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## Subsidiary Body for Implementation

# The 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

## Report by the secretariat\*

### *Summary*

The 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group took place virtually from 10 to 12 March 2021. The Group discussed progress in implementing its activities for 2020–2021 and in integrating a gender perspective into its work, and developed its work programme for 2021–2022. In addition, the meeting included discussions with representatives of the least developed countries on their priority needs for support, and with representatives of the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and its agencies, and relevant organizations on providing support to the least developed countries.

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\* This document was submitted after the due date owing to the timing of the 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group.



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## Abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee
CCAFS	CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Group on Earth Observations
GERICS	Climate Service Center Germany
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GWP	Global Water Partnership
LDC	least developed country
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
LoCAL	Local Climate Adaptive Living facility
NAP	national adaptation plan
NAP Global Network	National Adaptation Plan Global Network
NAP-GSP	National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme
NAP-SDG iFrame	integrative framework for national adaptation plans and the Sustainable Development Goals
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NWP	Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change
PEG M&E tool	tool for monitoring and evaluating progress, effectiveness and gaps in relation to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

## I. Mandate

1. COP 21 extended the mandate of the LEG under its current terms of reference<sup>1</sup> and mandated the Group to undertake a number of additional activities.<sup>2</sup>
2. In addition, CMA 1 mandated the LEG to undertake activities to facilitate implementation of the Paris Agreement,<sup>3</sup> and COP 24 mandated the Group to continue to support implementation of the least developed countries work programme.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, COP 25 requested the LEG (and the AC through its NAP task force) to continue to include in its reports information on the gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs identified in undertaking its mandated work and on how to address them.<sup>5</sup>
3. COP 22 requested all constituted bodies under the Convention to include in their regular reports information on progress towards integrating a gender perspective into their processes.<sup>6</sup>
4. The LEG is mandated to develop a two-year rolling work programme for consideration by the SBI at its first sessional meeting of each year and to report on its work to the SBI at each of its sessions.<sup>7</sup>

## II. The 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

### A. Proceedings

5. The 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the LEG was held virtually from 10 to 12 March 2021. At the meeting, the LEG discussed direct country support through Open NAPs, NAP country dialogues and the virtual training for the LDCs on implementing the Paris Agreement; technical guidance on NAPs and the work of the NAP technical working group; matters relating to accessing funding from the GCF and the LDCF; tracking progress on NAPs; addressing gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs; the strategy for and organization of NAP Expos; and addressing mandates from CMA 1. In addition, the LEG developed its work programme for 2021–2022 (see annex II) and discussed matters relating to integrating a gender perspective into its work.
6. The LEG extended an invitation to LDC Parties to participate in the meeting and, specifically, to lead a discussion on their priorities and needs for support. In total, 15 representatives of nine LDCs<sup>8</sup> attended the meeting. The LEG also extended invitations to the GCF, the GEF and its agencies, and other relevant organizations to participate in order to discuss providing support to the LDCs. Representatives of 18 organizations<sup>9</sup> took part in the meeting.
7. The LEG welcomed Amina Laura Schild (Germany) as a new member from Parties included in Annex II to the Convention, replacing Erwin Künzi (Austria). The LEG extended

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<sup>1</sup> Decisions 29/CP.7, 7/CP.9, 4/CP.11, 8/CP.13, 6/CP.16, 5/CP.17, 12/CP.18 and 3/CP.20.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 19/CP.21, paras. 1–2.

<sup>3</sup> Decisions 11/CMA.1, paras. 5, 13, 35 and 36; and 19/CMA.1, para. 24.

<sup>4</sup> Decision 16/CP.24, paras. 5–6.

<sup>5</sup> Decision 7/CP.25, para. 3.

<sup>6</sup> Decision 21/CP.22, para. 14.

<sup>7</sup> Decision 6/CP.16, para. 3.

