



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Updated UNFCCC NAP Technical Guidelines

9th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
3 October 2025



Mandate, timeline

Decision 5/CP.17, Annex

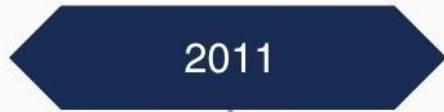
COP 17 (2011) adopted initial guidelines for the formulation of national adaptation plans by least developed country Parties

Decision 5/CP.17, para. 15

COP 17 (2011) requested the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to prepare technical guidelines as referred to in paragraph 12(a) above for the national adaptation plan process, based on the initial guidelines, included in the annex to this decision

Decision 2/CMA.5, para. 47

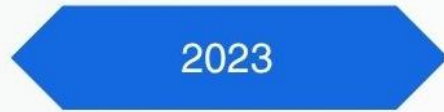
CMA 5 (2023) requested the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to update the technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan process, reflecting the provisions of decision 2/CMA.5 (on the global goal on adaptation) as well as the best available science, including the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



Initial guidelines for the formulation of national adaptation plans



Technical guidelines for the national adaptation process



Updated NAP technical guidelines

Two objectives of the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans



Reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience;



Facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation, in a coherent manner, into relevant new and existing policies, programmes and activities, in particular development planning processes and strategies, within all relevant sectors and at different levels, as appropriate.



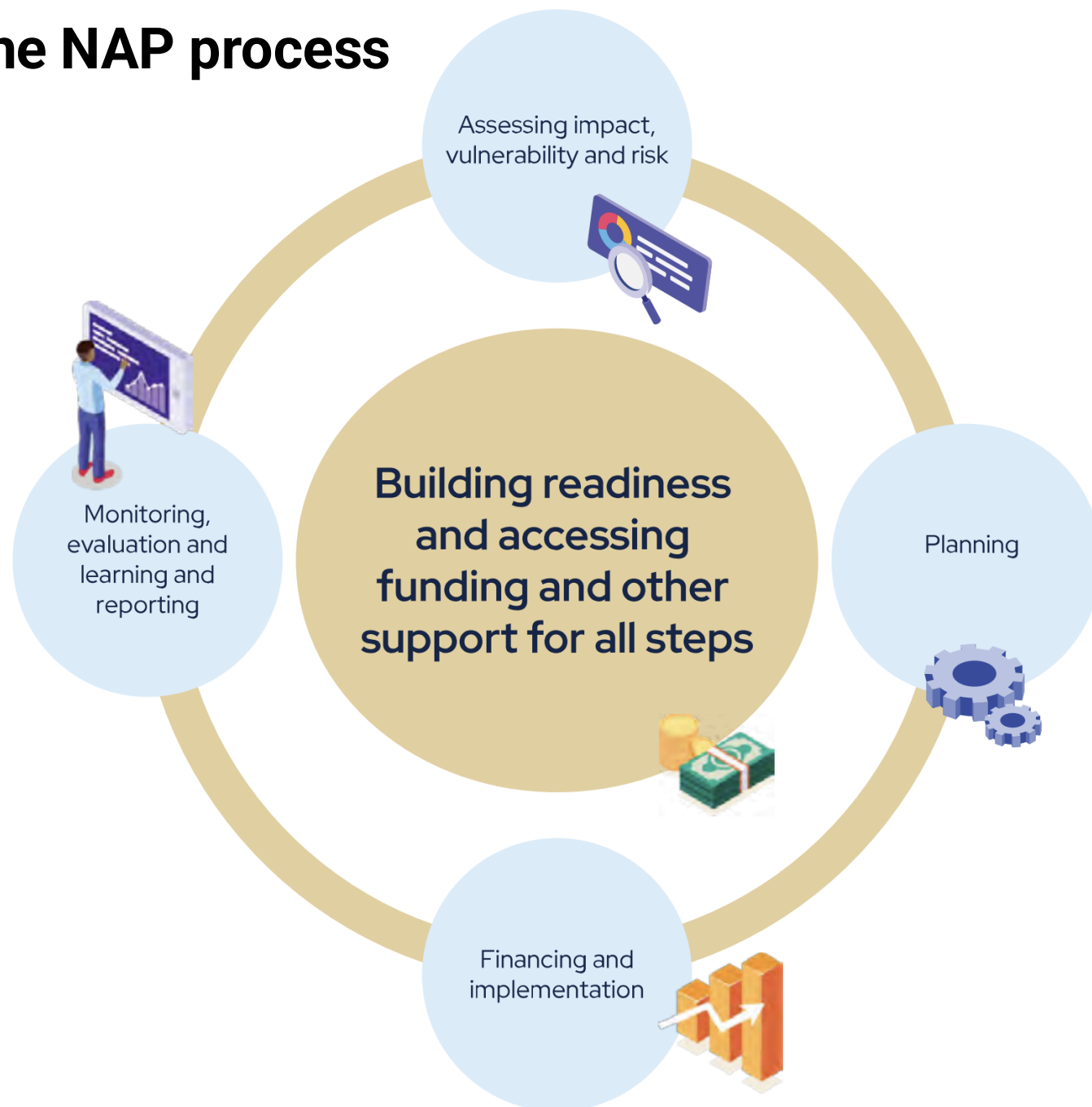
The five modules and steps of the NAP process





