

LEG@20



Years of
**Adaptation
Support**
to the **LDCs**



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change





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LEG@20

Twenty Years of Adaptation
Support to the LDCs



20 years of
Adaptation
Support
to the LDCs
2001 - 2021





20 years of **adaptation support**

•

20 years of **collaborative partnerships**

•

20 years of **making a difference**

ABOUT this book

Established in 2001, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) celebrates 20 years of adaptation support this year by looking back on its journey and honoring the people who have paved the road for its many achievements.

This coffee table book, LEG@20: Twenty Years of Adaptation Support to the LDCs, chronicles the journey of the LEG from the perspective of its members and partners across the globe. Through visuals and diverse voices, the book takes us through its many milestones in building adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change in the least developed countries.

PREFACE

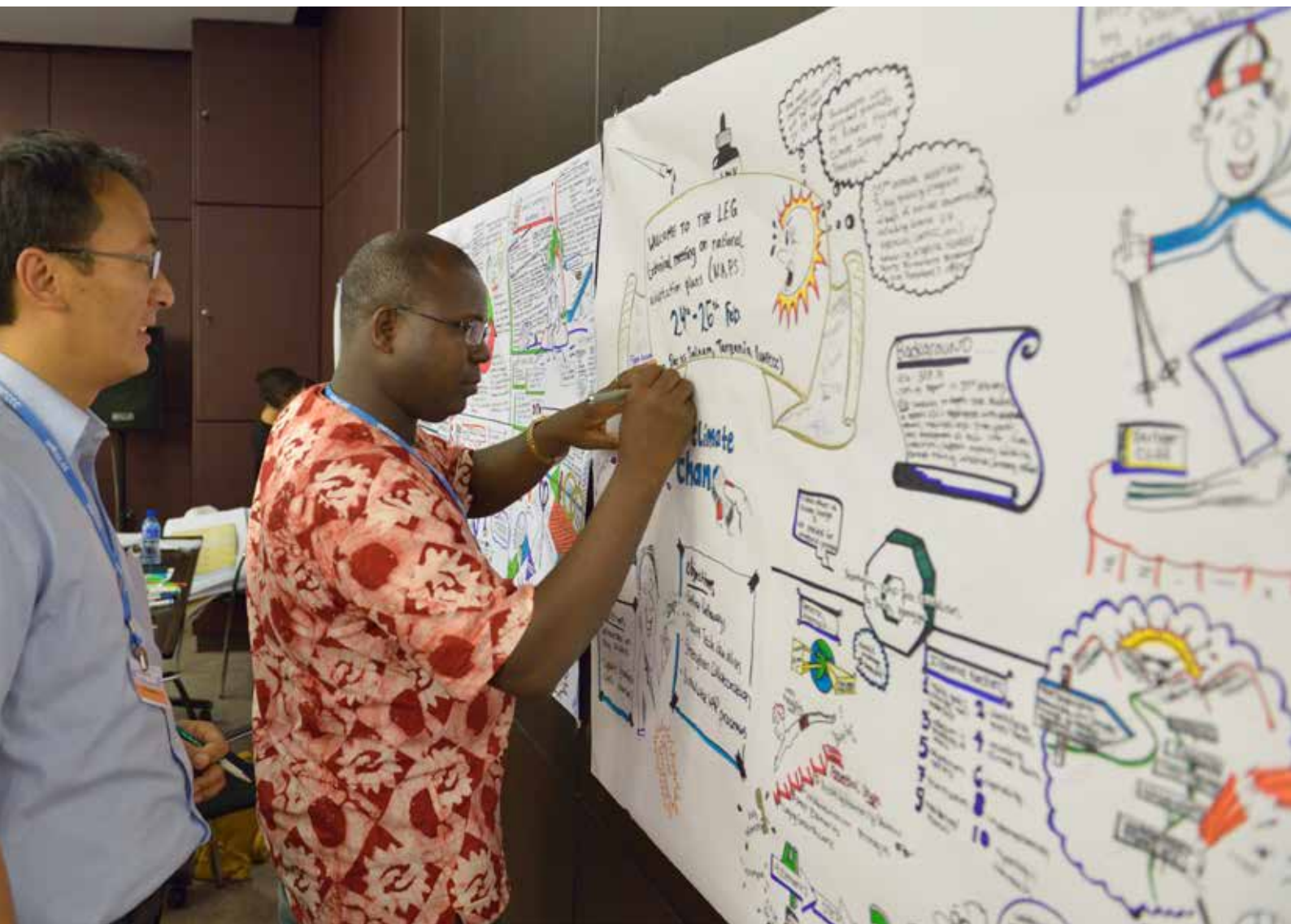
The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) has been providing adaptation support to the least developed countries (LDCs) in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change. At the Glasgow Climate Change Conference in November 2021, the LEG launched the commemoration of its twenty years of adaptation support to the LDCs. This milestone is marked by a series of yearlong communication and outreach activities leading up to and culminating at the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference in November 2022. This publication puts a spotlight on the 20 years of adaptation support provided by the LEG to the LDCs.

Since the establishment of the process in 2010, the LEG has been providing quality support on adaptation to the LDCs, and consequently the rest of the developing countries, through technical guidelines, technical guidance and support, technical papers, training, methodologies, tools, compilation and analysis of gaps and needs on adaptation and support, engagement of other bodies and organizations to create complementarities and synergies, and expert advice to the governing bodies under the UNFCCC. The work of the LEG and its support on adaptation continues to evolve to ensure that activities are demand driven and based upon the needs of the LDCs.

The scope of this booklet is to feature the achievements of the work of the LEG over the last 20 years and to shine a light to how the LDCs are addressing climate change through the work of the LEG under the UNFCCC process. We invite you to visit the LEG webpages for further information at <http://unfccc.int/leg>.

Kenel Delusca
LEG Chair





FOREWORD

The world continues to experience rising temperatures, shifting seasons, increasing frequency of extreme weather events and slow onset events. For the world's Least Developed Countries (LDCs) this results in increasing levels of vulnerability due to the double exposure to direct and indirect climate impacts and the compounding development challenges.

In establishing the Convention, governments attributed special consideration and support to the LDCs in tackling the climate change challenge through Article 4, paragraph 9 of the Convention. On that basis, the UNFCCC put in place a dedicated work programme, funding, technical assistance and other provisions to enable these countries to effectively protect their societies and economies from climate change, and to contribute towards achieving the global goals and objectives of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

These LDC provisions under the UNFCCC are aligned with the United Nations system support through the dedicated Programme of Action for the LDCs. The UNFCCC LDC work programme and related components are aimed at generating international attention and action to reverse the worsening of the socio-economic condition of these most vulnerable countries due to climate change impacts.

Since its establishment in 2001, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) has been mandated to provide technical guidance and support to the LDCs in addressing adaptation – initially through the national adaptation programmes of action, and now through the national adaptation plans.

I congratulate the LEG for more than 20 years of excellence in supporting the LDCs. Through that support, the LDCs have become champions in many areas of addressing climate change. The first adaptation plan – the national adaptation programme of action – was developed by Mauritania in 2004. Since then, each LDC has had an adaptation plan in place, and although on a limited scale, has implemented various activities to build its resilience to climate change.

I look forward to the continued work of the LEG in supporting the LDCs in tackling climate change, particularly in this decade of implementation.