<sup>8</sup> Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

<sup>9</sup> African Climate Policy Centre, African Development Bank, CCAFS, FAO, GCF, GEF, GERICS, GIZ, GWP, NAP Global Network, Regional Training Centre for Agrometeorology and Operational Hydrology and their Applications, UNCDF, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, WHO and WMO. The representatives of UNDP and UNEP were also representing the NAP-GSP.

its appreciation to Mr. Künzi for his participation as a LEG member in 2004–2014 and 2016–2020.

8. The LEG elected the following officers:
  - (a) Kenel Delusca (Haiti) as Chair;
  - (b) Ram Prasad Lamsal (Nepal) as Vice-Chair;
  - (c) Benon Yassin (Malawi) as anglophone Rapporteur;
  - (d) Mery Yaou (Togo) as francophone Rapporteur;
  - (e) Adao Soares Barbosa (Timor-Leste) as lusophone Rapporteur.
9. The LEG appointed the following members to represent the Group in its ongoing collaborative activities with other bodies under the Convention:
  - (a) Nikki Lulham (Canada) and Hana Hamadalla Mohamed (Sudan) in the AC NAP task force;
  - (b) Mr. Delusca and Ben Siddle (Ireland) in work with the Consultative Group of Experts and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building;
  - (c) Ms. Yaou and Mr. Yassin in work under the NWP;
  - (d) Fredrick Manyika (United Republic of Tanzania) and Ms. Mohammed in work with the SCF;
  - (e) Mr. Lamsal and Mr. Siddle in work with the Technology Executive Committee;
  - (f) Mr. Barbosa and Idrissa Semde (Burkina Faso) in the task force on displacement of the WIM Executive Committee;
  - (g) Ms. Schild and Mr. Yassin in the expert group on non-economic losses of the WIM Executive Committee.
10. The LEG also appointed Ms. Yaou as its gender focal point.
11. A list of the members of the LEG as at 10 March 2021 is provided in annex I.

## **B. Status of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans<sup>10</sup>**

### **1. Progress of developing countries in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans**

12. The LEG took note of the continuing progress of developing countries in relation to the different elements of the process to formulate and implement NAPs. It noted that, as at 31 March 2021, at least 126 of the 154 developing countries had undertaken activities related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, 55 of which were being supported in formulating their NAPs by funding from the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. It also noted that 22 developing countries<sup>11</sup> (of which 6 are LDCs) had completed and submitted their NAPs<sup>12</sup> on NAP Central,<sup>13</sup> and that several countries had developed and submitted sectoral and thematic strategies and other relevant outputs.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>10</sup> This section provides an up-to-date snapshot of progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs. For detailed coverage, see the annual progress reports, available at <https://unfccc.int/node/747>.

<sup>11</sup> Brazil (2016), Burkina Faso (2015), Cameroon (2015), Chile (2017), Colombia (2018), Ethiopia (2019), Fiji (2018), Grenada (2019), Guatemala (2019), Kenya (2017), Kiribati (2020), Kuwait (2021), Paraguay (2020), Saint Lucia (2018), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2019), Sri Lanka (2016), State of Palestine (2016), Sudan (2016), Suriname (2020), Timor-Leste (2021), Togo (2018) and Uruguay (2019). The years in which the countries submitted their NAPs are in parentheses.

<sup>12</sup> As per decision 3/CP.20, para. 9, and subsequent iterations.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/national-adaptation-plans.aspx>.

<sup>14</sup> Available at [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/NAP\\_output.aspx](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/NAP_output.aspx).

13. The LEG further noted that the six LDCs that had submitted their NAPs as at 31 March 2021<sup>15</sup> had also prepared and submitted a total of 13 proposals for accessing funding from the GCF for implementing priority actions identified in their NAPs. The proposals relate to addressing climate risks in the areas of agriculture, energy, health and water resources. Proposals from Burkina Faso,<sup>16</sup> Ethiopia,<sup>17</sup> Kiribati<sup>18</sup> and the Sudan<sup>19</sup> had been approved for funding by the GCF. Further details on all such proposals are provided in table 2.