The five modules and steps of the NAP process

- ❑ The four elements of the NAP process and adaptation cycle components are merged into a set of modules and steps, designed to accommodate both while aligning with the GGA framework
- ❑ The resulting **five modules** of these updated technical reflect the key actions for NAP formulation and implementation, including readiness, funding, and technical support
- ❑ The modules are iterative and interconnected, with many steps addressed in parallel



Five modules and steps of the NAP process

A: Impact, vulnerability and risk assessment

1. Frame adaptation at the national level taking into account the GGA thematic and dimensional targets
 2. Develop plausible climate change and socio-economic scenarios for the medium and long-term
 3. Document climate hazards, vulnerabilities and risks and impacts of climate change
 4. Conduct assessments of climate hazard/exposure, vulnerability and risk
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B: Plan development

5. Understand the vision for development for the country and major thrusts of that aspirational vision in the context of the changing climate
 6. Synthesize best available information on climate hazard/exposure, vulnerability and risk from relevant assessments
 7. Identify adaptation options to address key climate risks and vulnerabilities and build resilience
 8. Estimate costs of adaptation in relevant contexts: cost of implementation of adaptation actions, costs of inaction or benefits of adaptation action
 9. Compile the NAP and process endorsement and submission to the UNFCCC (after Element C)
-

Five modules and steps of the NAP process

C: Financing and implementation

10. Determine financing needs for implementation
 11. Implement/execute adaptation/risk management and resilience solutions
-

D: Monitoring, evaluation and learning and reporting

12. Systematic data collection to inform adaptation and monitoring including of progress
 13. Periodic evaluation and learning
 14. Progress reporting at the national level
 15. Promoting synergy with international reporting
-

E: Cross-cutting: building readiness and accessing funding and other support for the whole process

16. Strengthen institutional arrangements and regulatory frameworks
17. Lay the groundwork for implementation and determination of needs for addressing climate change including by accessing available technical support
18. Access GCF NAP readiness and general readiness funding, and other relevant sources, to support the process of formulation, and implementation of NAPs, capacity-building and related enabling activities to maintain the process
19. Build/update a data, knowledge and tool base for all modules in close coordination with module D.1



The Updated NAP Technical Guidelines (features, considerations)

- ❑ Achieving the **global goal on adaptation** targets through NAPs
- ❑ Applying **best available science**, including the IPCC AR6
- ❑ Fusion of **vulnerability, risk, and resilience**
- ❑ Vision for a **well-adapting country**: the future as a baseline
- ❑ Identifying **connected systems** to promote integrated approaches
- ❑ Transitioning to scaled-up **financing and implementation**
- ❑ **Modules and steps** of the NAP process
- ❑ **Best practice contents** of the NAP
- ❑ Managing the **flow of information** along the adaptation cycle
- ❑ User-friendly **templates** for **selected project profiles** (essential projects and other priorities) and finance mapping
- ❑ Development of **supplementary materials**



