades to come.

Simon Stiell

UNFCCC Executive Secretary

The LDC Group has grown

The LEG's technical guidance and the LDCF's financial support have been central



Twenty-five years ago, the world committed to stand with our countries as they faced climate change, establishing the LDC work programme, the LEG and the LDCF. That commitment matters as much today as it did then.

We have moved from identifying urgent and immediate needs through national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) to planning for the long term through national adaptation plans (NAPs). Behind this shift are leadership and determination of national institutions, experts and communities working to protect lives, livelihoods and development gains. The NAPs set out national priorities across sectors and give partners a clear basis for action and investment.

The LDC Group has grown in experience and influence, bringing our priorities into the negotiations, and helping shape the global response to climate change. Decisions affecting our future must continue to be guided by the knowledge, priorities, and leadership of our countries.

The LEG's technical guidance and the LDCF's financial support have been central to this journey. I pay tribute to their contributions, to the dedication of successive generations of LDC negotiators and to all the partners who have sustained this work.

Yet the scale and pace of climate impacts demand much more. Too many national priorities remain unimplemented, while communities face repeated losses and governments make difficult choices with limited resources. The next phase must accelerate the transition from NAP formulation to implementation, backed by predictable, accessible grant-based finance, stronger implementation capacity and support that follows country priorities. The LEG and the LDCF, our two key mechanisms, must be strengthened and adequately resourced to continue guiding the process and remain responsive to evolving needs of our countries.

As we mark this anniversary, I call on our partners to renew their commitments to the LDCs. Our countries have set out their priorities. The international community must now help turn them into lasting protection for our people.

Adão Soares Barbosa

Special Envoy and Ambassador-at-Large for Climate Affairs, Chair of the LDC Group on Climate Change

A strong LDCF

Lasting resilience depends on country leadership, local knowledge and strong national institutions



Twenty-five years of adaptation efforts in the world's least developed countries tell a story of determination, leadership and progress in the face of growing environmental pressures and climate risks. Despite contributing the least to global greenhouse gas emissions, LDCs have worked to protect their people and livelihoods from the effects of climate change, build national expertise, stronger institutions and resilient infrastructure, and develop solutions grounded in their own development priorities.

The LDC Group has helped bring these countries' priorities to the forefront of international climate negotiations. Through the LDC work programme, countries have advanced their adaptation efforts, supported by technical guidance from the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG).

The Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) was established specifically to support these efforts, providing dedicated grant-based finance for countries to turn their own adaptation priorities into action. From its early support for National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), the LDCF has helped countries identify urgent needs, establish priorities and build capacity for longer-term adaptation. Over 25 years, the Fund has provided $2.47 billion for 446 projects across 51 countries, strengthening food and water security, climate-resilient livelihoods, healthy ecosystems and stronger institutions.

These achievements extend beyond individual projects. Countries have strengthened their ability to respond to climate-related risks, demonstrating that lasting resilience depends on country leadership, local knowledge and strong national institutions capable of sustaining long-term solutions.

As environmental pressures intensify, the next chapter must build on this progress – integrating adaptation into economic development priorities, catalyzing larger pools of investment, including greater private sector engagement, and delivering lasting, tangible results for those most at risk. This will require accessible, predictable grant-based finance, alongside stronger implementation capacity. Renewed contributions to the LDCF will be essential to meeting countries' growing adaptation needs.

The Global Environment Facility is proud to have supported the LDCs through the LDCF over the past 25 years. We value the trust countries have placed in the Fund and the contributions of governments, communities and partners. Looking ahead, LDC leadership and priorities will continue to guide and inform this partnership. A strong LDCF will continue to help countries and communities protect their livelihoods, strengthen their environmental and economic resilience, and secure the future of the places they call home.

Diego Mesa Puyo

Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson Global Environment Facility

The LDC work programme at 25: six lessons for the future

1 The LDC work programme, the LEG and the LDCF have demonstrated their enduring value by evolving with LDCs' changing circumstances and adaptation needs

Over the past 25 years, the LDC work programme has provided a framework for addressing the specific circumstances and evolving adaptation needs of LDCs. The continued relevance of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) demonstrates the value of institutions that can learn, adapt and respond to countries' changing priorities.

2 Building technical and negotiating capacity empowers the LDC Group to shape negotiations across the Convention

Dedicated support through the LDC work programme, complemented by other partners, has enabled LDC delegates to develop the technical expertise and negotiating skills needed to effectively champion their priorities and engage across all issues under the Convention. Over time, this has helped transform the LDC Group into an established and influential negotiating bloc, actively shaping discussions and contributing to outcomes on the broader climate agenda.

3 A partnership that thrives on mutual learning and collaboration

The LDC work programme has fostered a two-way exchange of knowledge and learning experience. Technical partners have gained valuable operational insights alongside the capacity they have helped build. This experience demonstrates that effective, country-owned capacity development emerges through collaboration, continuous learning and adaptation to country contexts.

4 Strengthening national systems in LDCs can pave the way for more programmatic and sustainable adaptation financing

The LDC work programme has supported the value of sustained, country-driven support that reaches beyond policies and plans. By strengthening national systems for adaptation, it has helped lay the foundations for actions that save lives, protect livelihoods and reduce climate-related losses. This experience lays the ground for more sustained and programmatic financing that would allow LDCs to extend these benefits to more communities over time.

5 Ambitious multilateral commitments can deliver lasting impact when matched by sustained support

The LDC work programme is a demonstration that ambitious and equity-driven multilateral decisions are achievable and durable. Its experience over the past 25 years highlights the importance of building on this ambition through renewed political commitment, adequate resources and continued support to address the evolving needs of LDCs over the next 25 years.

6 Lessons from LDC adaptation experience can inform global practices and standards

Financing modalities developed through the LDCF to support NAPA and NAP projects have informed approaches to adaptation finance in other countries, while guidelines for the formulation of NAPs, initially developed for LDCs, have been adopted more widely as a reference for adaptation planning. This demonstrates how solutions developed to address the specific needs of LDCs can generate valuable lessons and shape adaptation practices globally.

LDCs at a glance

44 LDCs as of October 2026

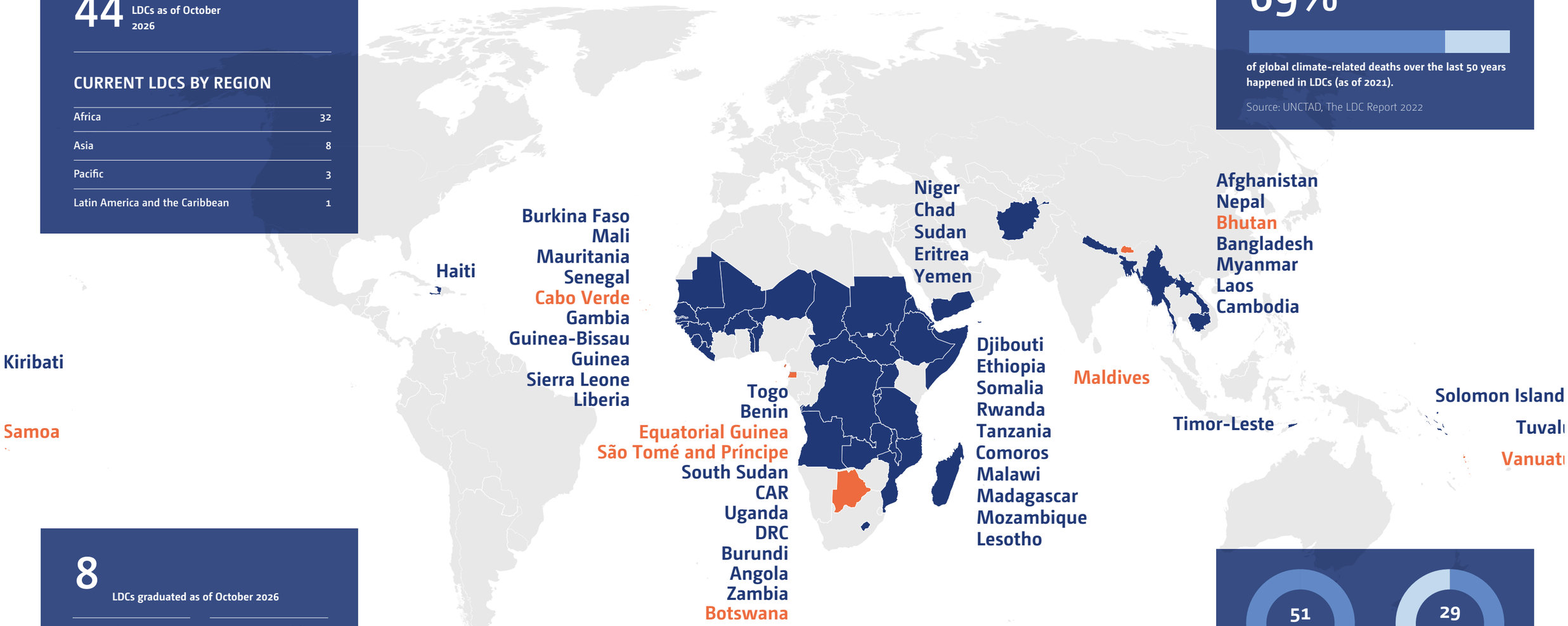
CURRENT LDCS BY REGION

Africa	32
Asia	8
Pacific	3
Latin America and the Caribbean	1

69%

of global climate-related deaths over the last 50 years happened in LDCs (as of 2021).