## 2. Progress in relation to support provided

14. Regarding financial support, table 1 presents the status of project proposals submitted by developing countries for accessing funding from the GCF (under its Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme), which provides up to USD 3 million per country,<sup>20</sup> and from the LDCF for formulating their NAPs.

Table 1

### Status of project proposals submitted by developing countries for accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund for formulating national adaptation plans

Funding source	Region	Number of submitted proposals	Number of proposals approved or in approval process	Number of projects with funds disbursed
GCF <sup>a</sup>	Africa	40 (26)	26 (17)	22 (15)
	Asia-Pacific	20 (6)	13 (5)	11 (4)
	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	12	11	10
	Latin America and the Caribbean	22 (1)	13 (1)	13 (1)
	<b>Total</b>		<b>94 (33)</b>	<b>63 (23)</b>
LDCF <sup>b</sup>	Africa	7	7	4
	Asia-Pacific	1	1	–
	Latin America and the Caribbean	0	0	–
	<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

Note: A more detailed table with lists of the submitting countries is available at [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/accessing\\_funding\\_for\\_NAPs.aspx](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/accessing_funding_for_NAPs.aspx).

<sup>a</sup> Figures as at 31 December 2020; the first figures are for all developing countries and those in parentheses for the LDCs.

<sup>b</sup> Figures as at 31 March 2021; one project mentioned in previous reports was cancelled due to a change in scope.

15. Table 2 lists the project proposals submitted by the six LDCs referred to in paragraph 13 above to the GCF for accessing funding for implementing policies, projects and programmes identified in their NAPs. The projects referred to in paragraph 17 below that are being funded through the LDCF also address adaptation priorities associated with NAPs.

16. Regarding technical support, the LEG has continued to offer direct support to the LDCs for accelerating their formulation and implementation of NAPs. Detailed information on the support provided by the LEG, including through the NAP technical working group, is contained in chapters III–IV below. Information supplied by organizations<sup>21</sup> on their provision of technical support to the LDCs is contained in annex III. Several organizations

<sup>15</sup> Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kiribati, Sudan, Timor-Leste and Togo.

<sup>16</sup> Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/africa-hydromet-program-strengthening-climate-resilience-sub-saharan-africa-burkina-faso>.

<sup>17</sup> Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/resilient-landscapes-and-livelihoods-project>.

<sup>18</sup> Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/south-tarawa-water-supply-project>.

<sup>19</sup> Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/sap019> and <https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp139>.

<sup>20</sup> See GCF Board decision B.13/09, para. (e). Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/boardroom/decisions>.

<sup>21</sup> CGIAR, FAO, GEO, GERICS, GIZ, GWP, NAP Global Network, SLYCAN Trust, UNCDF, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, WHO and WMO.

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have continued to contribute to the development of supplements to the NAP technical guidelines<sup>22</sup> (see chap. IV.B.2 below).

### **C. Status of implementation of adaptation projects in national adaptation programmes of action and related strategies and plans supported by the Least Developed Countries Fund**

17. The LEG took note of the information provided by the GEF secretariat on the approval by the LDCF/SCCF Council in December 2020 of nine full-sized (i.e. receiving more than USD 2 million) projects, accounting for USD 65 million in funding.<sup>23</sup> The projects, which are drawn from or aligned with national adaptation programmes of action and related strategies and plans, address climate risks in the areas of disaster management, terrestrial and coastal ecosystems, forestry, livelihoods, urban and peri-urban areas, and water resources.

18. The GEF launched the first call for proposals under its Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation in 2019. The first round of the Program was funded by USD 5 million from the LDCF and USD 5 million from the SCCF. Following the first call, nine submitted projects, which are regional or global and expected to benefit the respective LDCs, were selected to be funded.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> LEG. 2012. *National adaptation plans: technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan process*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Guidelines/Pages/Technical-guidelines.aspx>.