Simon Stiell
Executive Secretary





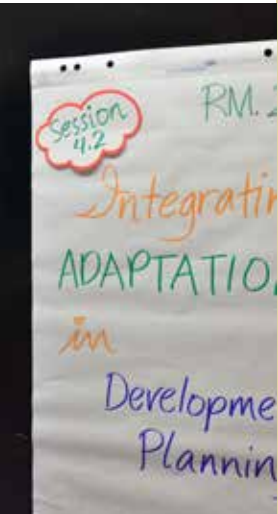
The Content

I
The LEG
and its mandate

II
The LEG Journey:
From first to 20 years

III
Supporting adaptation
in the LDCs:
Key achievements

IV
LEG outlook
for the next 20 years







THE LDC EXPERT GROUP and its mandate





THE LDC EXPERT GROUP and its mandate

One of the oldest constituted bodies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the LEG gathers the world's foremost climate change adaptation experts to guide and empower the least developed countries (LDCs) to adapt to climate change. It remains to be the principal body supporting the LDCs in addressing the multi-faceted and complex issues and challenges the LDCs face every day.

The LEG supports LDCs to address adaptation through the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs), accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and connecting to a larger network of partners that can help the LDCs address the adverse impacts of climate change. The LEG also provides technical guidance and support in strengthening gender considerations in NAPs and addressing vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems, regional approaches to adaptation planning, and in addressing needs related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The LEG works together with governments and a wide range of organizations, regional centres and networks, to design programmes and services needed to ensure that climate actions are implemented and truly benefit the world's most vulnerable.

MANDATE

The LEG provides technical guidance and support, through its various modalities, so the LDCs can identify needs and priorities; develop viable and effective country roadmaps; assess and manage risks and vulnerabilities; access and seek funding; and implement medium and long-term plans while addressing capacity gaps.

The LEG also helps the LDCs engage with potential collaborators and stakeholders, drawing on its collective historic relationship to forge new partnerships, enable new thinking, and propel global action towards achieving a more coordinated and coherent means to adaptation.





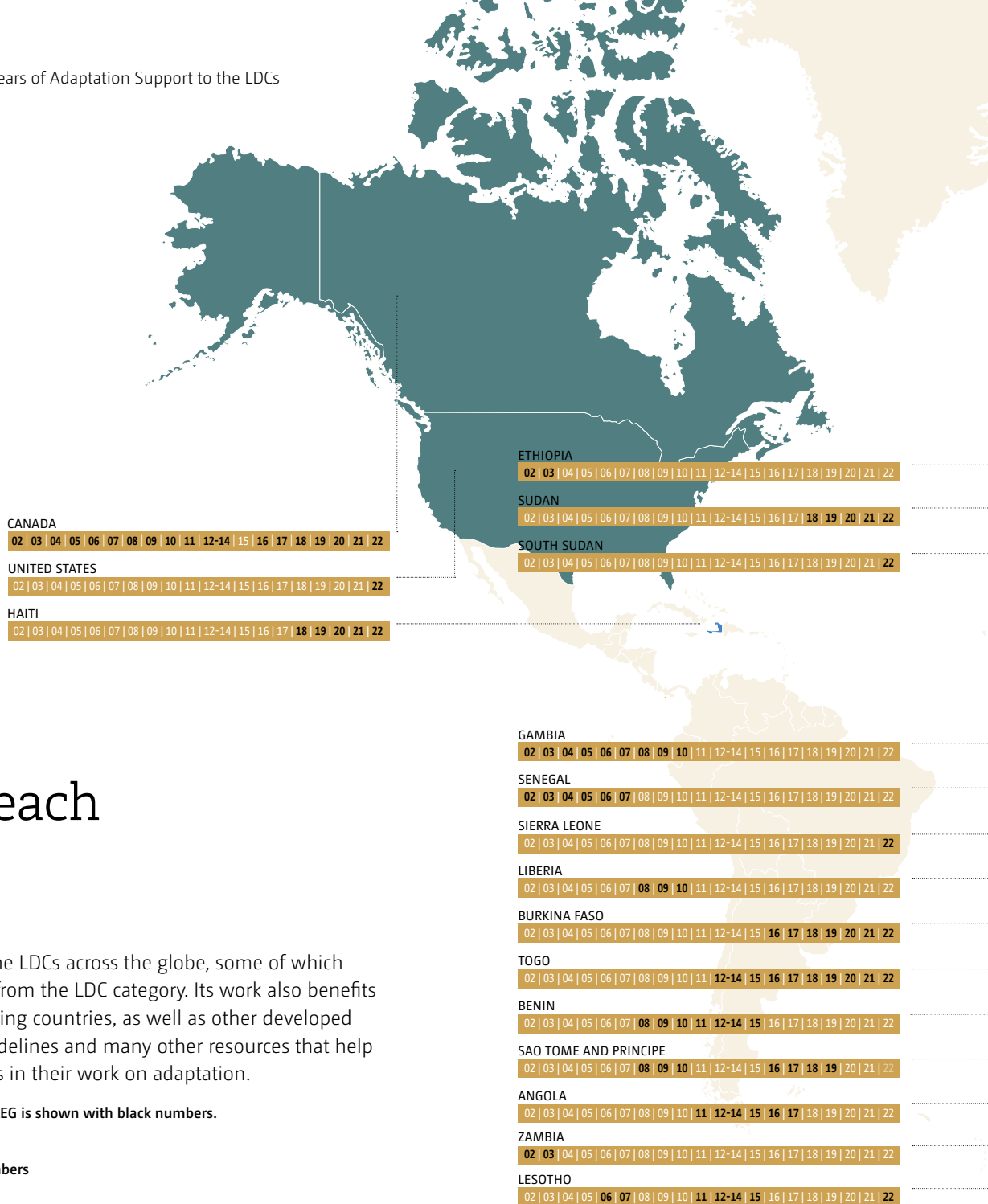
VISION DRIVEN APPROACH TO SUPPORTING ADAPTATION



The LEG has established a vision-driven approach to guide its work in supporting the LDCs in addressing adaptation. The vision entails the provision of support by the LEG and other actors for achieving demonstrable results in building adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change in the LDCs; formulation of robust and good-quality NAPs and implementation of priority adaptation needs identified therein with funding from the GCF and other sources; and existence of a well-structured adaptation planning process in the LDCs.

The vision is aimed at achieving the following outcomes, reflecting the long-term success of supporting adaptation in the LDCs:

- Policymakers in the LDCs motivated to make efforts for advancing the formulation and implementation of NAPs with a view to contributing to the achievement of the global goal on adaptation under the Paris Agreement;
- All the LDCs having in place national structures and systems (the essential functions) for ensuring a successful process to formulate and implement NAPs, namely one that is functioning smoothly, contributing to the iterative identification of adaptation needs and options, and supporting successful implementation of adaptation actions;
- All the LDCs having submitted a NAP by the end of 2022 or soon thereafter, and undertaking activities to iteratively review and update their NAPs while continuing to implement the adaptation priorities identified therein;
- All the LDCs implementing specific adaptation actions identified in their NAPs that are designed to reduce vulnerability, strengthen resilience and build adaptive capacity, using funding from the GCF and other sources;
- Coherent and complementary activities in formulating and implementing NAPs, and up-to-date approaches to adaptation being applied, including risk-based and systems approaches;
- The LDCs' adaptation strategies and actions being well integrated with national development efforts, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