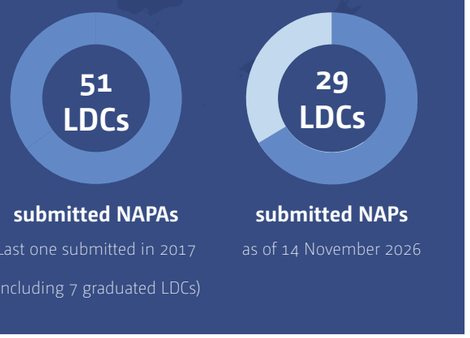
Source: UNCTAD, The LDC Report 2022



8

LDCs graduated as of October 2026

1994	Botswana	2017	Equatorial Guinea
2007	Cabo Verde	2020	Vanuatu
2011	Maldives	2023	Bhutan
2014	Samoa	2024	Sao Tome and Principe



submitted NAPAs

Last one submitted in 2017

(including 7 graduated LDCs)

submitted NAPs

as of 14 November 2026

Evolution of matters related to LDCs under the UNFCCC

United Nations (UN) began paying special attention to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), recognizing them as the most vulnerable members of the international community. With the first UN Conference on the LDCs taking place on 1-14 September 1981 in Paris

1960



The Convention enters into force. It includes Article 4, paragraph 9, requiring parties to take full account of LDCs special needs and situations regarding funding and technology transfer

1994



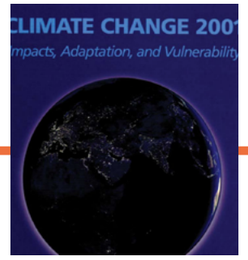
Decision 2/CP.6 was adopted and served as input to the Third UN Conference on LDCs, which led to the Brussels Programme of Action for LDCs 2001–2010"

2000 COP 6



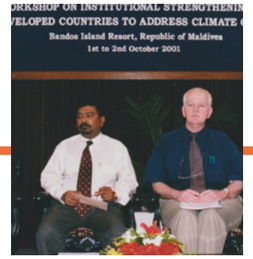
IPCC Third Assessment Report WGII (Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability) concludes "that developing countries, particularly the LDCs, have lesser capacity to adapt than do developed countries. This condition contributes to relatively high vulnerability to damaging effects of climate change in these countries"

2001



Workshops for national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) preparation in Uganda and the Maldives

2001



The COP established the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) (decision 7/CP.7) and Least developed countries Expert Group (LEG) (decision 29/CP.7)

LEG's mandate was to provide technical guidance and advice to LDCs for the preparation and implementation of NAPAs

The COP adopted the LDC work programme (decision 5/CP.7), the most substantial support given to the LDCs

2001 COP 7



The LEG held its very first meeting in Arusha, Tanzania

2002



The LEG prepared annotated guidelines for the preparation of NAPAs and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) presented the operational guidelines for funding the LDCs

2002



The LEG organized the NAPA programme launch event and capacity-building workshop for the preparation of NAPAs in Dhaka, Bangladesh

2002



2010 COP 16

The COP established the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs), allowing LDCs to transition from urgent, short-term needs to comprehensive long-term planning inviting other developing countries to employ it (decision 1/CP.16)

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was also established through this decision



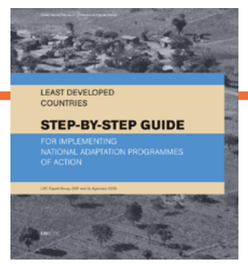
2009-2010

The LEG organized 5 regional training workshops on implementing NAPAs in Tanzania (2009), Mali (2010), Lao People's Democratic Republic (2010), Sao Tome and Principe (2010) and Samoa (2010)



2009

The LEG published a step-by-step guide for implementing NAPAs



2007 COP 13

The LEG mandate was extended for an additional three years (2008-2010) (decision 8/CP.13)



2007

The LEG organized a stocktaking meeting on NAPA preparation and implementation in September



2005 COP 11

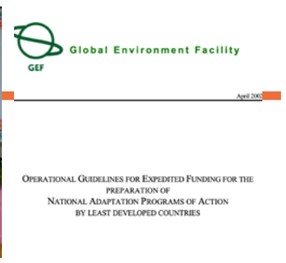
The LEG's mandate was extended for an additional three years (2005-2007) (decision 4/CP.11)

The LEG prepared technical papers to support NAPA preparation and the design of the implementation of NAPAs



2002

Guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the LDCF (decision 8/CP.8)



2002

UNITAR received LDCF funding to strengthen national focal points in each LDC



Evolution of matters related to LDCs under the UNFCCC

COP 17 mandates the LEG to provide technical guidelines, training, and regional workshops specifically tailored to help LDCs formulate and implement their NAPs (decision 5/CP.17)

The GCF governing instrument indicates the need for the GCF Board to take into account the urgent and immediate needs of developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including LDCs, using minimum allocation floors for these countries as appropriate (decision 3/CP.17)

2011 COP 17



The LEG introduced an annual report on the progress and stocktaking of the activities of the UN organizations in supporting countries

2011



The LEG developed technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs and organized an expert meeting to review guidelines

2012



The COP mandated the GEF to provide funding for activities to enable the preparation of NAPs through the LDCF for the LDCs and through the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) for developing countries that are not LDCs (decision 12/CP.18)

2012 COP 18



The first NAP Expo was launched, becoming an annual flagship event to promote and advance work on NAPs

2013



The first regional workshop on NAPs organized with the NAP Global Support Programme for Pacific LDCs and open to other developing countries

2014



The Paris Agreement recognized the special circumstances of the LDCs and the need to provide special considerations to the Group (preamble and Articles 9 (finance), 11 (capacity-building) and 13 (transparency framework))

The COP extended the LEG mandate for another five years (2015 to 2020)

2015 COP 21



The GCF opened a window for funding NAP formulation under its Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme

2015



Decision 16/CP.24 identifies "supporting the formulation and implementation of NAPs and related adaptation strategies" as a core pillar of the updated LDC work programme

The COP mandated the LEG and the AC to continue to update the compilation of gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, including at the country level, and the ongoing activities of the LEG, the AC and relevant organizations related to addressing those gaps and needs

2018 COP 24





2026

The LEG, the LDCF and the LDC work programme celebrate their 25th anniversary.



2026

The LEG has organized eleven NAP Expos since 2013, including the 2026 edition in Kigali, Rwanda



2025 COP 30

Decision 12/CMA.7 adopts 59 Belém Adaptation Indicators to track progress towards the GGA targets and establishes the Belém–Addis Vision to guide their operationalization



2023 COP 28

Decision 2/CMA.5 establishes the targets of the global goal on adaptation (GGA), invites the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the LEG to support the implementation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Framework for global climate resilience, and requests the LEG to update the NAP technical guidelines in line with the latest science



2022

The LEG organized 2 regional NAP writing workshops: one for African LDCs in March in Nairobi, Kenya, and one for Asia-Pacific LDCs in July in Siem Reap, Cambodia



2021 COP 26

The COP extended the LEG's membership under decision 15/CP.26, adding three members from LDCs and bringing its total membership to 17

The LEG organized a side event to celebrate the LEG's 20th anniversary



2020

The 37th and 38th LEG virtual meetings

The world before COP 7

The journey from Article 4, paragraph 9 to COP 7

Although adaptation was recognized in the Convention, it took several years for it to gain a more prominent place in climate negotiations. When the Convention entered into force in 1994, its operationalization focused predominantly on mitigation, amid concerns that greater emphasis on adaptation could divert attention from the urgent priority of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. By 2001, scientific advances, emerging policy discussions and devastating climate-related disasters were strengthening the case for change.

One important development was the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Between its Second Assessment Report in 1995 and its Third Assessment Report in 2001, the scientific basis for recognizing adaptation alongside mitigation grew considerably stronger. Released in February 2001, just a few months before COP 7, the contribution of Working Group II was dedicated to "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability," placing these issues firmly within the scientific assessment of climate change.

Under the UNFCCC process, institutional and technical developments were also helping to bring greater attention to adaptation and the challenges facing LDCs. In September 1999, the first workshop on adaptation and response measures provided an initial forum to discuss adaptation action. A year later, the concept of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), the first adaptation planning instrument developed under the UNFCCC, emerged in Geneva in 2000 and was formally proposed at COP 6 in November 2000 in The Hague. Draft technical guidelines were developed in 2001, leading to the endorsement of the NAPAs at COP 7. Meanwhile, in September 2000, at the thirteenth sessions of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies in Lyon, LDCs established their own negotiating group to strengthen their collective voice. At COP 6, they called for a dedicated agenda item on LDC issues, gaining the support of COP President Jan Pronk. By the resumed session of COP 6 (COP 6-bis) in July 2001, these efforts were beginning to yield results.



The urgency and legitimacy of these emerging initiatives were reinforced in early 2000, when devastating floods struck Mozambique, an LDC. Five weeks of heavy rainfall, worsened by tropical cyclones, caused several of the country's major rivers to overflow at the same time. This was the first time in recorded history. At least 700 people died and some 4.5 million, about a quarter of the population, were affected. The floods highlighted the vulnerability of countries with limited capacity to cope with climate-related hazards and the importance of strengthening support for adaptation.

Aerial view of a flooded village in Mozambique after a cyclone.
By Bruno Pedro/Wirestock Creators

COP 6 Presidency and the importance of having an eye for everyone, particularly LDCs



YVO DE BOER
Member of the UNFCCC COP 6 Presidency and Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC from 2006 until 2010. Currently Chair of the Carbon Trust

"In the run-up to COP 7, the negotiations were centred on mitigation. The larger groups, the industrialized countries and the G77 and China, held centre stage. The LDCs were easy to overlook.

At the time of the Kyoto Protocol and COP 6, the focus was firmly on mitigation, with the Protocol centred on industrialized countries, identified as Annex I countries under the Convention. Many issues had to be left unresolved for later clarification to secure agreement on the Protocol. Consequently, a major challenge for COP 6 and COP 7 was to resolve these outstanding issues and establish a clear, workable framework prior to the Kyoto Protocol ratification and entry into force.

Beyond these discussions, discussions were also beginning to emerge about mitigation in emerging economies, bringing the focus on the G77 and China. COP 6 opened with a range of competing and conflicting interests and bones of contention, with the challenge of finding common ground. In all these discussions, adaptation and the needs of the LDCs remained largely invisible. It was only gradually that adaptation started to be integrated into the whole debate, with the first significant milestone being COP 7 and the birth of the LDC work programme.

At COP 6 and throughout the Dutch Presidency, our core objective was to understand and map the interests, not merely the positions, of each group. This included LDCs, which had only recently formed a distinct negotiating group under the climate regime. Our Presidency was guided by the spirit of the Convention and its careful balancing of the interests of all Parties. We understood that in a multilateral process, it is critical to take everyone's interests into account. A few years later, when I became Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, I made it a point at every event to create space for engagement with the LDCs, continuing to have an eye for everyone."



COP 6 President Jan Pronk addresses the meeting in the Netherlands, 2000.



UNEP Executive Director Klaus Töpfer, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Michael Zammit Cutajar, COP 6 President Jan Pronk and Secretary of the COP, Richard Kinley on the podium.



President of France, Jacques Chirac, H.M. Queen Beatrix, Wim Kok, Prime Minister of the Netherlands and United Nations Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Economic and Social Affairs Nitin Desai, attend the opening of the COP 6 High Level Segment.

The LDCs fought to be heard at the climate negotiations



BUBU JALLOW
Climate Change Finance Advisor for The Gambia as part of the NDC Partnership, climate negotiator, former Permanent Secretary for climate and environment of The Gambia, and first Chair of the LEG in 2001

"At a preparatory meeting of the African Group within the G77 and China in September 2000, the LDCs proposed a separate decision on the operationalization of Article 4.9, but the proposal was rejected. The same month, at the 13th sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies in Lyon, the LDC Group was formed at the initiative of Bangladesh, Nepal, Uganda, Vanuatu and my country, The Gambia. We wanted to ensure that the distinct voices and specific needs of LDCs were heard and addressed in line with Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention, which recognizes our special circumstances.

We initially faced opposition from the G77 and China and the Africa Group, who feared that forming a separate group would divide these larger negotiating groups. However, we explained that our intention was not to break away, but to work together as LDCs while continuing to collaborate with the wider groups. Over time, our position was understood and accepted, and the G77 and China became supportive. We could not have made progress without their support. Developed country Parties were from the start supportive of the formation of the LDC Group, while technical partners such as the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) provided valuable assistance."