<sup>23</sup> The projects are planned in Afghanistan, Benin (two projects), Burundi, Haiti, Mali, Nepal, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

<sup>24</sup> For more information on the nine projects and an update on the Program, see GEF document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.29/Inf.04/Rev.01, available at <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/progress-report-challenge-program-adaptation-innovation-under-special>.

Table 2

**Status of project proposals submitted by the least developed countries for accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund for implementing policies, projects and programmes identified in their national adaptation plans as at 31 March 2021**

<i>Country/ies<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Project title/description</i>	<i>Delivery partner/implementing agency</i>	<i>Cost (USD million)</i>	<i>Concept note submission date</i>	<i>Approval date</i>
Burkina Faso	Africa Hydromet Program – Strengthening Climate Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa: Burkina Faso Country Project	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; World Bank	22.5	19 Jan. 2017	27 Mar. 2018
	Promoting modern irrigation to enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities in Burkina Faso	West African Development Bank	8.4	26 Feb. 2018	–
	Increasing people’s resilience in Koubri and Bakata municipalities affected by rainwater floods and climate change shocks through adaptation-based approaches for ecosystem, forest, water resource and river basin management in Burkina Faso	West African Development Bank	9.9	17 Feb. 2018	–
<b>Burkina Faso</b> , Mali and Niger	Regional Programme for Sustainable Land Management and Strengthening the Resilience of Rural Communities and Ecosystems to Climate Change in the Liptako-Gourma Region	West African Development Bank	36.1	6 Feb. 2019	–
Cook Islands, Fiji, <b>Kiribati</b> , Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu	Strengthened Weather and Climate Services for Resilient Development for Pacific Islands	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme	12.0	4 Aug. 2018	–
Ethiopia	Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods Project	World Bank	296.0	22 Jun. 2018	21 Aug. 2020
Djibouti, Eritrea, <b>Ethiopia</b> , Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, <b>Sudan</b> and Uganda	Strengthening Climate Information Systems for Climate Change Adaptation in the Greater Horn of Africa through regional cooperation	UNDP	14.5	24 Mar. 2020	–
Kiribati	South Tarawa Water Supply Project	Asian Development Bank	58.1	26 Feb. 2018	28 Nov. 2018
Sudan	Impact Forecast-Based Early Warning Systems	UNEP	10.0	25 Nov. 2018	–



<i>Country/ies<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Project title/description</i>	<i>Delivery partner/implementing agency</i>	<i>Cost (USD million)</i>	<i>Concept note submission date</i>	<i>Approval date</i>
	Strengthening Capacity of Rural Primary Health Care Services to Address Adverse Impacts of Climate Change on Health	UNDP	25.7	30 Apr. 2018	–
	Building resilience in the face of climate change within traditional rain-fed agricultural and pastoral systems in the Sudan	UNDP	40.0	18 Apr. 2016	21 Aug. 2020
	Gums for Adaptation and Mitigation in the Sudan: Enhancing adaptive capacity of local communities and restoring carbon sink potential of the Gum Arabic belt, expanding Africa's Great Green Wall	FAO	10.0	28 Apr. 2020	13 Nov. 2020
<b>Togo</b>	Strengthening the resilience of communities and ecosystems vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in the Mono-Togo basin	UNDP	16.0	27 Jul. 2019	–

*Note:* This is an update of table 4 in document FCCC/SBI/2020/INF.13.

<sup>a</sup> For multi-country projects, the names of the countries with submitted NAPs are in bold.