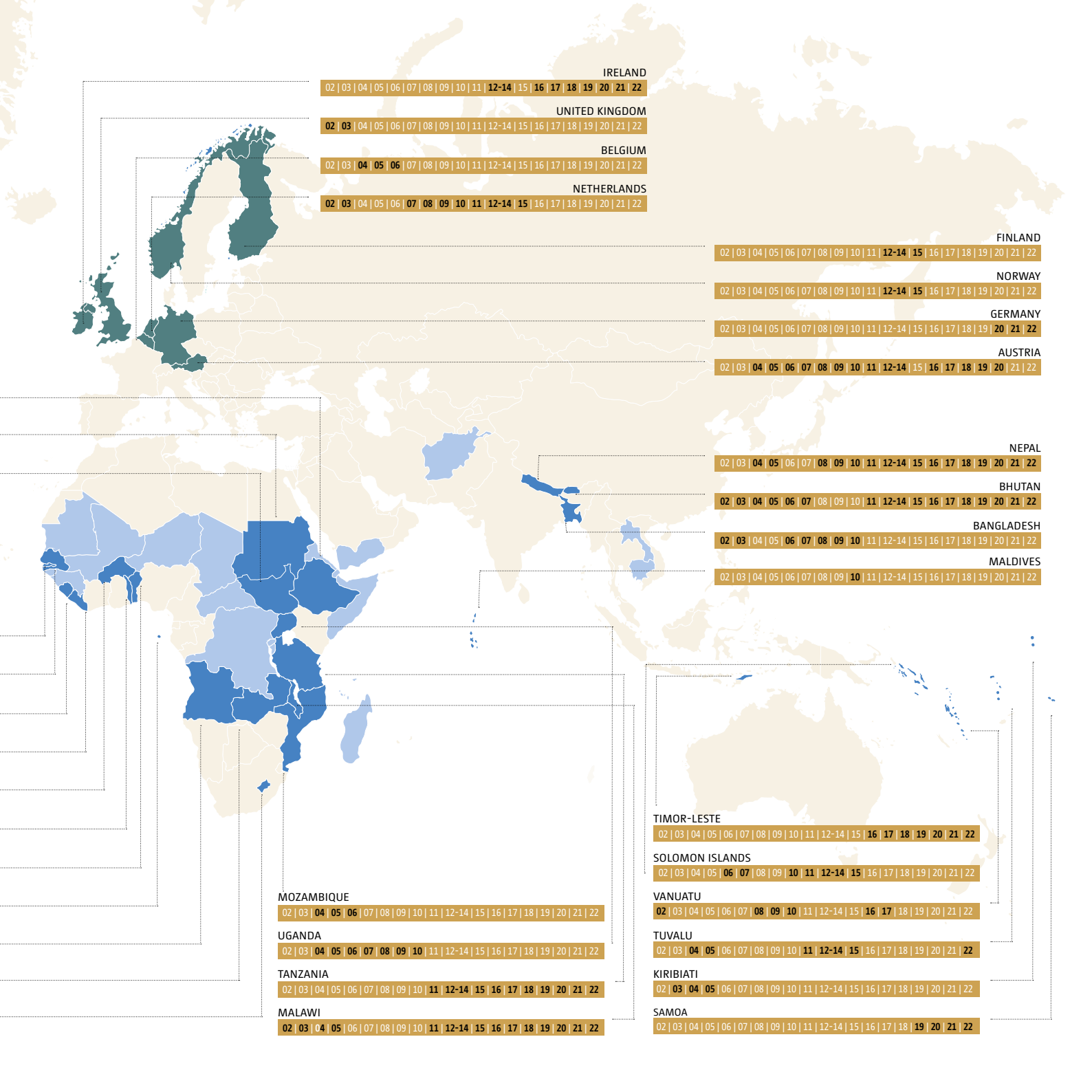


Global reach

The LEG supports all the LDCs across the globe, some of which have since graduated from the LDC category. Its work also benefits the rest of the developing countries, as well as other developed countries, through guidelines and many other resources that help better inform countries in their work on adaptation.

Years for membership of the LEG is shown with black numbers.

- LDC members
- Developed country members
- LDCs



IRELAND

02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12-14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22

UNITED KINGDOM

02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12-14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22

BELGIUM

02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12-14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22

NETHERLANDS

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FINLAND

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NORWAY

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GERMANY

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AUSTRIA

02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12-14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22

NEPAL

02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12-14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22

BHUTAN

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BANGLADESH

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MALDIVES

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TIMOR-LESTE

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SOLOMON ISLANDS

02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12-14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22

VANUATU

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TUVALU

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KIRIBATI

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SAMOA

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TANZANIA

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MALAWI

02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12-14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22

HIGHLIGHTS

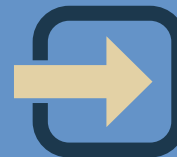
NAPA preparation and implementation guidelines available in English and French



NAP technical guidelines available in several UN languages

40+ technical papers and publications on thematic topics on adaptation in the LEG knowledge base

51 countries assisted to prepare NAPAs – the first adaptation plans under the UNFCCC



All the LDCs assisted to access funding from the LDCF, with over **349 adaptation projects totalling USD 1.76 billion**



7 Global NAP Expos conducted with **500+ partners** mobilized

NAP Central launched in serving as the universally accessible, web-based central repository and hub for information pertinent to the process to formulate and implement NAPs



23 training workshops to handhold and guide the LDCs in implementing adaptation

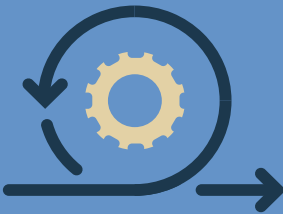


Technical papers, toolkit and events for strengthening gender considerations in adaptation

51 project ideas generated in 2022 for NAP implementation under the NAP writing workshops



NAP technical working group established in 2014 to mobilize the support and expertise from a wide range of organizations – current composed of 30+ members



NAP Country Platform events held to recognize country's adaptation actions

18 LDCs supported to formulate their NAPs through the Open NAP initiative



From **13 to 17 members** across the globe

Hello



25 LDCs visited and benefited from direct interaction with the LEG

THE LEG JOURNEY: From first to 20 years









THE FIRST YEAR

In implementing Article 4.9 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties (COP) established, in 2001 through decision 5/CP.7, the least developed countries (LDCs) work programme as well as the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF).

The LEG is tasked with assisting the LDCs in addressing the challenges of climate change given their unique and special circumstances and particular vulnerability. The LEG initially consisted 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).

Since its establishment in 2001 to today, 20 years later, the LEG has expanded its reach and evolved in function — not just supporting the LDCs on their urgent and immediate needs to address climate change but also providing direct country support to the LDCs in addressing medium- and long-term adaptation needs, with benefits extending beyond the LDCs. The LEG supports the LDCs through its various modalities such as developing technical guidelines, providing technical advice and brokering support to the LDCs through its well-established network of partners, collaborators and individual experts.

To activate Article 4.9, the LDCs asked for an item during the sixth session of COP and succeeded in getting support from the COP President Jan Pronk; and at COP 6-bis, things started to move. It was a message to the world that the vulnerabilities and special circumstances of the least developed countries had finally moved from the margins to the centre of policymaking.





LAYING THE groundwork

At COP 6 in 2000, COP President Jan Pronk's support brought the spotlight on the LDCs and their collective needs. It was also the impetus for the LEG to fast track its plans. The goal: to lay the groundwork and immediately achieve concrete milestones.

But that was easier said than done.

The LEG faced the challenge of laying the groundwork and structure for both the newly founded expert group and the NAPA support for the LDCs. That meant (i) developing a viable set of guidelines that would kick-start the process for the NAPAs for the LDCs; (ii) mobilizing the LDCs to take on this pioneering task; (iii) engaging with people on the ground to find out their needs and (iv) looking for resources to make everything possible. And the LEG had to do all of these, all at the same time.

However tough, the LEG delivered.



However hard, we were able to: mobilize resources for the NAPA process; develop annotated guidelines for NAPA preparation and a step-by-step guide for NAPA implementation; hold regional workshops to train and guide the LDCs in NAPA preparation and then implementation; lobby for participation of LEG and LDC Chairs in the GEF Council to promote resource mobilization; and use LEG meetings as vehicle for training and guiding parties in NAPA preparation and implementation. It was a proud moment for the team when COP acknowledged the NAPA as an adaptation instrument and a foundational tool for the NAP process.

This experience has led me to put value on collaboration, teamwork, and external support. Together—LEG Chairs, members, the LDC Secretariat under UNFCCC and developed country parties, and the LDCs—we have achieved so much. And we will continue to do so in the next decades to come.