Breaking the adaptation "taboo" through a bottom-up approach



YOUSSEF NASSEF
Director, Adaptation Division, UNFCCC Secretariat

"In the early climate negotiations, adaptation was still a taboo subject, and suffered from the perceived need for attributing specific impacts to climate change rather than natural variability.

Several factors came together to make the LDC work programme possible. One of the less well-known was the inspiration linked to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). When the Convention moved to Bonn, its publications introduced us to its National Action Plans, which followed a bottom-up approach, starting with countries' current situations and how to respond to them.

This sparked the idea that adaptation planning could take a similar approach, rather than starting with climate projections and models and working backwards through the attribution question. Countries could identify their existing vulnerabilities, prioritize their needs and consider where those vulnerabilities were likely to worsen, without needing certainty about future climate change.

This thinking helped shape the approach behind the NAPAs. By focusing on the immediate needs and vulnerabilities of the least developed countries, it provided a practical way to bring adaptation into the negotiations and helped open the door to addressing it more broadly. Alongside this, political leadership also mattered, including the commitment of COP 6 President Jan Pronk to advancing climate action."

COP 7 delivered the LDC work programme as part of a dedicated package of decisions for LDCs

"The LDC work programme and the NAPAs in particular, have taught not only LDCs but also the rest of the world how to plan and implement adaptation."

Bubu Jallow
Climate Change Finance Advisor for The Gambia as part of the NDC Partnership, climate negotiator, former Permanent Secretary for climate and environment of The Gambia, and first Chair of the LEG in 2001

"The value of the LDC programme as it has evolved over time, and as I understand it today, is that it has become a very significant tool for the LDCs to understand, explain and gain support for their concerns and their challenges primarily in the field of adaptation."

Yvo de Boer
Member of the UNFCCC COP 6 Presidency and Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC from 2006 until 2010, he is currently Chair of the Carbon Trust

Implementing Article 4.9

At COP 7 in 2001, efforts to bring the needs and concerns of LDCs from the margins to the centre of the negotiations, and to move the debate on adaptation from a search for legitimacy toward acceptance bore fruit. The COP adopted a package of decisions for the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention.

This package is composed of:

- **The LDC work programme (decision 5/CP.7),** which included, inter alia, a process for the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), through which LDCs identified and communicated their priority activities to address urgent and immediate adaptation needs. In total, 51 NAPAs have been submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat; the most recent submission was made in 2017.[1]
- **The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) (decision 29/CP.7),** mandated to provide technical guidance and support to LDCs on the LDC work programme.
- **The Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) (decision 7/CP.7)** which is operated by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and mandated to support the implementation of the LDC work programme, particularly the NAPAs.
- **The guidelines for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action (decision 28/CP.7).**

With the NAPs succeeding the NAPAs, and with the establishment of the global goal on adaptation under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement and its targets and indicators under the UAE Framework for global climate resilience, the scope of the LDC work programme expanded, and so did the mandates of the LEG and the LDCF. See figure on the next page for an overview of all the elements of the LDC work programme as of October 2026.

1 This total includes seven LDCs that have graduated out of the LDC category since submission of their NAPAs. The full list of submitted NAPAs is available at https://unfccc.int/topics/resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-programmes-of-action/napas-received.

Elements of the LDC work programme as of October 2026

Strengthening and/or establishing national climate change secretariats or focal points to enable the effective implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement in the least developed country Parties.

Promoting public awareness programmes to ensure the dissemination of information on climate change issues.

Providing training in negotiating skills and language to develop the capacity of negotiators from the LDCs to participate effectively in the climate change process.

Strengthening cooperative action on adaptation technology development and transfer.

Supporting the process to formulate and implement NAPs and related relevant adaptation strategies, including NAPAs.

Strengthening the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyze, model, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support the implementation of adaptation actions.

Supporting the preparation and implementation of successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

Supporting capacity-building initiatives to enable effective engagement in reporting and review activities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

The role of UNITAR in laying the foundations for climate adaptation capacity in LDCs



ANNIE BONNIN RONCEREL
Former Coordinator of the climate change programme at UNITAR

UNITAR received GEF/LDCF funding to support implementation of the LDC work programme, particularly for strengthening climate change secretariats, training focal points and negotiators and building capacity to prepare NAPAs.

When UNITAR began this work in 2003, expertise in climate change adaptation was very limited. Many LDCs lacked dedicated climate change units and institutional support, while international consultants hired to prepare national communications often left with the underlying data and scenarios, limiting countries' ability to update their climate analyses.

UNITAR focused on strengthening countries' technical capacity and autonomy, helping focal points understand climate scenarios and modelling, access and use data and connect with experts. Part of UNITAR's GEF grant was used to provide each focal point with a computer, as many lacked even this basic tool for their work.

Working closely with the UNFCCC secretariat and the LEG, UNITAR mobilized scientists from the Global South and North to further strengthen national expertise and capacity.



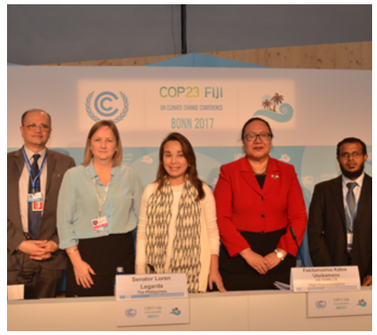
8th Meeting of the LEG in Kiribati, 2005.



48th Meeting of the LEG in Zambia, 2025. Soccer match with the Zambian female national team and LEG members.



Regional NAP Expo Asia in Korea, 2017.



Championing NAPs – Advancing National Adaptation Plans side event for COP 23 Fiji in Germany, 2017. From left to right: Youssef Nassef, UNFCCC Adaptation Programme Director, Beth Lavender, LEG member, Senator Loren Legarda from the Philippines, Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, and Ali Shareef, UNFCCC Adaptation Committee.



33rd Meeting of the LEG in São Tomé and Príncipe, 2018.

> **"The shift from NAPAs to NAPs reflects this evolution, embedding adaptation more firmly in national development and planning processes. We have also seen growing recognition of locally led adaptation, thanks in great part to pioneers such as the late Saleemul Huq who championed this approach long before it gained wider recognition."**
>
> **Pradeep Kurukulasuriya**
> Executive Secretary of the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), formerly Head of UNDP's climate adaptation and environmental finance

Proven Impact: 25 years of supporting the LDCs

How the LDCF pioneered adaptation finance



BONIZELLA BIAGINI
Manager of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) from 2002-2013, Global Environment Facility

We had to make a strong case for adaptation financing at the scientific, conceptual and financial levels to convince developed countries to fund adaptation. In the early 2000s, adaptation was not fully understood and some donors viewed it as disaster relief, while others considered it part of ordinary development assistance.

Making this case was particularly important because the LDCF relied on voluntary contributions. Donors needed a clear rationale for providing funding, supported by scientific evidence, a sound financial framework and a shared understanding of what adaptation financing should achieve.

Drawing on scientific evidence, including the work of the IPCC, we argued that adaptation is essentially climate-resilient development. Climate change was already increasing the costs of development in vulnerable countries, which therefore needed additional resources to make development investments resilient to climate impacts. Adaptation could not simply be absorbed into existing development assistance; it required additional financing. We also emphasized that LDCs were among the most vulnerable countries, despite having contributed the least to climate change.

We also established a climate of trust among LDCs, developed country Parties, the LEG, the UNFCCC secretariat and the GEF secretariat.

The fund gradually evolved from supporting vulnerability assessments and planning to financing concrete measures that addressed the priorities identified in the NAPAs. LDCF-funded projects delivered results. They saved lives and communities became more resilient, helping build confidence in the fund and attract further contributions.

By June 2013 the fund had grown from around CAD 12 million in 2002 to more than USD 1 billion in contributions.

The LDCF is truly a collective achievement which demonstrates how multilateral cooperation could turn differing interests into practical results. The LDC representatives and all those who contributed to this journey have every reason to be proud. I certainly am.

The LDC work programme as a broad framework with adaptation as a priority



PAUL DESANKER
Manager, Adaptation Division, UNFCCC Secretariat

The LDC work programme extends beyond adaptation, encompassing technology development and transfer, support for adaptation planning and implementation, mitigation, capacity-building, and other enabling activities. Within this broader framework, the COP placed particular emphasis on adaptation in the LEG's mandate, initially through NAPAs and subsequently through NAPs. Other bodies and institutions are expected to contribute to addressing the work programme's remaining elements.

Mandates to the LDCF followed a similar approach. Initially priority was on supporting the preparation of NAPAs, then their implementation. Progressively, the LDCF has broadened its support to include implementation of NAPs and other enabling activities that help LDCs address their needs under the Convention and now also under the Paris Agreement.

Group Photo of NAP Expo in Rwanda, 2026.

The work of the LEG

The LEG's mandate

The LEG is mandated to support LDCs in addressing their urgent and immediate as well as their medium- and long-term adaptation needs. Specifically, the LEG helps countries assess climate risks and vulnerabilities, identify adaptation priorities, and formulate and implement robust NAPs, including through support for accessing financing and addressing capacity gaps. In this context, the LEG also supports the consideration into the NAPs of the UAE Framework for global climate resilience adopted under the GGA.

The LEG support is deployed through several modalities, including technical guidelines, expert advice, capacity-building, direct country support and the leverage of the expertise and support of a broad network of partners.

The Group was initially composed of 12 Members (3 from developed country Parties and 9 from the LDCs) and currently has a total of 17 members (13 members from the LDCs and 4 from developed country Parties).

"Composed of representatives from both LDCs and developed countries, the LEG fostered an inclusive and mutually supportive environment. We learned from one another and shared strategies with other groups, including the G77 and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), strengthening our collective understanding of climate change adaptation and supporting the needs of LDCs."

Bubu Jallow
Climate Change Finance Advisor for The Gambia as part of the NDC Partnership, climate negotiator, former Permanent Secretary for climate and environment of The Gambia, and first Chair of the LEG in 2001



LDC Asian Regional Workshop for the preparation of NAPAs organized by the LEG in Bhutan, 2003.



NAP Expo in Germany, 2015.

The LEG modalities of technical support to LDCs

NAP technical guidelines
Updated guidelines for formulating, implementing & updating NAPs

NAP Expos
Global & regional events for exchange and partnership-building

NAP technical working group
Four subgroups engaging experts & organizations

Pipeline development initiative
Turning NAP priorities into concept notes & proposals

NAP country dialogues
Country teams report progress, challenges & needs

Open NAP initiative
Collaborative, comprehensive support for formulation

Roster of experts
LDC NAP experts maintained to support the process

NAP data initiative
Open, high-quality data and tools for NAPs

NAP Exchange (NAPX)
Structured, machine-readable data for every NAP

Tracking progress of NAPs
Yearly NAP progress report and insights on NAP progress

"Although the LEG may not always have received the same level of attention as other Convention bodies in terms of formal decisions, this did not diminish its significant progress and positive contributions to LDCs. In fact, its ability to focus on technical issues rather than political and negotiation-related matters may have been one of the keys to its success."