### III. Progress in implementing the rolling work programme for 2020–2021

19. The LEG took note of the following activities successfully completed or initiated under its rolling work programme for 2020–2021 in support of the process to formulate and implement NAPs and in other areas:

(a) Continuing progress in supporting countries in formulating and implementing their NAPs through the Open NAP initiative and with the engagement of the NAP technical working group. Several Open NAP case studies are under way, including providing support to the Comoros, Lesotho, Malawi, and Sao Tome and Principe for formulating their NAPs, and engaging Malawi and Zambia in applying the NAP-SDG iFrame in partnership with GWP and UNDRR;

(b) Conducting NAP country dialogues with the LDCs virtually to help them achieve their goal of producing a NAP by the end of 2020 or soon thereafter. With the support of the secretariat, the LEG discussed with countries progress, goals and obstacles and ways to address them. As a result, at least 15 of the 18 LDCs that were prioritized for support in 2019 are now on track to produce their NAP in 2021;<sup>25</sup>

(c) Continuing to track the progress of developing countries in the process to formulate and implement NAPs and support provided and received, and publishing the annual NAP progress report. Data for 2020 show that an increasing number of countries are prioritizing the formulation and implementation of their NAPs, but the LDCs continue to face challenges in expediting progress;

(d) Further work on gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs,<sup>26</sup> including compiling country-level gaps and needs and publishing a technical brief<sup>27</sup> thereon to enhance relevant outreach;

(e) Continuing to develop modules for the virtual training for the LDCs on implementing the Paris Agreement;

(f) Continuing to develop a technical paper on regional approaches to adaptation planning and implementation, and the fourth volume of the LEG publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs, which focuses on NAPs;

(g) Work of the NAP technical working group in relation to producing the integrative supplement to the NAP technical guidelines (building on the NAP-SDG iFrame), supporting the Open NAP initiative, tracking progress of NAPs and exploring further areas of technical support needs for the formulation and implementation of NAPs;

(h) Convening the NAP country platform<sup>28</sup> virtually to enable developing countries to present their NAPs, highlight their adaptation priorities and explain how they plan to implement them;

(i) Addressing mandates from CMA 1;

(j) Holding outreach events at the informal UNFCCC sessions in 2020 to share insights from the 2020 LEG stocktaking meeting<sup>29</sup> and an update on LEG support provided to the LDCs.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Afghanistan, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, the Gambia, Haiti, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Yemen were in the early stages of formulating their NAPs in 2019 and had no immediate assistance to help them progress at the time.

<sup>26</sup> As per decisions 8/CP.24, para. 17; and 7/CP.25, paras. 2–4.

<sup>27</sup> LEG. 2021. *Gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) as mandated through decision 8/CP.24, para. 17*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/node/740>.

<sup>28</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/event/nap-country-platform-presentation-of-country-national-adaptation-plans>.

<sup>29</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/node/227958>.

<sup>30</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/node/257162>.

20. The LEG noted that the specific needs of the LDCs and achievements to be made in formulating their NAPs are becoming clearer, including what a NAP should contain. The LEG agreed to continue increasing its provision of support by enhancing activities that can help the LDCs that are making slower progress in formulating their NAPs and assist them in implementing them.

## **IV. Consideration of ongoing work and next steps**

### **A. Direct country support**

#### **1. Open NAPs**

21. The LEG noted the continuing progress under the Open NAP initiative, which is aimed at offering comprehensive support to the LDCs and other interested countries for formulating their NAPs. In addition, it took note of the ongoing Open NAP case studies (see para. 19(a) above).

22. The LEG also took note of the following lessons learned from the Open NAP case studies:

(a) In many cases, a wealth of detailed information on relevant activities and issues can be found in LDCs' national strategies and plans, recently completed national communications, and proposals to the GCF or the GEF, among others, which provides a good basis for the background material that goes into a NAP;

(b) In many cases, countries are interested in designing a long-term programme for managing climate change issues (including but not limited to adaptation), which can be presented as a priority programme within the NAP;

(c) The case studies provide insights into how best to separate assessment from planning in relation to adaptation and treat them as iterative rather than sequential activities. Assessment should be ongoing, addressing more sectors and issues as the supporting research grows, while planning concerns priority actions in a given time frame;

(d) Integrating the NAP and climate change into national development planning is also an ongoing process and should be designed as a key part of national climate change programmes rather than being treated as a prerequisite for producing the country's first NAP. It should be viewed among the essential activities to be prioritized in every NAP;

(e) Often, many different actors are interested in participating in and contributing to the country's NAP, and the Open NAP approach represents a flexible way of taking on a wide range of inputs. Such actors are expected to gradually form networks in relation to key issues and systems, which will greatly improve the knowledge and evidence base for NAPs, give local actors more opportunity to engage in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, and over time reduce the need to rely on the expertise of international consultants for formulating and ultimately implementing NAPs.