Fred Onduri
former LEG Chair, UGANDA



The UNITAR saw the need to keep the momentum going for the LDCs as they prepare their NAPA. We provided language support to xx through exchange programs and capacity building workshops for the National Secretariat.

Annie Roncerel
UNITAR



In 2002, Canada pledged CAD 12 million to finance the development of the NAPAs. It was the first country to provide contribution to the LDCF to respond to the LDCs urgent and immediate adaptation needs through the NAPAs. With Canada's contribution, the Fund has enabled 48 of the world's most vulnerable countries then to access resources for NAPA preparation.

The LEG held its very first meeting in Arusha, Tanzania in 2002 where the Global Environment Facility (GEF) presented the operational guidelines for funding the LDCs, deciding on a cap of USD 200,000 for projects of 18 months so that all the LDCs could have access to immediate funding. To assist in granting funds, 9 GEF implementing agencies were appointed. Most projects were implemented through UNDP and UNEP.

In September 2002, the LEG produced and launched the first annotated NAPA guidelines in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This was to become LDC's north star, helping the LDCs fully understand what is needed to develop and implement NAPAs. The guidelines had both English and French editions.

To help support national climate change secretariats in the LDCs, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was funded to operationalize the national focal points office in each LDC, provide language support through exchange programmes and capacity building, and organize workshops for the national secretariats.



LEG@20: Mandates and milestones

In the last 20 years, the LEG has become a stalwart supporter of LDCs under the UNFCCC process. It may not be the one with the most reach in the UNFCCC process but certainly an unwavering and untiring champion for the LDCs.

Every milestone, every accomplishment of the LEG is a validation and a celebration of passion and partnership and a step closer to its primary mandate—to support the LDCs in addressing climate change and to ensure that they are not left behind. The LEG stands today—triumphant and gratified—because of the significant role it continues to hold under the climate change process.

2001 COP 7

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

Established the LDCF (decision 7/CP.7) & LEG (decision 29/CP.7)

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



2002 LEG

The LEG annotated the guidelines for the preparation of NAPAs

Organized the NAPA programme launch event in Dhaka, Bangladesh in September

2005 COP 11

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



2005 LEG

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

2007 COP 13

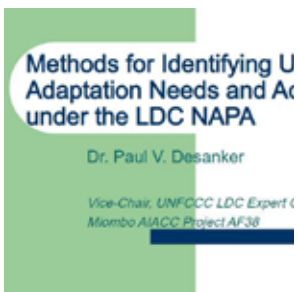
Organized a stocktaking meeting on NAPA preparation and implementation in September



2010 COP 16

Establishment of the process to formulate and implement NAPs, inviting other developing countries to employ it.

LEG's mandate renewed for 5 years (2011-2015) and expanded to include support to the LDCs on the revision and update of NAPAs, the LDC work programme, gender considerations and considerations of other vulnerable communities, and medium- and long-term adaptation.



2006 LEG

The LEG developed an online local coping strategies database

2007 LEG

LEG mandate extended for an additional three years (2008-2010)

2009 LEG

Published a step-by-step guide for implementing NAPA

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

2011 COP 17

Requested the development of NAP Guidelines and reviewed by the AC

Established the 2 objectives of the NAP process and the four elements

Develop the GCF Operational Guide using thematic funding windows, with NAPs identified among the plans to be funded

UN orgs and other agencies called to provide information on their activities to support countries on NAPs.

LEG introduced an annual report on the progress and take stock of the activities of the UN orgs in supporting countries



2012 LEG

Developed technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs and organized an expert meeting to review guidelines

2012 COP 18

COP mandated the GEF to provide funding for activities to enable the preparation of NAPs through the LDCF for the LDCs and through the SCCF for developing countries that are not LDCs



2013 LEG

First NAP Expo was launched where it now became the flagship outreach event for promoting and advancing the work on National Adaptation Plans



2014 LEG

The first regional workshop on NAPs for 2014-2015, in collaboration with the NAP global support programme for LDCs, for Pacific LDCs but also open to non-LDCs developing countries

2015 COP 21

LEG's mandate was extended

Requested the GCF to expedite support for the LDCs and other developing country Parties for the formulation of NAPs

GCF opened a window for funding under its readiness support

2018 COP 24

Mandated the LEG and the AC 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.



2015 LEG

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

New elements of the mandate includes guidance on regional approaches



2020 LEG

The 37th and 38th LEG virtual meetings

Stocktaking meeting convened by the LEG

2021 LEG

Additional members from 3 LDC Parties and one from a developed country Party

LEG's 20th anniversary



2022 LEG

NAP Writing Workshop





LEG ACTION AREAS

in supporting adaptation in the LDCs

In the past 20 years, the LEG has been a trailblazer, setting the bar high for future support to the LDCs. This section showcases some of the ways the LEG has innovated the field, created effective solutions, and fostered partnerships and collaborations that benefited the world's poorest and most vulnerable.





One of the unique aspects of the group is that it is by the LDCs, for the LDCs. It doesn't follow the normal geographic distribution but we have a majority of LDC members who are experts in their own right and can directly help countries who need help.

The LEG is still the central entity but it has greatly evolved to support the formulation of national adaptation plans and their subsequent implementation. The LEG will remain instrumental for the LDCs and also for all other countries that may benefit from the insight provided by the group.

Youssef Nassef

Director, Adaptation Division, UNFCCC

The LEG has done excellent work in essentially creating the benchmark on how we can address adaptation under the convention through the NAPAs and more recently, through the NAP. The LEG produced the NAP technical guidelines. They've innovated and created the things that everybody talks about now such as the NAP Expos, the NAP SDG i-Frame which is designed to link NAPs with SDGs. They're also doing the Open NAPs which is an exciting initiative to mobilize as many experts as possible to help the LDCs develop fantastic NAPs. I am looking forward to what the LEG is going to achieve in the next few years and I hope that the LEG will continue to disrupt how we address adaptation.

Paul Desanker

Former LEG Chair, Manager, UNFCCC



FACILITATING AND BROKERING SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LDC WORK PROGRAMME

The LEG serves as a bridge between the LDCs and organizations that help push climate change adaptation agenda in the LDCs.

Leveraging on its wide network and influence, the LEG initiates, builds and maintains longstanding relationships and mutual collaborations with organizations and groups — global and local, within and outside governments, the development field, academia, civil society organizations and youth leaders, among others.

The LEG ensures that the LDCs get the buy-in and benefit from current and new partnerships, support, and sponsorship — from collaborating with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing countries, and Small Island Developing States to complement the broader priorities for support under the UN Programme of Action for the LDCs – to government stakeholders, both national and local to NGOs and organization with similar agenda.