Beth Lavender
Former LEG member and Senior Adaptation Advisor to the Government of Canada

The LEG facilitates the translation of adaptation guidance into action on the ground



ERWIN KÜNZI
Head of Coordination Office for Technical Cooperation in Armenia and Georgia, Austrian Development Agency; LEG member from 2004-2012 and then 2016-2020.

"The LEG is unique and I would argue that it is the most practically oriented body under the Convention for three reasons. First, it is the only body under the Convention fully dedicated to addressing challenges and supporting LDCs. What makes it particularly distinctive is that we work directly with countries. We have not only developed policy guidance and recommendations like other bodies, but also provided practical technical advice, organized training sessions and workshops, and developed guidelines to support countries in their adaptation efforts.

Second, the LEG has worked closely with the GEF on NAPA development and financing, and later with the GCF during the transition to NAPs. It has thus served as a bridge between LDCs and the funding and implementation agencies supporting their adaptation efforts.

Finally, by holding its meetings in LDCs, the LEG helps raise the visibility of national teams and strengthen recognition of adaptation within national systems. The high level of engagement from host countries, sometimes extending to heads of state attending opening sessions, demonstrates how the LEG's presence can elevate the importance of climate adaptation and the LDC work programme at the highest political levels. This contribution should not be underestimated when assessing the LEG's effectiveness."



NAP Expo in Korea, 2019.



NAP Writing Workshop in Cambodia, 2022.



Workshop for Least Developed Small Island States on NAPAs in Samoa, 2003.



LEG training workshop on NAPs in Kenya, 2019.



34th Meeting of the LEG in Sierra Leone, 2018.



LEG regional training workshop on NAPs for African Francophone countries in Morocco, 2017.

The LEG bridges language barriers to strengthen adaptation support for LDCs

The LEG pays particular attention to non-Anglophone LDCs, especially Francophone and Lusophone countries. This tailored support is particularly important for highly vulnerable Portuguese-speaking LDCs, as Portuguese is not an official UN language. The appointment of a Lusophone Rapporteur, alongside Portuguese translations of technical guidelines and training workshops in Portuguese, helps address language barriers that limit access to UNFCCC guidance and resources.

"Looking ahead, the LEG should continue helping LDCs move from adaptation planning to implementation, monitoring impacts, and scaling up successful initiatives. This includes integrating adaptation into national development plans, strengthening coordination across sectors, and building countries' capacity to develop bankable projects and mobilize the resources needed to implement them. It is a long journey, and I hope the LEG will continue supporting LDCs in strengthening their resilience in the years to come."

Madeleine Diouf Sarr
Director of climate affairs, Ministry of the Environment and Ecological Transition of Senegal, former Chair of the LDC Group of climate negotiators, former LEG member

The LEG promotes gender-responsive adaptation through NAPs



MERY YAOU
LEG member, Environment Director of Togo

Climate change affects women and men differently, reflecting existing inequalities and their respective roles. In many LDCs, women are particularly exposed to climate impacts, despite their essential contributions to food security, household water and energy supply, and natural resource management.

The LEG supports LDCs in integrating gender considerations into their NAPs through technical guidance, tools and support. It promotes inclusive and participatory processes that address the needs of both women and men, avoid exacerbating existing inequalities, and recognize women as equal actors in adaptation and as key contributors of knowledge and solutions. To further advance this work, a forthcoming LEG publication will showcase good practices and practical experiences in integrating gender considerations into NAPs.

LEG convening power and coordination efforts

A ripple effect for adaptation in LDCs

The LEG serves as a hub for the adaptation community by connecting LDCs with the partners, expertise and resources they need to turn adaptation priorities into action. Over 25 years, the LEG has built and sustained a network that spans other UNFCCC constituted bodies, UN organizations and specialized agencies, bilateral and multilateral development partners, including development banks, regional centres and organizations, research institutes, civil society, youth leaders, the private sector/consulting firms and individual experts. The expert group also acts as a bridge between LDCs and the secretariats of the GCF, the GEF and the Adaptation Fund. It conveys LDCs' needs and challenges in accessing adaptation funding and facilitates the exchange of information on how to access it for NAPs. These dialogues help resolve many of the bottlenecks LDCs face.

The LEG convening power creates a ripple effect beyond individual partnerships. It provides a foundation that helps transform fragmented support into more coherent and sustained action. By bringing partners together around countries' own priorities, the LEG has helped shape the support programmes that have grown up around the NAP process. It continues to help new LDC-focused initiatives find their footing and connect to what already exists. Working with UN-OHRLLS, it also helps to complement the broader development priorities of LDCs as reflected in the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs.

Each new partner that connects with the LEG extends the reach of what the LDC work programme set in motion in 2001. The result is more expertise shared and a more coordinated and coherent approach to adaptation in LDCs and beyond.



The LEG strengthens accountability and support for LDCs



YOUSSEF NASSEF
Director, Adaptation Division, UNFCCC Secretariat

"The LEG's convening role, including through the NAP Expo, one of its major initiatives, connects LDCs with the wider ecosystem of support and helps strengthen accountability. By bringing support entities together with countries, the LEG creates space to highlight shortcomings in support and access to it, share good practices and discuss concerns directly with the agencies involved. Without these exchanges, some challenges might remain unknown or go unaddressed.

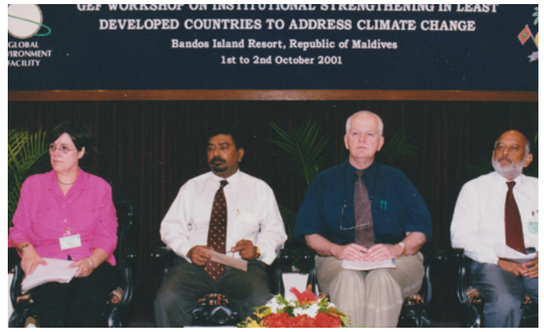
The LEG's link to the formal process gives these engagements additional weight. The LEG also creates a shared focus on LDCs, bringing together organizations that might not otherwise coordinate their work around this constituency. In this way, its convening power not only encourages accountability but also helps sharpen and coordinate support for LDCs."



Partners at the NAP Writing Workshop in Kenya, 2022.



44th Meeting of the LEG in Lesotho, 2023.



GEF Workshop on institutional strengthening in LDCs to address climate change in Republic of Maldives, 2001.

LDCF in numbers

The Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) was established in 2001 to support the climate adaptation efforts of Least Developed Countries, and serves as part of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

$2.47 billion in funding

Across 51 countries

Supporting 446 projects

Areas of investment

Sectoral distribution since inception	% of funding
Agriculture & sustainable livelihoods	29.0%
Nature-based solutions	18.7%
Water resources management	14.9%
Climate information services	14.6%
Coastal zone management	7.4%
Disaster risk management	7.2%
Infrastructure & transport	4.0%
Human health	1.4%
Enabling activities	1.0%
SMEs & private sector	0.9%
Tourism	0.4%
Energy	0.4%

Expected results from currently approved projects

(GEF-6 to GEF-8, inclusive, as of June 2026)

93.39 M
direct beneficiaries

48%
female beneficiaries

5.94 M
people trained in adaptation strategies and measures (49% female)

24.85 M
hectares of land managed to withstand climate change

5141
policies, plans, and processes developed or strengthened for adaptation

5505
private sector companies engaged in adaptation and resilience action (New indicator from GEF-8)



44 of 46 LDCs accessed $756.59M for 92 projects in GEF-8

Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, DR Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia.

GEF-9 initial cap of $20M per LDC

Donors

Contributors since inception

Sovereign donors

Sub-national donors



Proof from the ground

This section presents selected country case studies that are completed adaptation projects for which evaluations or documented assessments by the respective climate funds are available. This ensures that the analysis draws on evidence of implementation, results and lessons learned, rather than relying solely on planned activities and expected outcomes.

Funded projects and expected results

GREEN CLIMATE FUND

154

projects

44 LDCs

have accessed support

$6000 M

of total GCF financing

(as at 31 July 2026)

Source: https://www.greenclimate.fund/priority-groups/least-developed-countries

LDCF (GEF-8, 2022–2026)

92

projects in GEF-8

42 LDCs

have fully or partially accessed funds + 2 graduated (Bhutan and Sao Tome and Principe)

$756 M

of funding accessed in GEF-8

(as at 30 June 2026) LDCF resources not accessed by the LDCs under GEF-8 are not carried over to the GEF-9.

Source: https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/publications/ldcf-numbers

ADAPTATION FUND

73

projects

40 LDCs

have accessed AF resources (including 6 that are also SIDS)

$612 M

of funding accessed by LDCs

(as at 29 May 2026)

Source: SBI64 https://docs.unfccc.int/documents/10000208/files/en/sbi2026_L05E.pdf

Bhutan

Protection from climate-change-induced glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs)

Implementing partners: Royal Government of Bhutan, UNDP, GEF, WWF Bhutan and the Austrian Development Agency

Total project cost: USD 7.48 million, including LDCF funding of USD 3.45 million

Project period: 2008–2012

Project rating by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office: highly satisfactory



"Bhutan's LDCF-funded GLOF project was one of the first full adaptation projects, because its entire cost was additional to business-as-usual development activities. It later served as a model for countries in the region facing similar hazards, including Nepal and Pakistan. With recent events in Nepal and Bhutan, and glaciers melting more rapidly across the Himalayas, the need for such dedicated adaptation actions is only growing."

Sonam Lhaden Khandu
Programme Officer at the UNFCCC Secretariat, former member of the LEG and former Chief Environment Officer of the Royal Government of Bhutan

CONTEXT

In Bhutan, rising temperatures and retreating glaciers are increasing the risks posed by glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), threatening downstream communities, livelihoods and critical infrastructure. Bhutan's GLOF risk is part of a regional hazard. ICIMOD's 2023 assessment of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) puts the number of dangerous glacial lakes at around 200.

Recognizing this danger, Bhutan identified GLOF risk reduction as a priority in its 2006 NAPA. With LDCF support, the country turned that priority into action in the Punakha-Wangdue and Chamkhar valleys.

ADAPTATION RESPONSE

- **Reducing risks at the source.** In a challenging, high-altitude environment, project teams manually excavated a drainage channel to lower the water level of Thorthormi Lake and reduce pressure on its natural dam. By September 2012, the lake level had been lowered by 5.04 metres, exceeding the five-metre target. Work also addressed two subsidiary lakes.
- **Strengthening early warning systems and community preparedness.** An automated system of 17 sirens, four water-level stations, three weather stations and a control centre working around the clock now protects 875 households, i.e. 90 per cent of the total households across 21 vulnerable downstream communities. It also protects four schools, two vocational training institutes and one basic health unit. At the end of the project, sixty-seven per cent of households in the target area knew their hazard zones and evacuation routes.
- **Building institutional capacity.** Disaster risk management planning, community preparedness and coordination among agencies and local authorities advanced across 105 chiwogs (village groups), and Bhutan's Disaster Management Bill was enacted in February 2013.