23. The LEG agreed on the following steps to enable further progress under the Open NAP initiative:

(a) Continuing, through the NAP technical working group, to mobilize organizations to support the LDCs by making data, information, tools and models for risk and vulnerability assessment available; ensuring that the information contained in NAPs is relevant to their purpose; and offering technical assistance to the LDCs for formulating their NAPs and writing proposals for accessing funding for implementing policies, projects and programmes identified therein;

(b) Creating and maintaining a roster of national and regional experts from the LDCs to support the formulation and iterative review of NAPs, building on any existing regional efforts;

(c) Continuing to capture and share good practices and lessons learned from the Open NAP case studies in order to assist the LDCs in improving their work in the process to formulate and implement NAPs over time;

(d) Expanding the initiative to be able to support more countries.

## **2. Training for the least developed countries on implementing the Paris Agreement**

24. The LEG took note of the progress in developing the virtual training for the LDCs on effectively and efficiently navigating and addressing many elements of the Paris Agreement. The online training modules are expected to be ready for testing by the end of April 2021, with the launch scheduled for June 2021.

25. To facilitate LDCs' access, the LEG agreed to adopt a variety of approaches to providing the training, including offering online modules, hosting in-person training sessions in conjunction with major events such as NAP Expos once this is possible, and making the digital training available offline.

26. The LEG also agreed on other aspects related to the training, such as assessment upon completion, certification, and collection of feedback from participants during and after the training in order to monitor its impact.

## **3. Project development workshops**

27. The LEG discussed a strategy for virtual project development workshops, designed to support the LDCs in preparing and submitting proposals for accessing funding from the GCF for implementing policies, projects and programmes identified in their NAPs. The workshops fall within the scope of one of the priority activities of the LEG for 2020–2021, namely to effectively help all the LDCs to initiate and submit a proposal to the GCF for addressing at least one of the priority adaptation needs associated with their NAP.<sup>31</sup>

28. The LEG agreed on the following steps for implementing the workshops:

(a) Preparatory activities for supporting countries in identifying and developing project ideas, identifying delivery partners and gathering information for developing proposals, and compiling relevant information;

(b) Virtual workshops for advancing development of the key sections of concept notes or proposals, covering additionality, climate rationale, theory of change and other key sections;

(c) Follow-up after the workshops to ensure that countries and their delivery partners are making steady progress towards submitting the proposals to the GCF.

29. The LEG noted the engagement initiated with the LDCs and agreed to start holding workshops in April–May 2021. The LEG also agreed to explore with the GCF secretariat opportunities for collaboration and advice on conducting the workshops.

## **B. Technical guidance and support for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans**

### **1. National adaptation plan technical working group**

30. The NAP technical working group continues to actively engage in designing and providing technical guidance and support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs, and has held several virtual meetings since September 2020 to advance its work. In particular, the group met to discuss what content should be included in NAPs for them to fulfil their various purposes; the integrative supplement to the NAP technical guidelines (building on the NAP-SDG iFrame); updates on and lessons learned from the Open NAP initiative; the coherence and synergy of its support; the design of the project development workshops for the LDCs; and inputs to the fourth volume of the LEG publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs. More focused discussions were held

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<sup>31</sup> See document FCCC/SBI/2020/14, para. 80(b) and annex III.

in smaller groups to advance work in supporting countries in producing their NAPs and on the integrative supplement.