Best practice contents of the NAP

1. Background and contextual information about the country
2. Vision, goals and objectives
3. Policy and regulatory framework
4. Framework for the NAP
5. Consideration of guiding principles (best practices) for adaptation
6. Key climate risks and vulnerabilities, and adaptation needs
7. Priority adaptation actions
8. Integration of the NAP with national development plans, and sectoral plans where relevant, including synergies
9. Required financial resources
10. Implementation strategy
11. Financing
12. Monitoring, evaluation and learning
13. Reporting
14. Annex: Selected project profiles: essential projects and other priorities

Managing climate risk for adaptation benefits

- ❑ The updated technical guidelines **broaden the focus from managing climate risks alone (reducing harm and losses)** to also capturing the **resilience benefits of adaptation actions (enhancing wellbeing, systems, and opportunities)**
- ❑ Instead of relying solely on detailed risk and vulnerability assessments, countries are encouraged to define a future vision aligned with GGA targets and plan pathways to achieve it
- ❑ This shift reframes adaptation not just as risk reduction, but as achieving long-term resilience outcomes through integrated and forward-looking strategies
- ❑ **Managing climate risk:** short- to medium-term, focused on known hazards; actions like flood-proofing, drought insurance, and early warning systems
- ❑ **Managing for adaptation benefits:** medium- to long-term, focused on resilience dividends; actions like regenerative agriculture, urban greening, and ecosystem restoration

Transitioning towards implementation: Steps and indicative activities (Module E)

❑ Determine financing needs for implementation

1. Map adaptation priority actions into project ideas and programmes
2. Integrate NAP priority projects into applicable country programmes/country assistance frameworks for each actor or funding vehicle
3. **Develop a 5-year programme for implementing the whole NAP, targeting a variety of relevant funding/financing windows for the projects or combinations of windows**

❑ Implement/execute adaptation/risk management and resilience solutions

1. Manage implementation of projects and execute adaptation solutions
2. Develop and apply systematic observation and monitoring of systems under adaptation intervention to identify triggers or nodes for changes in adaptation pathways

Implementation strategy

- ❑ Identify appropriate approach(es), including sectoral, thematic, or territorial approaches, as well as project or programmatic approaches;
- ❑ Describe the phased approach to implementing adaptation projects, prioritizing them according to level of urgency;
- ❑ Describe support needs for implementation;
- ❑ Show how implementation will be distributed between different actors, including government entities, the private sector, civil society and local communities

5 key aspects of the financing and implementation plan

- ❑ **Estimate cost to implement** the whole NAP
- ❑ **Map the whole NAP to available windows** under the Financial Mechanism funds and other sources of funding (GCF, GEF, AF, etc.)
- ❑ **Ensure capacity-development for financing at scale** by 2030, including building capacity for direct access, country platforms, etc.
- ❑ **Scale up actions** to work towards meeting the GGA targets by 2030
- ❑ **Explore scaling up successful projects** from LDCF and AF with funding from the GCF

Unpacking the GGA targets

- ❑ Each thematic area is **broken into components and subsystems** that represent **typical areas of action**, and that help **deliver on the targets** and outcomes embodied within each GGA thematic target
- ❑ **These components and subsystems** help provide an entry point for assessments and exploration of adaptation options, including how to measure **critical nodes to inform decisions along pathways of adaptation and the need for transformative action**

Example: Sustainable food and nutrition security for all

Components:

- ❑ Climate-resilient **food and agricultural production**
- ❑ Climate-resilient **food supply**
- ❑ Climate-resilient **distribution of food**
- ❑ Sustainable and **regenerative food and agricultural production**
- ❑ Equitable access to **adequate food and nutrition security for all**



Selected project profiles: essential projects and other priorities

- Including project profiles in NAPs is essential because it helps translate broad climate adaptation priorities into concrete, actionable initiatives that can attract technical and financial support
- Include profiles of selected priority projects and programmes that are part of the first phase of implementation
 - Project title
 - Sector(s) based on GGA targets
 - Overall objectives
 - Activities
 - Timeline
 - Estimated costs
- Profiles for main projects suggested by the GGA dimensional targets to facilitate implementation, resource mobilization, etc.
 - GCF NAP Readiness; other readiness support
 - Multi-hazard early warning systems
 - Climate information services
 - Others

The NAP Technical Guidelines

Updated technical guidelines for the process
to formulate and implement national
adaptation plans

August 2025

LDC Expert Group



Download the updated
NAP technical
guidelines here!