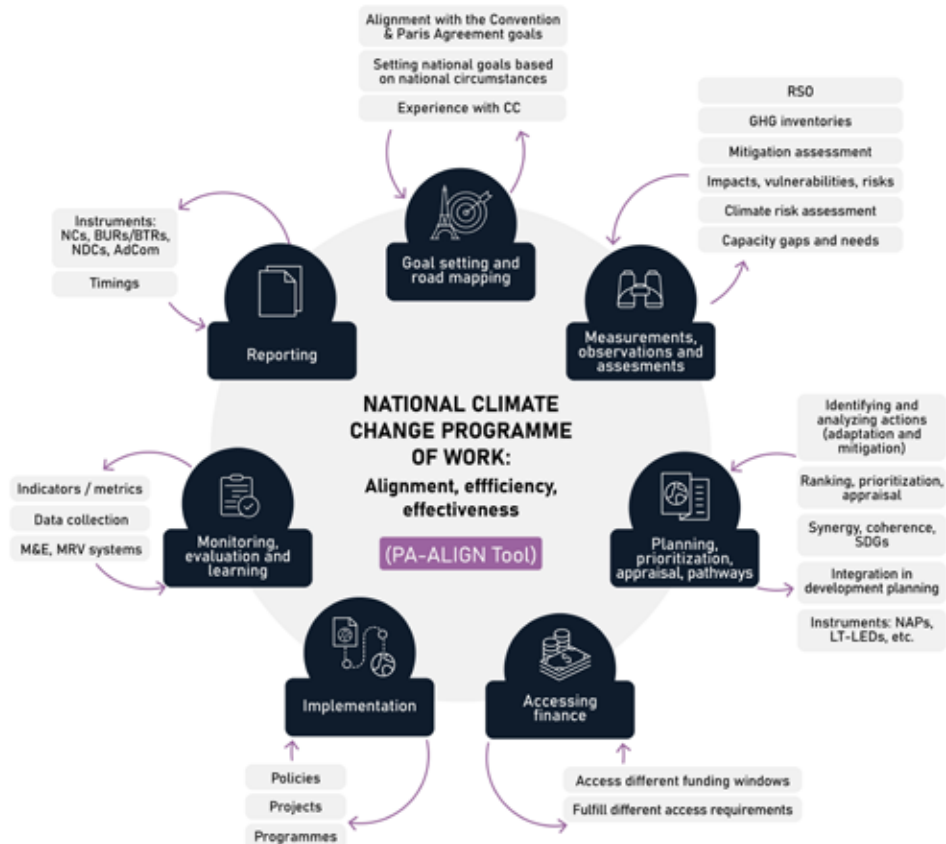
The LEG has collaborated with governments, United Nations organizations/programmes; multilateral organizations, including development banks; development/bilateral agencies; research institutes and other organizations; regional organizations; non-governmental organizations (NGOs)/civil society representatives; and private sector/consulting firms.



ALIGNING CLIMATE ACTIONS WITH GLOBAL OBJECTIVES, EVOLVING WITH THE CHANGING TIMES

Developed by the LEG, the PA-ALIGN Tool helps the LDCs understand the Paris Agreement and how they can effectively and efficiently address the many elements of the Paris Agreement, as well as the Convention.

Over the years, climate change issues have evolved. To help the LDCs understand and align their plans and projects to the global objectives laid out in the Paris Agreement, the LEG introduced the PA-ALIGN Tool. It is a training course designed by the LEG with inputs from other constituted bodies and relevant organizations that aims to efficiently and effectively navigate and address the many elements of the Paris Agreement with a focus on opportunities, obligations and reporting requirements for different groups of Parties, and in particular the LDCs. Using the tool, it is hoped that the LDCs can develop a national implementation pathway in the next five years.



BUILDING AN ATLAS OF VISION-DRIVEN GUIDELINES AND TECHNICAL MATERIALS TO IMPLEMENT URGENT AND IMMEDIATE ADAPTATION NEEDS

With the guidelines and foundational materials it produces on preparing and implementing NAPAs, the LDCs relied on the LEG to guide them in addressing urgent and immediate adaptation needs from climate change.

The LEG journey follows the commitment of ensuring that the specific needs and special circumstances of the LDCs are considered in the design and provision of support. Every guide, every project, every plan is a roadmap towards a common vision across all providers of support.

The evolution of its publications and knowledge materials— from NAPA Primer which aimed at providing clarity on the frequently asked questions on the NAPAs including their linkages with the national communications, to the “Annotations to the NAPA Guidelines” which further provided details on the activities to be undertaken by the LDCs – provided proof of the way the LEG ensures that its activities are addressing the capacity gaps and needs of the LDCs. These guidelines served as foundational materials, not only for preparing and implementing NAPAs, but prepared the LDCs with valuable experience and lessons to be applied in medium- and long-term planning for adaptation.

The “Step-By-Step Guide for implementing national adaptation programmes of action” serves as an essential part of every project kick off as it served as a roadmap for the LDCs on how to plan, what to prioritize and how to implement adaptation actions from their NAPAs. But

while that has become the LDC bible, the LEG provided other roadmaps—published guides, technical papers, and reports—that all assist and guide the LDCs at every stage. They provided valuable insights and technical advice, from detailing activities and timelines to mobilizing resources; from strategizing and executing to monitoring and review.

While NAPAs were limited to the LDCs, their success presented great potential for other countries, and provided important learning process for the UNFCCC process.



DEVELOPING AND SUPPORTING APPLICATION OF TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR NAPs

The LEG makes sure that the NAP technical guidelines consider the wealth of experience from NAPAs and other relevant activities, up-to-date, and more importantly, in tune with what is happening on-ground.



The LEG is central to the development of the NAP technical guidelines, to guide the formulation and implementation of NAPs. It mobilizes a wide range of experts and organizations for their inputs, compiling best practices from across the globe. Through various activities including NAP country dialogues, the Open NAP initiative, regional workshops, NAP Expos and NAP Central, the LEG facilitates the application of the guidelines, and in the process hitting two birds with one stone by raising awareness and building the capacity of the LDCs. Until today, the LEG continues to mobilize organizations to develop supplementary materials to complement the guidelines.



The NAP technical guidelines guide countries on the underlying process at national level that would lead to successful adaptation; the production of a NAP (the plan) and implementation of adaptation priorities identified in them. The LEG is currently working on the technical guidelines for the implementation of NAPs. Organizations and experts are engaged throughout the development, review and application of the NAP technical guidelines; 139 countries that have initiated the process of formulating NAPs have mentioned the use of the NAP technical guidelines in their activities; 37 supplemental guidelines developed and published by partner UN agencies and organizations.

Serving on the LEG was one of the most fulfilling and rewarding work that I've done over the years. I served from 2011 to 2015 with a very diverse and interesting group of people from all around the world. We were working on the technical guidelines for the NAP and also conducting outreach and training for the LDCs and other developing countries. Now, it's very gratifying to see many NAPs coming from LDC's and developing countries. The LEG has been doing a lot of good work and the work has evolved to meet the changing needs of the different LDCs. I look forward to the implementation of many programs and activities, all towards building resilience.

Thinley Namgyel
Former LEG member, Bhutan

PROVIDING DIRECT COUNTRY SUPPORT THROUGH THE OPEN NAP INITIATIVE



The LEG at its meetings always had the host countries' teams working on NAPAs and NAPs, presenting their achievements and challenges. It initiated the NAP Expos that have met wide recognition as global key adaptation event. It created the Open NAP initiative where the LDCs got an opportunity to share their experience and work together on adaptation planning.

Erwin Kuenzi

Former LEG member, Austria

The Open NAP initiative and the NAP writing workshops cut across borders and builds on collective experience, expertise, and intelligence to support the LDCs.

Through its approach of consultative and collaborative relationship, the LEG established country dialogues with the LDCs to discuss the progress, challenges, gaps and needs on advancing the NAPs. The LEG tailors its support based on the result of these dialogues. The Open NAP initiative and the NAP writing workshops — both offering targeted support to the LDCs in advancing the formulation and implementation of NAPs — were born as a response to the ongoing stocktaking of LDC's needs, gaps, and challenges.

Led by the LEG, the Open NAP initiative is an open-ended collaboration that is designed to gather, mobilize and democratize knowledge and insights from experts on specific topics and sectors, stakeholders, and actors, regardless of country or region. With everyone working together, the LDCs and the global community as a whole can find and develop the most effective adaptation solutions to common climate change risks and vulnerabilities.

*18 LDCs being supported under the Open NAP initiative;
38 LDCs supported to develop project profiles under the NAP writing workshop*

FACILITATING CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The LEG bridges the gap and promotes cross-organizational information exchange among the GCF secretariat, the GEF secretariat, the Adaptation Fund secretariat, multilateral and bilateral agencies, regional centres and networks and other relevant organizations.