31. At its technical meeting on 8 March 2021, the group discussed and developed recommendations<sup>32</sup> on several topics, including climate data and scenarios for NAPs, the integrative supplement, reviewing draft NAPs, tracking progress on NAPs and lessons learned, and training, education, research and youth in relation to NAPs. The LEG took note of the group's recommendations.

## 2. Supplements to the national adaptation plan technical guidelines

32. The LEG took note of the most recently published supplements to the NAP technical guidelines, by FAO<sup>33</sup> and WHO.<sup>34</sup>

33. Further supplements are expected to be published in 2021 on the following topics:

- (a) Implementing digital agriculture to enable adaptation, by CCAFS;
- (b) Integrating earth observation data and remote sensing into NAPs, by GEO;
- (c) Promoting synergy and coherence between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the context of NAPs, by UNDRR;
- (d) Nature-based solutions, by UNDP and UNEP;
- (e) Climate information services in NAPs, by WMO.

34. The NAP technical working group continues to make steady progress in producing the integrative supplement (building on the NAP-SDG iFrame) with the aim of consolidating, to the extent possible, the information in individual supplements in a single coherent guide. The following next steps in relation to the integrative supplement have already been identified:

(a) Producing an interactive online supplement (a navigator for the supplements) to facilitate easy update as new supplements become available; although the group suggested that what is most practical for the LDCs and other countries in terms of format should also be taken into account;

(b) Piloting the application of the supplement and testing its usability among countries that are in the process of producing their NAPs;

(c) Pooling technical resources from the organizations that have published supplements in order to advance the outputs of the work on the integrative supplement.

35. Most of the organizations that have published supplements are also implementing activities to facilitate their application and will share insights with the LEG.

## 3. NAP Central

36. As the main repository for NAPs submitted by developing countries, NAP Central contained 22 NAPs as at 31 March 2021. The LEG and organizations discussed how other elements of the process to formulate and implement NAPs, particularly progress, should be showcased on NAP Central.

37. NAP Central is to be broadened to showcase, in addition to submitted NAPs, activities carried out by countries in the process to formulate and implement NAPs. All partner

<sup>32</sup> Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/273711>.

<sup>33</sup> Brugere C and De Young C. 2020. *Addressing fisheries and aquaculture in National Adaptation Plans: Supplement to the UNFCCC NAP Technical Guidelines*. Rome: FAO. Available at <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca2215en>; and Meybeck A, Gitz V, Wolf J, et al. 2020. *Addressing forestry and agroforestry in National Adaptation Plans: Supplementary guidelines*. Rome: FAO. Available at <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb1203en>.

<sup>34</sup> Savage A, Villalobos Prats E and Campbell-Lendrum D. 2021. *Quality criteria for health national adaptation plans*. Geneva: WHO. Available at <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/quality-criteria-health-national-adaptation-plans>.

organizations and countries are invited to continue sharing their various outputs of the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

38. NAP Central is also being redesigned to enhance its usability in supporting countries in formulating and implementing NAPs.

