

Seventeenth meeting of the Adaptation Committee Bonn, Germany, 24 to 27 March 2020

Gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans and how to address them

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 17th meeting, may wish to consider the information contained in this document and agree on next steps, as appropriate.

1. Background

1. COP 24 requested the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) within its existing mandate and workplan, and the Adaptation Committee (AC) through its task force on national adaptation plans (NAPs) and within its existing mandate and workplan, to consider gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs that have been identified through relevant work of the LEG and the AC and how to address them and include relevant information thereon in their respective reports for COP 25 (decision 8/CP.24, paragraphs 17 and 18). The AC and the LEG worked on this request in a coordinated manner throughout 2019 and included progress in their annual reports.
2. COP 25 in its decision 7/CP.25 took note of the work of the LEG and the AC on gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, including the gaps and needs contained in annex I to document FCCC/SBI/2019/16 and on ways to assist with the implementation of national adaptation plans, as requested by SBI 47. The COP requested the AC, through its NAP TF, and the LEG to continue to include in their reports, information on the gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs identified in undertaking their mandated work and on how to address them. The COP further invited constituted bodies and other organizations to provide information to the AC and the LEG on activities undertaken to address gaps and needs related to the NAP process.
3. The LEG at its 37th meeting, which took place from 6 to 8 February 2020, considered a reorganized and aggregated compilation of the gaps and needs, with a preliminary analysis of how the gaps and needs could be addressed. Given that feedback during SBI 51 pointed to the value of providing detailed case histories for specific countries to more fully explain the nature of gaps and obstacles that the LDCs continue to face in addressing adaptation, the LEG agreed to undertake an analysis of gaps in relation to needs for each LDC and identify specific challenges and ways to address them (see annex)
4. The LEG also noted the interest of organizations in using the compilation of gaps and needs as a useful basis for providing support to the LDCs on NAPs. The organizations expressed interest in providing additional information on activities related to addressing gaps and needs and agreed to have these included in future compilations of gaps and needs. A table showing the gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs and the activities of the LEG, the AC and relevant organizations related to addressing those gaps and needs will be updated periodically and posted on the UNFCCC website.¹

¹ <https://unfccc.int/node/210550>

2. Next steps

5. The AC may wish to:
 - a) Consider the revised list of needs and identify areas which could be addressed through ongoing activities of the AC, in particular in relation to activities related to capacity-gaps to accessing finance for adaptation;
 - b) Consider ways to encourage other organizations to undertake activities to address gaps and needs related to the NAP process and to provide information to the AC and the LEG thereon.

Annex: Needs related to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans as included in the annex to document FCCC/SBI/2020/6

<i>Area</i>	<i>Related elements and steps of the process to formulate and implement NAPs;^a COP and CMA decisions;^b and Articles of the Paris Agreement</i>	<i>Needs^c</i>
Accessing financial and other support	All elements Decision 12/CP.18, paragraphs 1–8; decision 18/CP.19, paragraphs 4–5; decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 46; decision 4/CP.21, paragraphs 6–10; decision 6/CP.22, paragraphs 6–10; and decision 11/CMA.1, paragraphs 21–28 Article 4, paragraph 5; and Article 7, paragraph 13	Adequate and effective access to financial support, including from the GCF, as well as other forms of support for the formulation and implementation of NAPs Capacity to write proposals for accessing funding under the different windows of the GCF Understanding of the latest requirements for GCF funding proposals Promotion of funding proposals from multiple stakeholders, including those at the subnational and local government level Capacity to ensure that proposals to the GCF for the formulation of NAPs are aligned with the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, and address both the objectives and guiding principles of the process to formulate and implement NAPs Coordination among providers of support at all levels to ensure that their support is coherent and avoids overlaps at the national level and that such support is in line with national priorities and needs Systems for ensuring that countries' support needs for a long-term process are met through limited, one-off funding designed for projects over a fixed time frame
Institutional arrangements and coordination	Element A Decision 12/CP.18, paragraph 7; and decision 11/CMA.1, paragraph 30 Article 7, paragraph 7	Establishment or enhancement of institutional arrangements for the process to formulate and implement NAPs in order to foster national leadership and coordination of adaptation efforts at all levels and create a primary interface with regional and international mechanisms Establishment or enhancement of legal frameworks for institutional arrangements and coordination Establishment or enhancement of systems at the national level to facilitate the flow of resources and information across different levels of government (climate-responsive budgeting) Ensuring the existence of stakeholders or focal points within different institutions with clearly defined roles and responsibilities Technical guidance and capacity-building for national working groups for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, and the preparation of proposals to access funding from the GCF Institutional arrangements and systems for monitoring and evaluation