LESSONS LEARNED

Bhutan's project demonstrates the value of combining lake-level management, early warning, community preparedness and institutional capacity-building. Its approach has informed GLOF initiatives in Nepal and Pakistan. However, Nepal's GLOF project targets the Imja Lake area and other districts distinct from the region affected by the catastrophic August 2026 flood, highlighting the need to extend risk reduction to other vulnerable Himalayan watersheds.

Kiribati

Building climate resilience through integrated adaptation and disaster risk management

National framework: Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (KJIP), 2019–2028.

Lead institutions: Government of Kiribati, Office of Te Beretitenti (Office of the President), and Kiribati National Expert Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (KNEG).

Technical support: NAP Global Network, World Bank, IISD, SPREP, SPC, UNDP and other development partners.

Financing examples:

KAP III (2011–2018): total project cost of USD 11.82 million, including USD 11.57 million in World Bank-administered grants.

KOIRAP (approved 2022): USD 20 million in World Bank financing.

KAP III project performance: Satisfactory, according to the World Bank's Implementation Completion and Results Report.



CONTEXT

As a low-lying atoll nation, Kiribati is highly vulnerable to sea-level rise, coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion and drought, threatening freshwater supplies, food security, infrastructure and livelihoods. Its geographical dispersion further complicates adaptation planning and service delivery.

To address these challenges, the Government developed the Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (KJIP), revised for 2019–2028. The KJIP provides an integrated national framework, identifying 12 strategic areas and linking national priorities with sectoral and island-level action. It builds on earlier efforts, notably the Kiribati Adaptation Program Phase III (KAP III, 2011–2018), which translated adaptation priorities into practical investments in water security, coastal protection and community resilience.

The KJIP adopts a whole-of-country approach, bringing together government, civil society, the private sector and communities, while promoting gender equality and the participation of women and vulnerable groups.

ADAPTATION RESPONSE

- **The KJIP is coordinated through the Kiribati National Expert Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (KNEG)**. The first implementation stocktake, based on reporting from 18 of the 19 responsible lead agencies in November 2019, found that 44% of the plan's 330 actions were underway or completed. Overall implementation was assessed as on track, although progress varied across strategies.
- **The KJIP prioritizes integrated action to strengthen water and food security and promote healthy, resilient ecosystems.** By November 2019, 54% of actions under this strategy were reported as underway or completed. Separately, the Kiribati Adaptation Program Phase III (KAP III) improved access to water sources for 12,800 people.

ADAPTATION RESPONSE

- **Under KAP III, the Government combined coastal protection infrastructure with mangrove planting.** The project constructed three seawalls totalling 370 metres along South Tarawa. It also supported the planting of more than 35,000 mangrove seedlings across 46 coastal sections on nine outer islands. Together, the engineered and nature-based measures protected a total of 1.87 km of coastline against erosion and inundation.
- **Disaster and emergency management is a key KJIP priority.** The 2019 stocktake found that 62% of actions under this strategy were underway or completed, reflecting progress in strengthening early warning and disaster management capacities.
- **Approved in 2022, the World Bank-supported Kiribati Outer Islands Resilience and Adaptation Project** (KOIRAP) builds on earlier efforts through investments in freshwater access, drainage, coastal protection and resilient infrastructure. The project is expected to benefit approximately 14,000 people across the outer islands.

LESSONS LEARNED

Kiribati demonstrates the value of integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk management within a single, nationally owned framework, underpinned by community participation and locally informed planning. This approach helps address interconnected climate risks and disaster threats, strengthen coordination across sectors and levels of governance, and link long-term adaptation priorities with practical risk reduction measures. However, progress remains uneven, particularly in strengthening the resilience of vulnerable groups (11% of actions underway or completed) and improving access to finance and partnerships (17%).

Nepal

From the NAPA to Local adaptation plans for action (LAPAs) and the NAP

Implementing partners: Ministry of Environment (now the Ministry of Forests and Environment), the local development ministry, UNDP, NGOs and local bodies. UNEP acted as delivery partner for the GCF-funded NAP project.

Funding: UK aid, DFID and later Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and the EU for LAPA through the Nepal Climate Change Support Programme (NCCSP) and the GCF readiness window for the NAP formulation.

Project period: LAPA pilots from 2010. The National LAPA Framework was adopted on 22 November 2011. NCCSP implemented LAPAs from 2013 to 2017, the framework was updated in 2019, and the NAP covers 2021–2050.



CONTEXT

Nepal's diverse topography and reliance on agriculture and natural resources expose communities to climate-related hazards, including floods, landslides, droughts and changing rainfall patterns, with poorer and marginalized groups particularly vulnerable. National adaptation priorities alone cannot address every community's specific needs.

Nepal built on its NAPA, endorsed in 2010, and its 2011 Climate Change Policy to translate national adaptation priorities into locally led action. Both included a provision to allocate at least 80% of available climate adaptation funding to the local level. Following consultations during the NAPA process, Nepal developed a National Framework for Local Adaptation Plans for Action (LAPAs), adopted in 2011, to help communities identify and prioritize adaptation needs and integrate them into local and national plans.

ADAPTATION RESPONSE

- **LAPAs identify local vulnerabilities and priorities,** integrate adaptation actions into local and national plans under the Local Self-Governance Act, mobilize resources and service providers (supported by the 80% local-spending requirement), and monitor results to inform scaling up.
- **LAPAs were implemented in 100 villages across 14 districts** (2013–2017), and the framework was updated in 2019 to transfer implementation responsibilities to municipalities. The experience informed Nepal's NAP for 2021–2050, which outlines an estimated USD 47.4 billion programme, with USD 1.5 billion expected from domestic resources.

LESSONS LEARNED

The programme's final evaluation highlights the importance of institutionalizing locally led adaptation and integrating climate priorities into municipal planning. It underscores the need for stronger local capacity, coordination across government levels and sustainable financing, including co-financing and maintenance. It also points to the importance of prioritizing vulnerable groups, supporting women's livelihoods, promoting integrated approaches and documenting good practices to inform policy and scale up successful interventions.

Rwanda

Direct access to adaptation finance for climate-resilient land and water management

National implementing entity: The Ministry of Environment of Rwanda served as the National Implementing Entity (NIE)

Executing entity: the Rwanda Natural Resources Authority

Funding: The project received USD 9.97 million from the Adaptation Fund

Project period: 2014–2019

Project title: Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change in North West Rwanda through Community Based Adaptation



CONTEXT

Climate change projections for Rwanda point to rising temperatures and increasingly variable and intense rainfall, increasing the risks of flooding, landslides and soil erosion. In the mountainous northwestern districts of Musanze and Nyabihu, these risks are compounded by high population density, dependence on rain-fed agriculture and cultivation on steep, erosion-prone slopes. The resulting environmental degradation threatens agricultural production, food security, infrastructure and rural livelihoods.

The 2006 NAPA highlighted these vulnerabilities. Contributing to the NAPA and other national development and environmental policies, the project aimed to strengthen the adaptive capacity of rural communities and natural systems exposed to climate change.

ADAPTATION RESPONSE

5200 households benefiting from terracing adopted climate-resilient practices

50000 households that adopted more climate-resilient adaptation practices

67% of women in adaptation planning committee leadership positions

12442 people mobilized for adaptation planning (over the 8000 original target)

The project combined three mutually reinforcing approaches:

- Integrated land and water management: terracing, drainage rehabilitation, riverbank protection, agroforestry and climate-resilient agricultural practices to reduce erosion and flood risks.
- Livelihood diversification: support for alternative income-generating activities, including handicrafts, livestock and market-linked enterprises, to reduce pressure on fragile land and natural resources.
- Institutional and community capacity-building: participatory adaptation planning, training in climate-risk management, and integration of adaptation approaches into local and national planning.

LESSONS LEARNED

Implementing climate adaptation through national implementing entities can strengthen alignment with national priorities, make greater use of existing technical expertise and public financial systems, and foster ownership among government agencies and communities. The Ministry of Environment has been an Adaptation Fund national implementing entity since 2011, and a Green Climate Fund accredited entity since 2015.

Benin

More resilient rural livelihoods



Implementing partners: Government of Benin, UNDP, local authorities and technical partners

Funding: The project received USD 3.41 million in LDCF funding, alongside government, UNDP and local contributions.

Project period: 2010–2015

Project title: Addressing the adverse impacts of climate change on agricultural production and food security in Benin (PANA-1 project)

CONTEXT

Agriculture and rural livelihoods in Benin are vulnerable to drought, variable rainfall, floods and other climate-related hazards. Farmers have long relied on local adaptation practices, including crop diversification, irrigation and water management, but changing climate conditions create additional risks to production and food security.

Benin's 2008 NAPA identified climate-resilient agriculture and food security as priorities. The LDCF-funded PANA-1 project focused on strengthening agricultural communities' capacity to adapt across four vulnerable agro-ecological zones.

ADAPTATION RESPONSE

9 Targeted villages

4 Vulnerable agro-ecological zones covered

2200 Direct beneficiaries

12155 Additional indirect beneficiaries

30% Increase in beneficiaries living standards

- The project introduced short-cycle crop varieties and improved agricultural practices, supported off-season farming and alternative livelihoods such as fish farming and rabbit breeding, and strengthened community and local-government capacity.
- Building on this LDCF-funded NAPA project and others, Benin advanced its NAP process with GCF support and technical assistance from UNDP and GIZ.

LESSONS LEARNED

The project showed that the LDCF grant support can turn NAPA priorities into locally adapted solutions with tangible livelihood benefits. The final evaluation recommended scaling up the approach nationally by strengthening partnerships with research institutions and development partners and maintaining technical support so that successful practices can spread beyond demonstration villages.



Global launch of NAPAs in Bangladesh, 2002.



LDC Training Workshop in Tuvalu, 2012



NAP Expo in Bangladesh, 2024.



46th Meeting of the LEG in Ethiopia, 2024. LEG members plant trees for the Great Green Wall of Africa.



NAP Expo in Germany, 2016



35th LEG Meeting in Kiribati, 2019.
President of Kiribati with the LEG members.



The road ahead

Consolidating the gains and addressing the gaps

The LDC work programme has provided a tested foundation for strengthening the capacity of LDCs to address climate change, from identifying urgent adaptation priorities through NAPAs to addressing medium- and long-term adaptation through the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

However, this progress does not mean the mission is complete. Reports by the LEG, evaluations of the LDCF, and other analyses such as the UNEP adaptation gap report continue to highlight gaps in access to finance and technical support, institutional capacity, climate information, and the sustainability and scale of adaptation outcomes. These findings underscore the need to build on the programme's achievements while addressing persistent barriers and emerging needs.