The LEG serves as the bridge between the LDCs and groups and organizations like the GCF secretariat, the GEF secretariat, the Adaptation Fund secretariat, bilateral agencies, among others. It also facilitates the engaging and exchanging of information on fund access, LDC engagement, and the formulation and implementation of NAPs. The LEG communicates needs and challenges of the LDCs in accessing funding for adaptation. These dialogues help in resolving many bottlenecks faced by the LDCs in accessing funding.



INTEGRATING GENDER CONSIDERATIONS AND THE INTEREST OF VULNERABLE GROUPS, COMMUNITIES AND ECOSYSTEMS



Gender considerations, addressing the vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems remains to be a core principle of the work of the LEG.

To ensure that the interests of all sectors are upheld, the LEG developed technical papers on strengthening gender considerations in adaptation planning and implementation in the LDCs as well as on the consideration of vulnerable groups, communities, and ecosystems. It also collaborated with the NAP Global Network and the Adaptation Committee to develop the “Toolkit for Gender-Responsive Process to formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans”. The toolkit is designed to support country efforts to pursue a gender-responsive NAP with a focus on integrating gender considerations into the formulation and implementation of NAPs. These issues are consistently promoted at the NAP Expos where the LEG maintains a regular agenda on gender, vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, as well as in other events.



20 years of hard work to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable countries are provided capacity-building and support.

Marianne Karlsen

Former LEG member from Norway, SBI Chair

ESTABLISHING OBJECTIVE AND METRIC-BASED MONITORING, REVIEW, AND EVALUATION

With the PEG M&E Tool, the LEG has developed a standard by which to monitor and assess progress, effectiveness, adequacy, gaps and needs in adaptation planning and implementation.

The LEG developed the tool for monitoring and evaluating progress, effectiveness and gaps in relation to the process to formulate and implement NAPs (PEG M&E Tool). The tool is developed around five categories of metrics: (1) process metrics, (2) input metrics, (3) output metrics, (4) outcome metrics, and impact metrics.

The PEG M&E Tool presents a set of generic metrics from which a small set can be selected to monitor and assess the whole process to formulate and implement NAPs. The set of generic metrics can be easily adjusted and applied to each of the 10 essential functions of the formulation and implementation of NAPs for monitoring and assessing progress and effectiveness. In doing so, detailed gaps and needs to further improve the process can be easily identified.

The LEG serves as the authority for providing information to the SBI/COP on the progress made by developing countries on the formulation and implementation of NAPs, including information on support provided and received. It has maintained a well-established information on progress of developing countries on NAPs which provides a valuable resource for measuring and assessing adaptation.

Photo: Sao Tome Assessment of Progress



IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING CAPACITY GAPS AND NEEDS FOR THE LDCs

Through capacity-building and -development efforts, the LEG ensures that the LDCs are equipped with the knowledge and tools to identify and address challenges in climate change adaptation.

The process to formulate and implement NAPs is an ongoing and iterative process that will continue to evolve in leading countries towards climate resilient development. This requires a baseline from which progress is measured against and commitment to continuously improve. To help the LDCs identify and address gaps and needs, the LEG conducts capacity-building activities like workshops and information-gathering activities like surveys, country dialogues, and reviews to help in identifying and addressing gaps and needs and supplement hands-on, “learning-by-doing.” The LEG has also helped the LDCs undertake comprehensive climate risk and vulnerability assessment that is necessary in designing medium to long-term adaptation plans.



The LEG should push ahead with its aspiration to support 100% of its membership to have their own National Adaptation Plans.

Aderito Santana
Former LEG Chair, Sao Tome and Principe

PROMOTING COLLABORATIVE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE, BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Through the NAP Expos, effective learning is achieved as the LDCs and other countries share personal experiences, lessons learned and best practices.

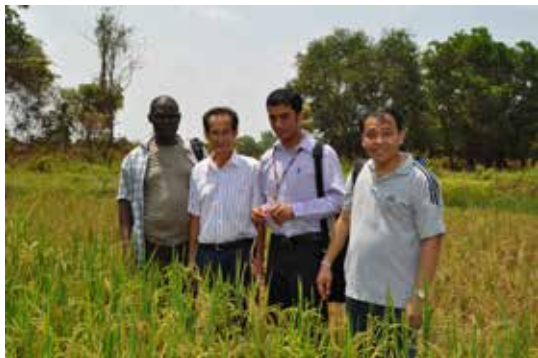
The NAP Expo is an interactive global forum that brings together policymakers, practitioners, researchers and experts from all relevant disciplines—the Parties, the GCF, the GEF, United Nations organizations, international organizations, bilateral and multilateral agencies, regional centres and networks, the youth, local and subnational authorities, and the private sector—to exchange experiences, best practices and lessons learned, and foster partnerships towards advancing NAPs. The expos provide an opportunity for the country NAP teams and those providing support to interact and discuss access to financing NAPs.

The NAP Expo is also a platform where the LDCs showcase their adaptation efforts, discuss emerging needs for support, and capture the growing evidence of effective adaptation solutions to issues related to crops, fisheries, water, land, ecological and infrastructure systems, and natural disasters like droughts, floods and heat waves.



ESTABLISHING THE NAP CENTRAL, THE LDCS' GO-TO HUB

The LEG launched an accessible, centralized platform, where the LDCs can access resources on NAPs and interact with the LEG—submit their NAPs, check for events, exchange information, or check out available resources.



NAP Central, the LDCs' go-to platform for anything and everything NAP—from accessing references and resources to checking for events on a calendar to contributing and exchanging information to submitting their NAPs.

To date, countries have actively submitted their NAPs and other outputs on NAP Central. It now contains NAPs from 39 developing countries. NAP Central also includes pages for NAP Expos and LEG workshops on NAPs, a document repository management, a NAP dashboard, among others. The new NAP Central is accessible at <https://napcentral.org>.

To assist the LDCs, the LEG organized events and workshops to capacitate the LDCs. It also established the NAPA platform where best practices and lessons learned are shared so that the LDCs can learn from the experiences of other countries. Though the LDCs face challenges like low technical and negotiation capacities, limited number of delegations and language barriers, it has succeeded through the support of the LEG and effective partnerships.

Bubu Jallow
Former LEG Chair

MOBILIZING ADDITIONAL EXPERTISE TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE LDCS

The NAP technical working group promotes coordination, synergies and inter-group collaborations on advancing technical guidance on NAPs, and in providing technical support to the developing countries on NAPs. The newly minted Roster of Experts for the LDCs will provide wider support architecture on NAPs for the LDCs.



The LEG collaborates with a number of bodies, organizations, regional centres and networks through the NAP technical working group, to broker wider technical expertise in the technical guidance and support for the formulation and implementation of NAPs. The NAP technical working group also pools together the latest and most appropriate tools, approaches and methods for NAPs. The Roster of Expert for the LDCs will be another venue of support for the LDCs in ensuring that relevant actors have access to available expertise on NAPs in the LDCs.

There are currently 35 organizations and 5 individual experts in the NAP technical working group.





FORGING LASTING PARTNERSHIPS

Trust and passion fuel
LEG's growing network of
partners.

Over the years, the LEG has forged partnerships with governments and organizations. Built on mutual trust and shared passion, we have worked together to enact change.

The Irish Government has been a long-standing financial supporter of the LEG, and we are honored in continuing to serve in the LEG through our various experts. For Ireland, meeting the specific needs and challenges of the LDCs and SIDS has always been a priority in our engagement with the UNFCCC process. Membership of the LEG has been a really useful way for us to deepen our understanding of those challenges and has helped us play a more effective role as a member of the EU group of adaptation experts. I am proud to be a LEG alumni, and grateful for the opportunity to work with this great group of people. Once a LEG member, always a LEG member!