Area	Related elements and steps of the process to formulate and implement NAPs; ^a COP and CMA decisions; ^b and Articles of the Paris Agreement	Needs ^c
Climate scenarios, science and translation to local context	Step B.1 Decision 5/CP.17 Article 7, paragraphs 7 and 9	<p>Capacity for national, subnational and sectoral experts to work effectively with climate data and climate change scenarios that facilitate considering long-term climate impacts in decision-making</p> <p>Availability and accessibility of climate data and climate change scenarios to underpin effective adaptation assessment, planning and implementation, taking into account specific needs at the national, subnational and sectoral level</p> <p>Capacity-building for national, subnational and sectoral experts on the application of climate change scenarios in climate change adaptation decision-making</p> <p>Methods and tools for translating climate data and climate change scenarios to the local context</p> <p>Ways to effectively translate long-term vision and planning from the national to the subnational level in order to guide assessments</p>
Risk and vulnerability assessment and risk management	Steps B.2 and B.3 Decision 5/CP.17; and decision 11/CMA.1, paragraph 5 Article 7, paragraphs 7 and 9	<p>Capacity to frame, analyse and define baselines, and assess, manage and monitor climate change risk and vulnerability at relevant levels and scales</p> <p>Specific methodologies and guidelines that facilitate understanding of the baseline and the progression of vulnerability and risk, which is an important aspect of measuring and assessing progress in reducing vulnerability</p> <p>Comprehensive risk and vulnerability assessments covering all key sectors and systems at the national, subnational and sectoral level as well as vulnerability hotspots</p> <p>Institutionalization of risk and vulnerability assessment and risk management at all levels of governance and in key sectors</p> <p>Ways to build evidence for adaptation additionality arguments in funding proposals to the GCF</p> <p>Technical support to identify effective adaptation solutions and actions after the assessment of climate vulnerabilities and risk</p> <p>Ways to promote consistency, synergy and coherence among different risk and vulnerability assessment and risk management frameworks</p> <p>Ways to improve the quality of assessments over time, for example through peer-review processes</p> <p>Identification of areas where participatory approaches can significantly improve risk and vulnerability assessment</p>
Implementation strategies	Element C	<p>Technical capacity to develop proposals to access funding from the GCF and other sources</p> <p>Ways to link the implementation strategy for the NAP with the GCF country programme</p> <p>Technical capacity and tools for ranking and prioritizing adaptation options</p>