"The LDCF is not just a fund – it is a lifeline for the world's most climate vulnerable nations. It delivers timely, predictable, and accessible support that empowers our communities to build resilience, safeguard livelihoods, and chart a path toward a more secure and sustainable future."

Evans Njewa
Former Chair of the LDC Group (2024-2025)

76%
of adaptation finance gap in LDCs.

$10B
of adaptation finance was allocated to LDCs in 2022-2023

$46B
per year needed by LDCs for adaptation

<5%
of international development finance architecture made it to LDCs in the last 10 years

Of the adaptation finance LDCs receive:

51% is grants

49% is debt

~2X
the cost of adaptation as percentage of GDP for LDCs compared to high-income countries

Adaptation cost as percentage of GDP

1.7% of GDP for high-income countries

3.5% of GDP for LDCs

B = billions
GDP = Gross domestic product

Source: UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2025, UNCDF

The road ahead

Messages for the next 25 years

As we look to the next 25 years, some of the champions who have shaped the LDC work programme and shared their voices throughout this publication have a final message for Parties, donors and the wider LDC support community. They reflect on why continued financial and technical support for LDCs remains essential and how the LDC work programme can continue to make a difference in addressing their evolving climate challenges.

1 INVESTING IN ADAPTATION TO DELIVER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

"We need to continue calling for support to help LDCs implement their NAPs, monitor progress, and measure adaptation outcomes to strengthen their resilience.

I thank the LEG for its great work and all our partners for supporting LDCs and recognizing their vulnerabilities and needs. We must continue these efforts and demonstrate to the world that investing in adaptation is a win-win for all of us, bringing both social and economic benefits."

Madeleine Diouf Sarr

Director of climate affairs, Ministry of the Environment and Ecological Transition of Senegal, former Chair of the LDC Group of climate negotiators, former LEG member



2 SHIFTING FROM RISK ASSESSMENTS TO ADAPTATION THAT ACCOUNTS FOR LIMITS AND THRESHOLDS

"Having been involved in the design of NAPAs and then the NAP, it has been an exciting journey of learning and feeding back those lessons in enhancing our knowledge on effective adaptation. As conditions worsen and become ever more unpredictable, each major event brings out new lessons in how to identify vulnerabilities and risks. The LDCs are far ahead in terms of their expertise in adaptation. The evidence they have assembled is revealing deep insights into the complexity and cascade of hazards and risks, and how to best cope and adapt.

Looking ahead and as we transition towards scaling up implementation of adaptation actions, we are likely to see a shift away from perfecting vulnerability and risk assessments, to refining how we adapt and dynamically adjust our actions as we learn about limits and thresholds. We are likely to see a reconstruction of different core systems. I am convinced the LDCs will be at the forefront of paving new and better ways to adapt."

Paul Desanker

Manager, Adaptation Division, UNFCCC Secretariat



3 TRANSLATING LDC PROGRAMME SUPPORT INTO NATIONAL ACTION THROUGH THE LEG

"Being a member of the LEG has enabled me to bring its vision and technical guidance back to my country, supporting a more inclusive NAP process. It has also enabled me to support other Francophone LDCs, helping to overcome language barriers and strengthen their NAP processes.

This demonstrates the value of the LEG and the broader LDC work programme in building national capacities, fostering knowledge-sharing and advancing adaptation on the ground. I encourage Parties and partners to continue supporting this important work, as LDCs face growing challenges while remaining fully committed to strengthening the resilience of their communities and ecosystems."

Mery Yaou

LEG member, Environment Director of Togo



4 BUILDING AND SCALING LIVING LANDSCAPES ACROSS LDCS AND BEYOND

"Over the next 25 years, the success of the LDC work programme hinges on one decisive shift: moving from planning to rapid local implementation. Time is a luxury LDCs do not have. We cannot let adaptation stall while waiting for climate finance to trickle down.

Our most potent solutions are already within reach. Natural ecosystems, urban landscapes, and traditional knowledge are not passive scenery. They are critical and cost-effective assets. But above all, the spirit of our people is the strongest infrastructure we own. By uniting community power with nature-based urban design, we move vulnerable populations from perpetual crisis to self-sustaining resilience.

The LEG is an essential catalyst to scale these low-carbon models and make ground-level impact possible. At the Porous City Network, we stand ready to advance future-ready, nature-positive design and build resilient landscapes across LDCs and beyond."

Kotchakorn Voraakhom

Landscape Architect, Founder of the Porous City Network



5 STRENGTHENING LDC CAPACITIES THROUGH LOCALLY AND REGIONALLY ROOTED PARTNERSHIPS

"The initial training provided to LDCs, and the training that followed, has proven valuable, as reflected in their increased ability to discuss climate risks, resilience, and climate policy. However, further support is needed as climate change impacts intensify, particularly given the limited resources available in LDCs' national budgets.

Successful fundraising and making funding available are only part of the equation. It is equally important to identify the right institutions to implement activities and ensure that funding reaches countries, the right people are involved, appropriate training is provided, and the right experts contribute to the process.

For example, when computers were needed, they had to be procured locally through the UN system. This illustrates the importance of working with partners that have a local presence, understand the local context, and have the capacity to procure equipment and materials. Such partners should also have strong connections with the scientific community."

Annie Bonnin Roncerel

Former Coordinator of the climate change programme at UNITAR



6 CLOSING THE ADAPTATION FINANCE GAP THROUGH CONTINUED SUPPORT TO LDCS

"We, as LDCs, are addressing climate change adaptation for our own development. In this regard, the LDC work programme, alongside the LEG and its partners and the LDCF have been instrumental in helping us scale up our adaptation efforts. I thank all of them for their dedication and hope that they will be provided with the financial means needed to continue delivering steadfast support to the LDCs in the years to come.

I recognize the efforts made to increase adaptation funding through the LDCF, the Adaptation Fund and the GCF. However, the adaptation financing gap remains very significant and must be closed, particularly for LDCs."

Bubu Jallow

Climate Change Finance Advisor for The Gambia as part of the NDC Partnership, climate negotiator, former Permanent Secretary for climate and environment of The Gambia, and first Chair of the LDC Expert Group in 2001



7 STRENGTHENING A LEGACY OF SUPPORT THAT KEEPS LDCS AT THE CENTRE

"Having dedicated support within the UNFCCC, including an expert group and tailored funding arrangements, has been instrumental in providing LDCs with a protected space to come together, strengthen their capacities, speak collectively about their specific needs and priorities and address them. This commitment is reflected in the composition of the LEG, where LDCs have a clear majority, as well as in dedicated funding windows under the GEF and the LDCF, and provisions ensuring a share of adaptation funding for LDCs under the Adaptation Fund and the GCF.

We have seen the direct results of these investments, both in projects and in capacity-building. There has been a significant shift from simply recognizing the need for more climate data to better understanding what that data means for countries, where their risks lie and how to address them.

It has been incredibly rewarding to witness the progress made. The LDCs have the willingness, people and capacity to drive this work forward and need to be further supported in the face of escalating climate impacts. Looking back on my career, being a member of the LEG and contributing to supporting LDCs has undoubtedly been the highlight."

Beth Lavender

Former LEG member and Senior Adaptation Advisor to the Government of Canada



8 ENSURING DEDICATED CLIMATE FINANCE TO KEEP LDCS FROM BEING LEFT BEHIND

"LDCs are the most vulnerable, have the least capacity to respond to climate change and have contributed the least to creating the problem. Yet they often struggle to attract funding. As their only dedicated fund to address climate needs, the LDCF is a vital and reliable source of support that must be sustained and scaled up.

The LDCF has a strong track record, a robust portfolio and a clear rationale for continuing to exist. At 25 years old, it is still young and can continue to grow. Larger funds have important roles to play, but their criteria and broader mandates do not always ensure that LDCs receive the support they need. Without dedicated funding, LDCs risk ending up at the bottom of the list. The LDCF can help scale up and replicate proven adaptation projects, including initiatives such as Bhutan's work on glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), finance new adaptation measures, and complement other sources of climate finance such as the GCF.

The LDCF work programme and the LEG also remain valuable in supporting LDCs in addressing their long-term adaptation needs and facilitating access to finance to implement adaptation at scale. Supporting these existing and successful mechanisms will ensure that LDCs are not left behind."



Bonizella Biagini

Manager of the Least Developed Countries Fund from 2002-2013, GEF

9 ADDRESSING INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC FINANCING GAPS TO UNLOCK LDC ADADPTATION

"The LDC work programme recognizes that LDCs are highly vulnerable to climate change while having limited institutional and financial capacities. Its greatest achievement has been to strengthen these capacities, support adaptation planning, and help mainstream adaptation in LDCs.

The main constraint of the LDC work programme is not its design but the financing gap. Many countries now have the capacity and plans to advance adaptation but lack the finance to implement them. This is not only a question of international finance; it also requires prioritization within national budgets and domestic financing.

My message to Parties and donors is to continue investing in the LDC work programme but address all aspects of the financing gap more effectively so that LDCs can turn their adaptation plans into concrete action and realize the programme's full potential."



Erwin Künzi

Head of Coordination Office for Technical Cooperation in Armenia and Georgia, Austrian Development Agency; LEG member from 2004-2012 and then 2016-2020.

10 LEVERAGING PUBLIC FINANCE TO MOBILIZE PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR LDC RESILIENCE

"Supporting LDCs in their adaptation efforts is both a moral imperative and an economic necessity. They are not only the most exposed to climate change and the least responsible for its causes, but also the least able to mobilize the finance needed to address its impacts.

We must therefore find more effective ways to channel capital towards LDCs and help them build resilience. With official development assistance (ODA) declining and the scale of adaptation needs far exceeding what public funding alone can cover, the challenge is increasingly how to use public and concessional finance to attract private capital. This shift from grant funding towards mobilizing investment presents an opportunity for LDCs to address their climate priorities while attracting private finance that has long been absent from their markets. The LEG has a role to play in offering a platform to facilitate these conversations. At the UN Capital Development Fund, we are committed to supporting LDCs in mobilizing investment for their climate priorities, and we look forward to working with the expert group and Parties to strengthen and expand this support."



Pradeep Kurukulasuriya

Executive Secretary of the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), formerly Head of UNDP's climate adaptation and environmental finance

11 INVESTING IN THE FIRST MILE FOR GREATER CLIMATE IMPACT

"Most people in LDCs are on the first mile of climate impacts, facing hazards directly while having the least capacity to adapt. Yet investments in these countries can have a much greater impact, with every dollar going further than in more affluent settings. Climate adaptation investments in LDCs can therefore deliver greater returns.

More funding must reach the vulnerable people and communities directly facing climate hazards. Resources must reach both the people facing climate hazards and the local organizations best placed to support them. This is something that is not yet consistently happening."