Michelle Winthrop

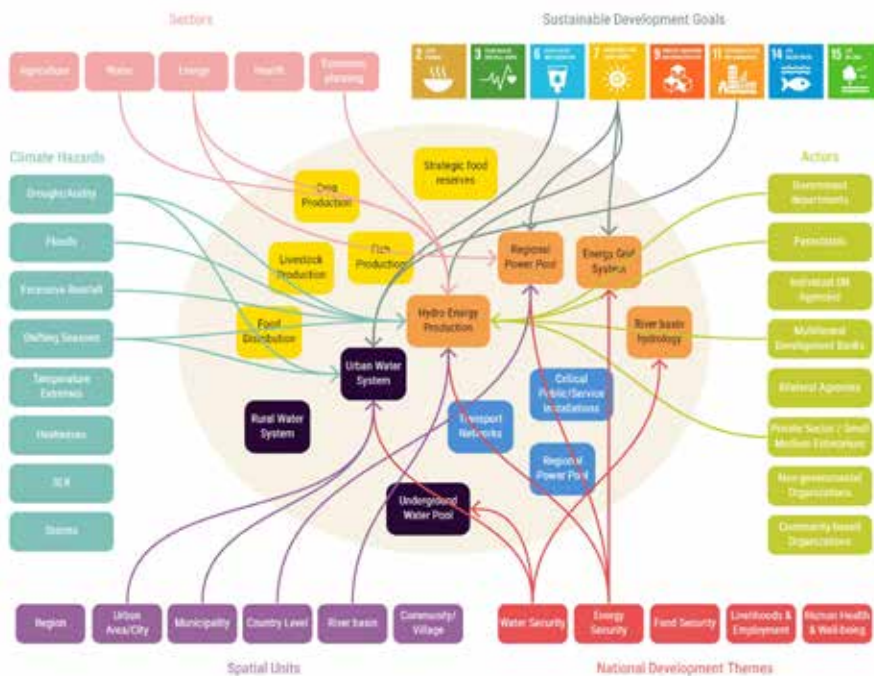
Former LEG Member, Ireland Ambassador to The Republic of Korea



SYNERGIZING NAPs WITH SDGs THROUGH SYSTEMS APPROACH



The NAP-SDG iFrame takes an integrated approach towards country-driven and country-specific descriptions of systems that should be managed to achieve adaptation and contribute towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets.



Climate change is a ubiquitous issue that pervades or affects, directly and indirectly, other global issues. The integrative framework for NAPs and SDGs (NAP-SDG iFrame) was developed to address climate change using systems approach rather than a sector approach. By looking at how systems interact, this provides a way to develop holistic approaches. It paves way to integrate and synergize plans and efforts for NAP and SDGs. The framework helps the LDCs and other stakeholders find a more holistic approach and integrate efforts by considering all factors, key initiatives, and stakeholders.

BOLSTERING COLLABORATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Over the years, the LEG has bolstered its collaboration inside and outside the UNFCCC process. More constituted bodies and programme actively engages with the LEG on supporting the LDCs on adaptation. This has also been instrumental in the success of the support programmes to the LDCs.



The LEG continues to be an active partner in many activities with the Constituted Bodies under the UNFCCC and with the support programmes and networks such as the NAP Global Network and NAP Global Support Programme.

We are proud of how our work with the LEG and our sister UN agencies has successfully advanced the understanding and implementation of adaptation planning all over the world. Countries are now pursuing a more holistic, integrated, multi-stakeholder approach. We are seeing countries taking adaptation needs very seriously. It's not work carried out in isolation, but in close alignment with countries' overall climate goals, the sustainable development goals and agenda 2030, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The journey to build adaptive capacity is a long one. But as 20 years have passed, we can look back with appreciation to the transformational shifts. Twenty years have brought understanding and implementational experience that we can use to unlock innovation and impact scale.

Pradeep Kurukulasuriya

Director, UNDP

SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT BY ADDRESSING SPECIFIC MANDATES FROM THE CMA

The LEG plays important roles in facilitating the implementation of the Paris Agreement by addressing adaptation related mandates, including in collaboration with the AC and the SCF.

The LEG is assisting the LDCs in addressing the needs arising from the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The LEG has developed and is applying the Paris Agreement alignment tool (PA-ALIGN) to effectively and efficiently navigate and address the many elements of the Paris Agreement.

Jointly with the Adaptation Committee the LEG developed methodologies to recognize the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties; and to facilitate the mobilization of support for adaptation; and is currently contributing towards the development of methodologies on reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support.

As part of the recognition of adaptation efforts of the developing country Parties under the global stocktake, the LEG conducts the NAP Country Platform which is a venue to recognize countries that have submitted a NAP, and to highlight their adaptation priorities and lay out how they will design implementation. The LEG promotes this platform as a way to recognize countries in their efforts to adapt.

The LEG also prepared a synthesis report to inform the technical assessment of the global stocktake. The report is available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/LEG_SR_GST.pdf.

A joint working group, in collaboration with the Standing Committee on Finance, advises on the way forward.






LEG OUTLOOK

for the next 20 years

Members of the LEG, LDC Parties, partner organizations, authority figures give their personal take on what the global adaptation climate will be in the next 20 years and how LEG can continue to be the LDC champion now and in the future.





In the next 20 years, the LDCs will have increasingly become climate-resilient. Communities will be able to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to climate impacts while protecting and advancing development priorities. Adaptation efforts will improve food and water security; ecosystem services and livelihoods; health and well-being; and education. Adaptation efforts will be developed for those most vulnerable to climate change, including poor households, indigenous peoples, women, youth, persons with disabilities, those affected by migration and displacement, and other marginalized and underrepresented groups. But LEG will still continue to be there, providing adaptation resources and support to the LDCs.

Laurie Ashley
LEG Member, USA

LDCs are facing the adverse impacts of climate change more than any other country in the world. And they continue to face the challenges of dealing with its impact, both in planning for and addressing their urgent needs. At least half of the LDCs will graduate in the next 10 or 15 years. They have been progressing proactively in climate change adaptation and effectively implementing their NAPs.

Looking ahead, each LDC should successfully be adapting to climate change. That means: Firstly, each should have a smoothly running and effective adaptation process—engaging all stakeholders and focusing on the national economy and the most vulnerable; Secondly, each must be implementing concrete adaptation actions; and Thirdly, each LDC must have adequate financial resources facilitated to them; All these should lead to reduced vulnerability and strengthened adaptive capacity in the LDCs.

Abias Huongo
Former LEG Member and Chair, Angola

In 10 to 15 years, all the LDCs should have completed the formulation of their NAPs and have significantly advanced with their implementation. The LEG will continue to support the LDCs in the process of reviewing, updating and implementing NAPs and other adaptation related activities and will provide training opportunities to continuously enhance capacities.

Amina Schild
[LEG Member, Germany]



STATEMENTS ON the work of the LEG



As a member of the LEG, it was an honour and privilege to engage on the issues being negotiated by UNFCCC Parties and to see concrete programmes actioned and support provided to our countries through the Least Developed Countries Fund. The LEG and LDC negotiators played a critical role in elevating the climate adaptation agenda throughout the UNFCCC process and in mobilizing political momentum to place adaptation on equal footing with mitigation. Technical guidelines developed by the LEG and trainings conducted using an inclusive approach were very well received. The fact that Parties requested developing countries to use LEG technical guidelines to develop their National Adaptation Plans is a testament to the technical competencies of the LEG, as well as the depth of its contributions past its scope of work.

The LEG's successes are remarkable. But it has not been an easy journey, which began in 2001 when Parties agreed on technical aspects of adaptation and on providing full cost funding for adaptation actions under the Marrakech Accords. There were many challenging and deeply rewarding moments throughout, from technical workshops for the Asia-Pacific region hosted by the Governments of Bangladesh and Bhutan, to a workshop to develop National Adaptation Programmes of Action with Small Islands Developing States. The energy and engagement that Parties and LEG members dedicated to these sessions and many others still inspire me nearly two decades later.