Area	Related elements and steps of the process to formulate and implement NAPs; ^a COP and CMA decisions; ^b and Articles of the Paris Agreement	Needs ^c
Access to and use of technology	Element C Decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 20; and decision 11/CMA.1, paragraph 29 Article 10, paragraphs 1–6; and Article 11, paragraph 1	<p>Application of the latest technologies in climate change adaptation planning and implementation (e.g. big data, artificial intelligence and machine learning)</p> <p>Promotion of technological developments related to climate change adaptation in climate services, agriculture, water systems, health systems, disaster management, banking and other sectors</p> <p>Mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of available technologies</p> <p>Capacity-building, training and awareness-raising on available technologies within the LDCs</p> <p>Access to information and experience of other countries in applying different adaptation technologies to facilitate the selection, installation and operation of appropriate technologies for local problems</p> <p>Systems to stay abreast of the latest developments in technical guidance and assistance</p>
Monitoring, evaluation and learning	Element D Decision 5/CP.17; and decision 8/CP.24, paragraph 19 Articles 7, 13 and 14	<p>Establishment or enhancement of national monitoring and evaluation systems</p> <p>Establishment of linkages to broader national monitoring and evaluation systems related to development</p> <p>Systematic monitoring and observation relevant to adaptation planning and implementation, and subsequent monitoring and evaluation of adaptation outcomes and impacts</p> <p>Methodologies and guidelines for applying quantitative and qualitative metrics and indicators when analysing and assessing vulnerabilities, hazards and systems, including examples thereof</p> <p>Development of theories of change in relation to climate change adaptation</p> <p>Compilation of information to support monitoring, review and evaluation of progress in addressing adaptation</p> <p>Mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of support received</p>
Linkage with the development agenda	Steps A.4, B.5, C.1, C.4 and D.4 Decision 5/CP.17 Article 2; and Article 7, paragraph 1	<p>Capacity to effectively address climate change adaptation in the national context within the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs</p> <p>Articulation of the co-benefits of climate change adaptation proposals to the GCF</p> <p>Understanding of the concept of integrating adaptation into development planning, and of ways to integrate international processes that are relevant to adaptation planning using the appropriate frameworks, such as the SDGs, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the New Urban Agenda</p> <p>Identification of effective entry points for the integration of adaptation into development planning</p>

<i>Area</i>	<i>Related elements and steps of the process to formulate and implement NAPs;^a COP and CMA decisions;^b and Articles of the Paris Agreement</i>	<i>Needs^c</i>
		Prioritization of adaptation in development, including by communicating the development or economic value and benefits of implementing adaptation measures
Active learning from practice	Element D Decision 12/CP.18, paragraph 9; decision 3/CP.20, paragraph 9; decision 6/CP.22, paragraph 12; and decision 11/CMA.1, paragraph 13 Article 7, paragraph 9	Capacity to apply the experience of and lessons learned during adaptation planning and implementation to future adaptation efforts, including by identifying and promoting best practices Facilitation of true learning beyond the documentation of experience and lessons learned Promotion of learning platforms to facilitate the sharing of experience and learning, especially at the regional level Expansion of South–South exchanges to capitalize on experience with similar or common climate shocks
Guiding principles	All elements Decision 5/CP.17, paragraphs 2–5 Article 7, paragraph 5	Adequate engagement of multiple stakeholders at the national and subnational level, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, city governments and other subnational authorities, youth, local communities and indigenous peoples, in managing adaptation planning and implementation, taking into account elements of successful adaptation (guiding principles) Adequate analysis of which communities, groups and ecosystems are the most vulnerable Deeper and more consistent consideration of how the general concept of gender sensitivity can be applied to practical actions that lead to a reduction in gender-driven vulnerabilities Ways to identify and effectively manage trade-offs between different adaptation actions and approaches, and between development and ecological protection

Note: This updates the information contained in document FCCC/SBI/2019/16, annex I. A detailed table with the gaps, activities of the LEG, the AC and relevant organizations related to addressing the gaps and needs will be updated periodically and posted on the UNFCCC website at <https://unfccc.int/node/210550>.

^a As contained in the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, available at <http://unfccc.int/7279>.

^b Decisions that contain mandates from the COP or the CMA related to supporting developing countries in the process to formulate and implement NAPs and that refer to any of the following bodies or entities: the AC; the LEG; Parties; United Nations organizations; specialized, bilateral and multilateral agencies; and other relevant organizations.

^c The needs represent countries' expected competencies, essential skills or services at the national, subnational or sectoral level required for the formulation and implementation of NAPs.