Youssef Nassef

Director, Adaptation Division, UNFCCC Secretariat

12 TRANSFORMING HOW CLIMATE FINANCE IS ACCESSED AND MOBILIZED

"The leadership capacity across LDCs is significant, but countries are already grappling with interconnected challenges, including El Niño, food insecurity, and fuel and fertilizer crises. We need to embed adaptation and resilience into efforts to address these realities. LDC voices must remain central and adaptation must be designed and led locally, with resources reaching communities to support their leadership.

The UNFCCC and international climate funds cannot solve all the challenges facing LDCs, and accessing finance for adaptation and resilience remains highly complex.

The future must focus on redesigning access to finance, developing more reliable, programmatic, whole-of-government approaches to financing and resource mobilization, and recognizing the multiple sources of finance that can support communities. These include social protection programmes, resources managed by farmer cooperatives, and community philanthropy, which we have not done enough to connect with formal processes. We need to work with key actors in the system to co-design better approaches, rather than simply accepting existing arrangements."



Tom Mitchell

Executive Director of the
International Institute for Environment and Development



47th Meeting of the LEG in Angola, 2025.

13 UNDERSTANDING THAT SUPPORTING LDCS ENSURES PROGRESS IN GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

"The LDCs are a key measure of how effectively the global community is responding to climate change.

With emissions remaining high, climate impacts will be with us for many years to come. Support for LDCs therefore needs to go beyond adaptation and cover the full range of climate action, including data, finance, technology transfer, awareness-raising, just transition, mitigation and access to climate information. As LDCs contribute the least to greenhouse gas emissions, yet they are among the most vulnerable to climate change, the support needs to be comprehensive and continued.

This means strengthening support for the LEG so it can respond more fully to LDCs' needs, as well as for the UNFCCC Secretariat, which plays an important role in facilitating the LEG's work and supporting implementation of the LDC work programme.

I also hope to see a stronger monitoring, evaluation and learning process, so we can learn from our successes and mistakes and better understand what works, what needs to change, and how to strengthen climate action.

If we can help LDCs transition towards low-carbon and climate-resilient development pathways, that would be a positive outcome for the international climate process."



George Manful

Advisor to the African Group of negotiators,
Consultant and former UNFCCC Secretariat staff member

14 EMPOWERING LDCS TO SHAPE THEIR OWN CLIMATE-RESILIENT FUTURES

"LDCs are determined to take their future into their own hands and ultimately graduate from the LDC category by forging their own pathways towards climate resilience and a green economy. This determination and ambition must be broadly supported in the years to come, and the LDC work programme has an important role to play in supporting countries in these efforts."



Yvo de Boer

Member of the UNFCCC COP 6 Presidency and Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC from 2006 until 2010, he is currently Chair of the Carbon Trust



NAP Expo in Rwanda, 2026.



32nd Meeting of the LEG in Haiti, 2017.



49th Meeting of the LEG in Mauritania, 2026.



LEG members at NAP Expo in Botswana, 2022.



High-level event: Advancing adaptation in the LDCs: Twenty Years of support at COP 27 in Egypt, 2022. From left to right: Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, H.E. Lazarus Chakwera, President of Malawi, Chair of the LDC Group under the UN, H.E. Vina Marie-Orléa, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Madagascar, H.E. Alioune NDOYE, Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, Senegal, Chair of the LDC Group under the UNFCCC



LEG at 20th anniversary side event at COP 26 in UK, 2021.

Annex: List of Chairs of the LDC Group

Period	Chair	Country
2000–2001	Mama Konaté	Mali
2001–2003	Richard Muyungi	Tanzania
2005–2006	Mohammad Reazuddin	Bangladesh
2006–2008	Amjad Abdulla	Maldives
Jan–Apr 2009	Motsomi Maletjane	Lesotho
May 2009–Dec 2010	Bruno Sekoli	Lesotho
2011–2012	Pa Ousman Jarju	The Gambia
Jan 2013–Oct 2014	Prakash Mathema	Nepal
Nov 2014–Dec 2015	Ram Prasad Lamsal	Nepal
Jan–Dec 2015	Giza Gaspar Martins	Angola
2016	Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu	DRC
2017–2018	Gebru Jember Endalew	Ethiopia
2019–2021	Sonam Phuntsho Wangdi	Bhutan
2022–2023	Madeleine Diouf Sarr	Senegal
2024–2025	Evans Njewa	Malawi
2026–2027	Adão Soares Barbosa	Timor-Leste

Annex 2: LEG members

Year	Region	Name	Country
2002	Africa	Mr. Abebe Tadege	Ethiopia
	Africa	Mr. Bubu Jallow	Gambia
	Africa	Ms. Isabelle Niang*	Senegal
	Africa	Mr. Lubinda Aongola	Zambia
	Africa	Mr. Paul Desanker	Malawi
	Asia-Pacific	Ms. Dechen Tsering	Bhutan
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Mizanur Khan	Bangladesh
	SIDS	Mr. Johnson Naviti	Vanuatu
	SIDS	Mr. Mohamed Ali	Maldives
	Annex II	Mr. Henk Bosch*	Netherlands
	Annex II	Mr. Philip Baker	Canada
	Annex II	Mr. Tim Foy	United Kingdom
2003	Africa	Mr. Abebe Tadege	Ethiopia
	Africa	Mr. Bubu Jallow	Gambia
	Africa	Mr. Lubinda Aongola	Zambia
	Africa	Ms. Madeleine Diouf*	Senegal
	Africa	Mr. Paul Desanker	Malawi
	Asia-Pacific	Ms. Dechen Tsering	Bhutan
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Mizanur Khan	Bangladesh
	SIDS	Mr. Andrew Teem	Kiribati
	SIDS	Mr. Laavasa Malua	Samoa
	Annex II	Mr. Jos Wheatley	United Kingdom
	Annex II	Mr. Klaus Broersma*	Netherlands
	Annex II	Mr. Philip Baker	Canada
2004	Africa	Mr. Almeida Sitoe	Mozambique
	Africa	Mr. Bubu Jallow	Gambia
	Africa	Mr. Fred Machulu Onduri	Uganda
	Africa	Ms. Madeleine Diouf*	Senegal
	Africa	Mr. Paul Desanker	Malawi
	Asia-Pacific	Ms. Dechen Tsering	Bhutan
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Purushottam Kunwar	Nepal
	SIDS	Mr. Andrew Teem	Kiribati
	SIDS	Mr. Laavasa Malua	Samoa
	SIDS	Ms. Pepetua Latasi	Tuvalu
	Annex II	Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
	Annex II	Ms. Renata Vandeputte*	Belgium
	Annex II	Ms. Tina Guthrie	Canada

Year	Region	Name	Country
2005	Africa	Mr. Almeida Sitoe	Mozambique
	Africa	Mr. Bubu Jallow	Gambia
	Africa	Mr. Fred Machulu Onduri	Uganda
	Africa	Ms. Madeleine Diouf*	Senegal
	Africa	Mr. Paul Desanker	Malawi
	Asia-Pacific	Ms. Dechen Tsering	Bhutan
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Purushottam Kunwar	Nepal
	SIDS	Mr. Andrew Teem	Kiribati
	SIDS	Ms. Pepetua Latasi	Tuvalu
	SIDS	Mr. Poni Faavae	Tuvalu
	Annex II	Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
	Annex II	Mr. Paul Samson	Canada
	Annex II	Ms. Renata Vandeputte*	Belgium
2006	Africa	Mr. Almeida Sitoe	Mozambique
	Africa	Mr. Bubu Jallow	Gambia
	Africa	Mr. Fred Machulu Onduri	Uganda
	Africa	Ms. Madeleine Diouf*	Senegal
	Africa	Mr. Samuel Raboqha	Lesotho
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Karma Rapten	Bhutan
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Mahmood Khan	Bangladesh
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Mirza Shawkat Ali	Bangladesh
	SIDS	Mr. Amjad Jameel	Maldives
	SIDS	Mr. Chanel Iroi	Solomon Islands
	Annex II	Ms. Elizabeth Harvey	Canada
	Annex II	Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
	Annex II	Ms. Mariette Maillet	Canada
	Annex II	Ms. Renata Vandeputte*	Belgium
2007	Africa	Mr. Benjamin Karmorh	Liberia
	Africa	Mr. Bubu Jallow	Gambia
	Africa	Mr. Fred Machulu Onduri	Uganda
	Africa	Ms. Madeleine Diouf*	Senegal
	Africa	Mr. Samuel Raboqha	Lesotho
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Karma Rapten	Bhutan
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Mahmood Khan	Bangladesh
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Mirza Shawkat Ali	Bangladesh
	SIDS	Mr. Amjad Jameel	Maldives
	SIDS	Mr. Chanel Iroi	Solomon Islands
	Annex II	Ms. Elizabeth Harvey	Canada
	Annex II	Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
	Annex II	Mr. Jan Verhagen	The Netherlands
	Annex II	Ms. Michelle Campbell*	Canada

* Also member of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE)

Annex 2: LEG members

Year	Region	Name	Country
2008	Africa	Mr. Adérito Manuel Fernandes Santana	Sao Tome and Principe
	Africa	Mr. Benjamin Karmorh	Liberia
	Africa	Mr. Bubu Jallow	Gambia
	Africa	Mr. Fred Machulu Onduri	Uganda
	Africa	Mr. Ibila Djibril	Benin
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety	Nepal
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Mirza Shawkat Ali	Bangladesh
	SIDS	Mr. Ali Lishan	Maldives
	SIDS	Mr. Mohamed Shareef	Maldives
	SIDS	Mr. Russell Nari	Vanuatu
	Annex II	Ms. Beth Lavender	Canada
	Annex II	Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
	Annex II	Mr. Jan Verhagen	The Netherlands
2009	Africa	Mr. Adérito Manuel Fernandes Santana	Sao Tome and Principe
	Africa	Mr. Benjamin Karmorh	Liberia
	Africa	Mr. Fred Machulu Onduri	Uganda
	Africa	Mr. Ibila Djibril	Benin
	Africa	Mr. Pa Ousman Jarju	Gambia
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety	Nepal
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Mirza Shawkat Ali	Bangladesh
	SIDS	Mr. Ali Lishan	Maldives
	SIDS	Mr. Mohamed Shareef	Maldives
	SIDS	Mr. Russell Nari	Vanuatu
	Annex II	Ms. Beth Lavender	Canada
	Annex II	Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
	Annex II	Mr. Jan Verhagen	The Netherlands
2010	Africa	Mr. Adérito Manuel Fernandes Santana	Sao Tome and Principe
	Africa	Mr. Benjamin Karmorh	Liberia
	Africa	Mr. Fred Machulu Onduri	Uganda
	Africa	Mr. Ibila Djibril	Benin
	Africa	Mr. Pa Ousman Jarju	Gambia
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety	Nepal
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Mirza Shawkat Ali	Bangladesh
	SIDS	Mr. Ali Lishan	Maldives
	SIDS	Mr. Ali Shareef	Maldives
	SIDS	Mr. Douglas Yee	Solomon Islands
	SIDS	Mr. Russell Nari	Vanuatu
	Annex II	Ms. Beth Lavender	Canada
	Annex II	Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
	Annex II	Mr. Jan Verhagen	The Netherlands