Dechen Tsering

Former LEG Member, Bhutan

Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP

I consider the work of the LEG in the last 20 years very crucial for the LDCs as they formulate their NAPAs. Up to now, I believe that the LEG plays an important role in providing support for comprehensive, long-term adaptation planning and subsequent implementation of adaptation actions.

Aderito Santana

Former LEG member and Chair, Sao Tome and Principe





The LEG has been instrumental in supporting LDCs to initiate and scale up adaptation actions, providing technical guidance and support for NAPA formulation, funding, and implementation. I appreciate the response to the LEG's call for the LDCs support. I also applaud the efforts of the LDCs in developing national capacity for climate change adaptation.

I commend the work of LEG in the last two decades and wish LEG a grand success in creating a climate-adaptive and resilient society in the next 20 years.

Batu Krishna UPRETY

Former LEG member and Chair, Nepal



The NAP guideline is certainly LEG's most important contribution. It is structured in a modular system that facilitates flexibility and provides practical guidance.

LEG didn't just play a pivotal role in supporting the LDCs on adaptation, it also organized and facilitated learning and exchange of knowledge through publications like guidance papers and the sharing of practical and actual experiences among the LDCs, the financing and executing agencies, and technical organisations working in the field of adaptation.

Erwin Kuenzi

Former LEG member, Austria

The LEG's first decade focused on the most urgent adaptation needs: agriculture, ecosystems, water and early warning systems of the least developed countries. The last ten years have taken a more expansive view of the changes we need to see at every level of society. At the heart of each of these changes are communities that have become more resilient and have healthier ecosystems—the core of adaptation. Since 2002, UNDP's adaptation support to the LDCs has improved the lives of 10.6 million via climate-resilient agricultural systems, free access to climate information and early warning systems, and improved access to clean drinking water.

Being able to work with the countries' decision makers and leadership to support national adaptation planning and implementation has been pivotal to the successful outcomes. It has been an honor to engage with each country on work of such significant future benefit, nationally and beyond. For UNDP, the success of the GEF-funded UNDP and UN Environment National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) between 2013-2021 has been a major highlight.

At UNDP, we are proud of how our work with the LEG and our sister UN agencies has successfully advanced the understanding and implementation of adaptation planning all over the world. Countries are now pursuing a more holistic, integrated, multi-stakeholder approach. We are seeing countries taking adaptation needs very seriously. It's not work carried out in isolation, but in close alignment with countries' overall climate goals, the sustainable development goals and agenda 2030, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

We know that the challenge before us remains formidable so we are grateful for our strong partnership and collaboration with LEG as we look to the transformations possible in the next 20 years and beyond.

Pradeep Kurukulasuriya

Director, Nature, Climate and Energy, UNDP

The LEG is doing excellent, practical, and significant work; and is making a difference on the ground. It was my membership with the LEG and the contributions I was able to make with the LEG members and the support of the fabulous secretariat that made me a firm believer in what the Convention and the UN process can do and can make a difference for countries on the ground.

Beth Lavender

Former LEG Member, Canada

LEG must recommend reducing project approval turnaround time and harmonize requirements and templates for different financial windows among the constituted bodies. These changes are extremely critical for the LDCs in order to ease access to climate finance for implementation of real climate action on the ground.

Sonam Wangdi

Former LDC Group Chair, Bhutan



The LEG is a crucial link in the chain between providers of technical support and knowledge, and those demanding support- the Governments of the LDCs. Without the LEG there to articulate demand and frame the challenges experiences by the LDCs, it would be very difficult indeed for the technical agencies and finance providers to target their support appropriately. Without the LEG to facilitate dialogue, and give the LDCs a voice, the UNFCCC Parties would not have the incentives to target efforts at the needs of the LDCs. And without the LEG, I am not sure there would be the same momentum on adaptation efforts in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Recent progress in strengthening adaptation emphasis are, in some part, due to the efforts of the LEG.

The Irish Government has been a long-standing financial supporter of the LEG, and we are honored in continuing to serve in the LEG through our various experts. For Ireland, meeting the specific needs and challenges of LDCs and SIDS has always been a priority in our engagement with the UNFCCC process. Membership of the LEG has been a really useful way for us to deepen our understanding of those challenges and has helped us play a more effective role as a member of the EU group of adaptation experts who attend the COPs and support negotiations. I hope that we can say Ireland has made some contribution to this effort. I am proud to be a LEG alumni, and grateful for the opportunity to work with this great group of people. Once a LEG member, always a LEG member!

Michelle Winthrop

Former LEG member, Ireland Ambassador to South Korea

In Memoriam

Throughout the LEG 20 years, men and women have come and gone. But time could never break a bond, forged in sheer passion and shared purpose.

To everyone who have been part of LEG—from its core members to those who have been part of their 20-year journey—we salute you. Thank you for sharing your time and talent for the cause.

We remember and honour our departed LEG members.

Isabelle Niang (Senegal)
Andrew Teem (Kiribati)
Laavasa Malua (Samoa)
Elizabeth Harvey (Canada)
Fredrick Kossam (Malawi)
Ram Prasad Lamsal (Nepal)

THE LEG IS COMPOSED OF 17 MEMBERS: 13 from LDC Parties and 4 from Developed country Parties

Current members
of the LEG



Mr. Idrissa Semde
Burkina Faso (Africa)



Mr. Fredrick Manyika
United Republic of
Tanzania (Africa)



Ms. Mery Yaou
Togo (Africa)
- Francophone
rapporteur



**Ms. Hana Hamadalla
Mohamed**
Sudan (Africa)



Mr. Benon Yassin
Malawi (Africa)
- Anglophone
rapporteur



Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa
Timor-Leste (Asia)
- Vice Chair



Ms. Radha Wagle
Nepal (Asia)



Mr. Mokoena
France
Lesotho (LDCs)



Ms. Amina Laura Schild
Germany
(Developed country Party)



Ms. Laurie Ashley
United States of America
(Developed country Party)



Mr. Kenel Delusca
Haiti (SIDS) – Chair



Mr. Gabriel
Kpaka
Sierra Leone (LDCs)



Ms. Jennifer Hobbs
Ireland
(Developed country Party)



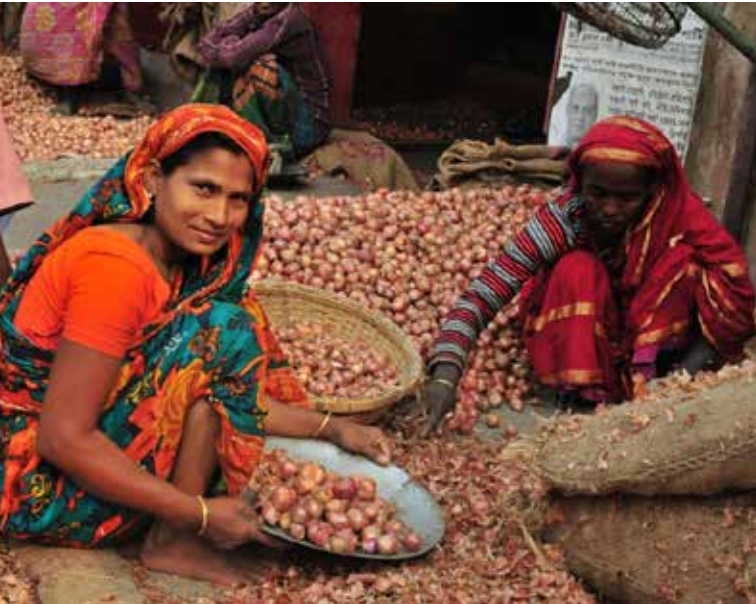
Mr. Jamie Ovia
Tuvalu (SIDS)



Mr. Payai
Manyok John
South Sudan (LDCs)



Ms. Nikki Lulham
Canada
(Developed country Party)











United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change