

National Adaptation Plans: Lessons from an International Perspective

Tarek ALKhoury
Regional Coordinator, Climate Action
United Nations Environment Programme

Thursday 6th March 2025



UNEP's NAP Portfolio

UNEP is supporting in **21 countries** in their NAP processes:

- **Africa** (Kingdom of Eswatini, Ghana, Kingdom of Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Uganda, and Zimbabwe)
- **Latin America** (Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador Honduras, and Panama)
- **and the Middle East and Asia** (Iraq, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar , Nepal, and Pakistan)

Of these, 18 countries have NAPs currently under implementation, with UNEP focusing on preparing countries to develop comprehensive NAPs. The majority of the **\$2.45 million average funding per three-year** proposal across the 18 countries was allocated to the NAP process's preparatory elements, which include:

1. Addressing capacity gaps and weaknesses in undertaking the NAP process.
2. Analyzing current climate and future climate change scenarios.
3. Assessing climate vulnerabilities and identifying adaptation options at the sectoral, sub/national, and other appropriate levels.
4. Integrating climate change adaptation into sectoral planning and sub/national development.
5. Enhancing capacity for planning and implementation of adaptation.

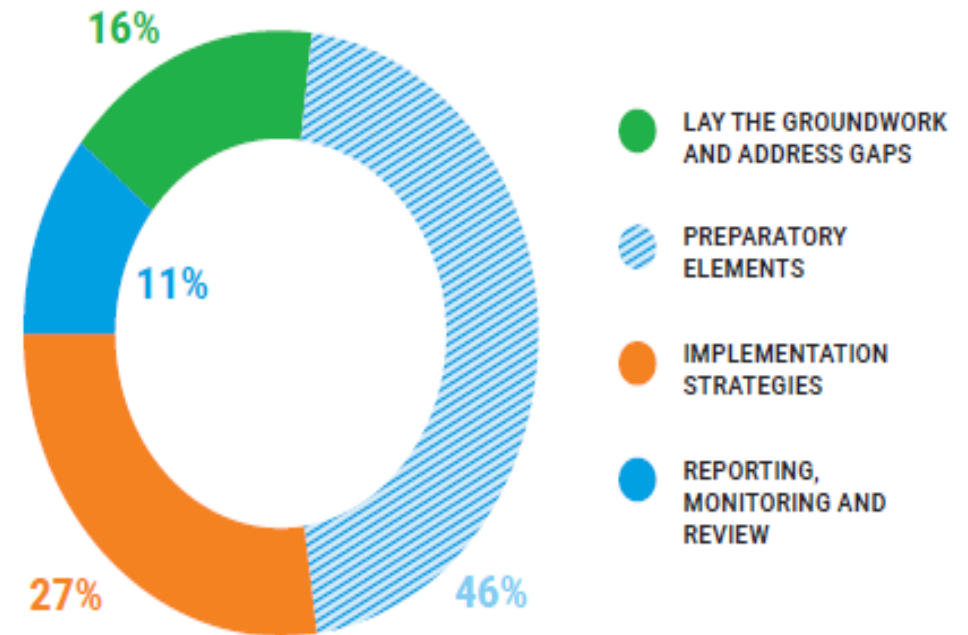


Figure: Total proposal budget for 18 countries, shown by NAP guideline element.

Summary Lessons from UNEP's NAP Portfolio

Adaptation Gap Report's uses five assessment criteria and, in each criterion, a summary is provided of where investment and support is needed and what examples of good practice and innovation could enhance cross-country learning:

1. **Comprehensiveness**
2. **Inclusiveness**
3. **Potential for Implementation**
4. **Integration**
5. **Monitoring and Reporting**

Underfinanced. Underprepared.

Inadequate investment and
planning on climate adaptation
leaves world exposed



Summary Lessons from UNEP's NAP Portfolio

1. Comprehensiveness:

Identifying climate risks and hazards and assessing vulnerability to existing and future climate hazards and impacts constitute foundational steps of the adaptation planning process.

Countries can then use this information to prioritise sectors for adaptation measures and develop a comprehensive adaptation plan by identifying adaptation options that align with these priorities and respond to the risks, hazards and vulnerabilities they face.

→ A comprehensive approach to adaptation planning is crucial for ensuring effective and sustainable responses to climate change.