Year	Region	Name	Country
2011	Africa	Mr. Abias Huongo*	Angola
	Africa	Mr. Abiziou Tchinguilou	Togo
	Africa	Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Kossam	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
	Africa	Mr. Ibila Djibril	Benin
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety	Nepal
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Thinley Namgyel	Bhutan
	SIDS	Mr. Douglas Yee	Solomon Islands
	SIDS	Ms. Pepetua Latasi	Tuvalu
	Annex II	Ms. Beth Lavender	Canada
	Annex II	Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
	Annex II	Mr. Jan Verhagen	The Netherlands
	LDCs	Mr. Mphethe Tongwane	Lesotho
2012-2014	Africa	Mr. Abias Huongo*	Angola
	Africa	Mr. Abiziou Tchinguilou	Togo
	Africa	Mr. Benon Yassin	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
	Africa	Mr. Ibila Djibril	Benin
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety	Nepal
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Thinley Namgyel	Bhutan
	SIDS	Mr. Douglas Yee	Solomon Islands
	SIDS	Ms. Pepetua Latasi	Tuvalu
	Annex II	Ms. Beth Lavender	Canada
	Annex II	Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
	Annex II	Mr. Jan Verhagen*	The Netherlands
	Annex II	Ms. Marianne Karlsen	Norway
	Annex II	Mr. Matti Nummelin	Finland
	LDCs	Mr. Mphethe Tongwane	Lesotho

* Also member of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE)

Annex 2: LEG members

Year	Region	Name	Country
2015	Africa	Mr. Abias Huongo	Angola
	Africa	Mr. Abiziou Tchinguilou	Togo
	Africa	Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
	Africa	Mr. Ibila Djibril	Benin
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety	Nepal
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Thinley Namgyel	Bhutan
	SIDS	Mr. Douglas Yee	Solomon Islands
	SIDS	Ms. Pepetua Latasi	Tuvalu
	Annex II	Mr. Jan Verhagen*	The Netherlands
	Annex II	Ms. Marianne Karlsen	Norway
	Annex II	Mr. Matti Nummelin	Finland
	LDCs	Mr. Mosuoe Letuma	Lesotho
	LDCs	Mr. Mphethe Tongwane	Lesotho
2016	Africa	Mr. Abias Huongo	Angola
	Africa	Mr. Abiziou Tchinguilou	Togo
	Africa	Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
	Africa	Mr. Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
	Africa	Ms. Mery Yaou	Togo
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa	Timor Leste
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Naresh Sharma	Nepal
	SIDS	Mr. Aderito Santana	Sao Tome and Principe
	SIDS	Mr. Brian Phillips	Vanuatu
	Annex II	Mr. Adrian Fitzgerald	Ireland
	Annex II	Ms. Beth Lavender	Canada
	Annex II	Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
	LDCs	Ms. Sonam Khandu	Bhutan
2017	Africa	Mr. Abias Huongo	Angola
	Africa	Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
	Africa	Mr. Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
	Africa	Ms. Mery Yaou	Togo
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa	Timor Leste
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Naresh Sharma	Nepal
	SIDS	Mr. Aderito Santana	Sao Tome and Principe
	SIDS	Mr. Brian Phillips	Vanuatu
	Annex II	Mr. Adrian Fitzgerald	Ireland
	Annex II	Ms. Beth Lavender	Canada
	Annex II	Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
	Annex II	Ms. Michelle Winthrop	Ireland
	LDCs	Ms. Sonam Khandu	Bhutan
2018	Africa	Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
	Africa	Ms. Hana Hamadalla Mohamed	Sudan
	Africa	Mr. Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
	Africa	Ms. Mery Yaou	Togo
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa	Timor Leste
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Naresh Sharma	Nepal
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Ram Prasad Lamsal	Nepal
	SIDS	Mr. Aderito Santana	Sao Tome and Principe
	SIDS	Mr. Kénel Delusca	Haiti
	Annex II	Ms. Beth Lavender	Canada
	Annex II	Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
	Annex II	Ms. Michelle Winthrop	Ireland
	LDCs	Ms. Sonam Khandu	Bhutan

* Also member of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE)

Annex 2: LEG members

Year	Region	Name	Country
2019	Africa	Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
	Africa	Ms. Hana Hamadalla Mohamed	Sudan
	Africa	Mr. Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
	Africa	Ms. Mery Yaou	Togo
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa	Timor Leste
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Naresh Sharma	Nepal
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Ram Prasad Lamsal	Nepal
	SIDS	Mr. Aderito Santana	Sao Tome and Principe
	SIDS	Mr. Choi Yeeting	Kiribati
	SIDS	Mr. Kénel Delusca*	Haiti
	Annex II	Ms. Beth Lavender	Canada
	Annex II	Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
	Annex II	Ms. Michelle Winthrop	Ireland
	Annex II	Ms. Nikki Lulham	Canada
	LDCs	Ms. Sonam Khandu	Bhutan
2020	Africa	Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
	Africa	Ms. Hana Hamadalla Mohamed	Sudan
	Africa	Mr. Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
	Africa	Ms. Mery Yaou	Togo
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa	Timor Leste
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Ram Prasad Lamsal	Nepal
	SIDS	Mr. Choi Yeeting	Kiribati
	SIDS	Mr. Kénel Delusca	Haiti
	Annex II	Ms. Amina Laura Schild	Germany
	Annex II	Mr. Ben Siddle	Ireland
	Annex II	Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
	Annex II	Ms. Michelle Winthrop	Ireland
	Annex II	Ms. Nikki Lulham	Canada
	LDCs	Ms. Sonam Khandu	Bhutan
2021	Africa	Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
	Africa	Ms. Hana Hamadalla Mohamed	Sudan
	Africa	Mr. Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
	Africa	Ms. Mery Yaou	Togo
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa	Timor Leste
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Ram Prasad Lamsal	Nepal
	SIDS	Mr. Choi Yeeting	Kiribati
	SIDS	Mr. Kénel Delusca*	Haiti
	Annex II	Ms. Amina Laura Schild	Germany
	Annex II	Mr. Ben Siddle	Ireland
	Annex II	Ms. Jennifer Hobbs	Ireland
	Annex II	Ms. Nikki Lulham	Canada
	LDCs	Ms. Sonam Khandu	Bhutan
2022	Africa	Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
	Africa	Ms. Hana Hamadalla Mohamed	Sudan
	Africa	Mr. Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
	Africa	Ms. Mery Yaou	Togo
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa	Timor Leste
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Buddi Sagar Poudel	Nepal
	Asia-Pacific	Ms. Radha Wagle	Nepal
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Ram Prasad Lamsal	Nepal
	SIDS	Mr. Choi Yeeting	Kiribati
	SIDS	Mr. Jamie Ovia	Tuvalu
	SIDS	Mr. Kénel Delusca*	Haiti
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Amina Laura Schild	Germany
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Jennifer Hobbs	Ireland
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Laurie Ashley	United States of America
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Nikki Lulham	Canada
	LDCs	Mr. Gabriel Kpaka	Sierra Leone
	LDCs	Mr. Mokoena France	Lesotho
	LDCs	Mr. Payai Manyok John	South Sudan
	LDCs	Ms. Sonam Khandu	Bhutan

* Also member of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE)

Annex 2: LEG members

Year	Region	Name	Country
2023	Africa	Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
	Africa	Ms. Hana Hamadalla Mohamed	Sudan
	Africa	Mr. Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
	Africa	Ms. Mery Yaou	Togo
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa	Timor Leste
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Buddi Sagar Poudel	Nepal
	SIDS	Mr. Jamie Ovia	Tuvalu
	SIDS	Mr. Kénel Delusca*	Haiti
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Amina Laura Schild	Germany
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Jennifer Hobbs	Ireland
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Laurie Ashley	United States of America
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Nikki Lulham	Canada
	LDCs	Mr. Gabriel Kpaka	Sierra Leone
	LDCs	Mr. Mokoena France	Lesotho
	LDCs	Mr. Payai Manyok John	South Sudan
	LDCs	Mr. Richard Mfumu Lungu	Zambia
	LDCs	Ms. Sonam Khandu	Bhutan

Year	Region	Name	Country
2024	Africa	Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
	Africa	Ms. Hana Hamadalla Mohamed	Sudan
	Africa	Mr. Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
	Africa	Ms. Mery Yaou	Togo
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa	Timor Leste
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Buddi Sagar Poudel	Nepal
	SIDS	Mr. Jamie Ovia	Tuvalu
	SIDS	Mr. Kénel Delusca	Haiti
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Caoimhe Sweeney	Ireland
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Dominique Auger	Canada
	Developed country Parties	Mr. Gersom van der Elst	Kingdom of the Netherlands
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Laurie Ashley	United States of America
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Maaike Florine Willemsen	Kingdom of the Netherlands
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Orla Kilcullen	Ireland
	LDCs	Mr. Gabriel Kpaka	Sierra Leone
	LDCs	Mr. Mokoena France	Lesotho
	LDCs	Mr. Payai Manyok John	South Sudan
	LDCs	Mr. Richard Mfumu Lungu	Zambia

* Also member of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE)

Annex 2: LEG members

Year	Region	Name	Country
2025	Africa	Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
	Africa	Ms. Hana Hamadalla Mohamed	Sudan
	Africa	Mr. Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
	Africa	Ms. Mery Yaou	Togo
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa	Timor Leste
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Buddi Sagar Poudel	Nepal
	SIDS	Mr. Jamie Ovia	Tuvalu
	SIDS	Mr. Kénel Delusca	Haiti
	Developed country Parties	Mr. Christian Araujo	Canada
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Dominique Auger	Canada
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Maaike Florine Willemsen	Kingdom of the Netherlands
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Orla Kilcullen	Ireland
	LDCs	Mr. Gabriel Kpaka	Sierra Leone
	LDCs	Mr. Mokoena France	Lesotho
	LDCs	Mr. Payai Manyok John	South Sudan
	LDCs	Mr. Richard Mfumu Lungu	Zambia

Year	Region	Name	Country
2026	Africa	Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
	Africa	Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
	Africa	Ms. Hana Hamadalla Mohamed	Sudan
	Africa	Mr. Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
	Africa	Ms. Mery Yaou	Togo
	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Buddi Sagar Poudel	Nepal
	Asia-Pacific	Pending nomination	
	SIDS	Mr. Henry Tufah	Solomon Islands
	SIDS	Mr. Kénel Delusca	Haiti
	Developed country Parties	Mr. Christian Araujo	Canada
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Maaike Florine Willemsen	Kingdom of the Netherlands
	Developed country Parties	Ms. Orla Kilcullen	Ireland
	Developed country Parties	Pending nomination	
	LDCs	Mr. Gabriel Kpaka	Sierra Leone
	LDCs	Mr. Mokoena France	Lesotho
	LDCs	Mr. Payai Manyok John	South Sudan
	LDCs	Mr. Richard Mfumu Lungu	Zambia

* Also member of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE)

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