Key Messages:

- Resources should be invested in translating climate risk actionable information into language and formats that decision-makers can understand.
- Need for resources to generate and access high quality sub-national climate change data, particularly for assessing costs and benefits of adaptation.
- Modelling of socio-economic baseline scenarios gives a rounded view on vulnerability levels and factors.

Good Practices:

- **Iraq** and the **Dominican Republic** are developing comprehensive indicators to track impacts.
- **Costa Rica** and **Zimbabwe** are conducting multi-criteria qualitative analyses and cost-benefit analyses to prioritize adaptation measures.

Summary Lessons from UNEP's NAP Portfolio

2. Inclusiveness:

For adaptation planning to adequately reflect existing and long-term forthcoming risks and vulnerabilities and to effectively enhance the ownership of any implementation, engage all stakeholder groups, paying due regard to differentiated needs of women and men.

Key Messages:

- Develop stakeholder engagement strategies.
- Integrate views and knowledge into climate planning processes: evidence-based planning.
- Strategically sampling sub-national administrative units to ensure representative stakeholder engagement.

Good Practices:

- **Costa Rica, Zimbabwe, and Mongolia** demonstrated successful stakeholder engagement strategies, involving vulnerable groups in decision-making processes.
- Innovative communication methods are raising awareness on NAPs – e.g., mobile theatre in **Sao Tome and Principe**, football competitions in **Iraq**, and specialized training for media, artists, and poets in countries like the **Dominican Republic** and **Eswatini**.
 - These diverse methods are effectively increasing awareness and fostering greater participation in NAP processes.

Summary Lessons from UNEP's NAP Portfolio

3. Potential for Implementation:

Planning is effective when it leads to real implementation by public and private actors. As such, planning can benefit from a central administrative body that is officially in charge of adaptation policymaking and a variety of policy instruments, including investment, incentives, and regulations that drive the desired outcomes.

Key Messages:

- Countries where high-level leadership takes an active and visible role in the implementation of the NAP process are progressing quickly.
- Strong links between national and sub-national governments are a key feature of a strong NAP process.
- Identify where major government spending is planned for mainstreaming opportunities; understand where the scope is for private sector spending.

Good Practices:

- **Costa Rica:** 20+ Municipal councils had signed formal agreements in which they commit to integrating adaptation actions into their development planning instruments. Several institutional structures have emerged to manage this process.
- Decentralized governance systems, exemplified by **Nepal's** Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA), play a crucial role in local adaptation planning and implementation.
- **Nepal and Zimbabwe** are developing financing and resource mobilization strategies. These strategies are crucial for securing the resources needed to implement adaptation plans.

Summary Lessons from UNEP's NAP Portfolio

4. Integration:

Integrating or mainstreaming adaptation planning and action horizontally (across sectors) and vertically (across levels of administration) is a critical component of effective adaptation planning.

→ This helps ensure that adaptation planning is comprehensive, avoids the duplication of effort or maladaptation, and enhances synergies.

Key Messages:

- Introduction of national adaptation laws or decrees has proved to be a key catalyst for vertical and horizontal integration.
- Create tools to help planners understand climate change risks.
- Mainstream into national legislative framework and policies and implementation.
- Mainstreaming climate change adaptation extends beyond policy and planning to include educational systems and public awareness campaigns.

Good Practices:

- **Nepal, Mongolia, the Dominican Republic, and Iraq** are conducting stocktakes of their legal frameworks to align policies and budgets with climate change adaptation needs.
- **Eswatini, Iraq, and the Dominican Republic** are integrating climate change into their school curricula and enhancing community awareness through educational initiatives.

Summary Lessons from UNEP's NAP Portfolio

5. Monitoring and Reporting:

For planning to remain adequate and effective, it must be monitored and evaluated.

Key Messages:

- Many countries do not have robust national performance tracking systems. Need to develop NAP monitoring systems from scratch.
- Developing a cohesive monitoring system can be a complex undertaking in a decentralized government, requiring strong coordination mechanisms.
- Need for support in developing, identifying and harmonizing indicators.
- Need for support in establishing data collection processes, particularly for baseline establishment.

Good Practices:

- Integrating the NAP's M&E system into a country's existing national development frameworks can lead to success, as seen in **Costa Rica**.

Thank You

Tarek AlKhoury

Regional Coordinator, Climate Action

United Nations Environment Programme

tarek.alkhoury@un.org