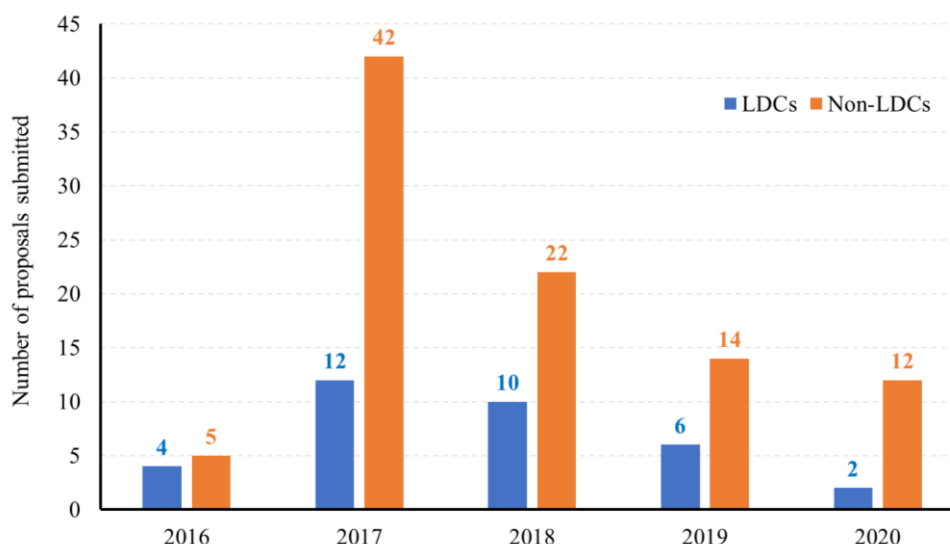
### C. Accessing funding

#### 1. Green Climate Fund

39. As at 31 December 2020, 13<sup>35</sup> of the 47 LDCs had yet to prepare or submit proposals for accessing funding from the GCF, under its Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, which has been accessible since 2016, for formulating their NAPs. Figure 1 presents the number of submissions of NAP readiness proposals by developing countries to the GCF each year since 2016.

Figure 1

**Number of proposals submitted by developing countries seeking funding under the Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for national adaptation plans in 2016–2020**



40. The LEG noted that the number of proposals submitted by the LDCs for accessing funding for implementing priority adaptation projects and programmes associated with their NAPs is low despite its interest in receiving more submissions in this area. The LEG also noted that this is linked to several challenges, including limited capacity to develop project proposals. The LEG further noted that, as at 31 March 2021, 12 of the 47 accredited national direct access entities in developing countries were in the LDCs (see table 3).

41. The LEG discussed its activities aimed at effectively helping all the LDCs to initiate and submit a proposal to the GCF for addressing at least one of their priority adaptation needs. It took note of the preparations for the project development workshops.

42. The LEG agreed to further discuss with the GCF secretariat how to support the LDCs in addressing the challenges they face in accessing funding from the GCF for formulating and implementing NAPs.

<sup>35</sup> Afghanistan, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Gambia, Kiribati, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Togo and Yemen.

Table 3  
**Direct access entities in the least developed countries accredited by the Green Climate Fund as at 31 March 2021**

<i>Accredited entity</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Project size accreditation<sup>a</sup></i>
Alternative Energy Promotion Centre	Nepal	Small
Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation	Bhutan	Medium
CRDB Bank PLC	United Republic of Tanzania	Medium, micro and small
Development Bank of Zambia	Zambia	Medium
Ecological Monitoring Centre	Senegal	Micro
Infrastructure Development Company Limited	Bangladesh	Micro
Ministry of Environment	Rwanda	Small
Ministry of Finance	Ethiopia	Small
Ministry of Water and Environment	Uganda	Small
National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development Secretariat	Cambodia	Micro
National Fund for Environment and Climate	Benin	Micro
Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation	Bangladesh	Medium

<sup>a</sup> Accredited entities may only submit funding proposals for projects up to the size for which they have been accredited; for example, entities accredited for “medium” can submit funding proposals for medium-, small and micro-sized projects or programme activities but not for large projects or programme activities (micro = accredited for funding of up to USD 10 million; small = up to USD 50 million; medium = up to USD 250 million; and large = USD 250 million or more).

## 2. Least Developed Countries Fund

43. The LEG took note of the information provided by the GEF secretariat that several LDCs have not yet accessed funding from the LDCF in the seventh replenishment period of the GEF, which is due to end in 2022 (see figure 2), whereby each LDC can access up to USD 10 million under the overall ceiling of USD 50 million. The GEF secretariat indicated that it has been working with the LDC Group Chair to raise awareness among the LDCs, especially those that have accessed the least cumulative funding under the LDCF or no LDCF resources at all in the past two years, of the opportunities to develop and submit proposals for funding under the LDCF in line with their national priorities and needs.

44. The LEG also took note of the information provided by the GEF secretariat related to accessing funding from the LDCF:

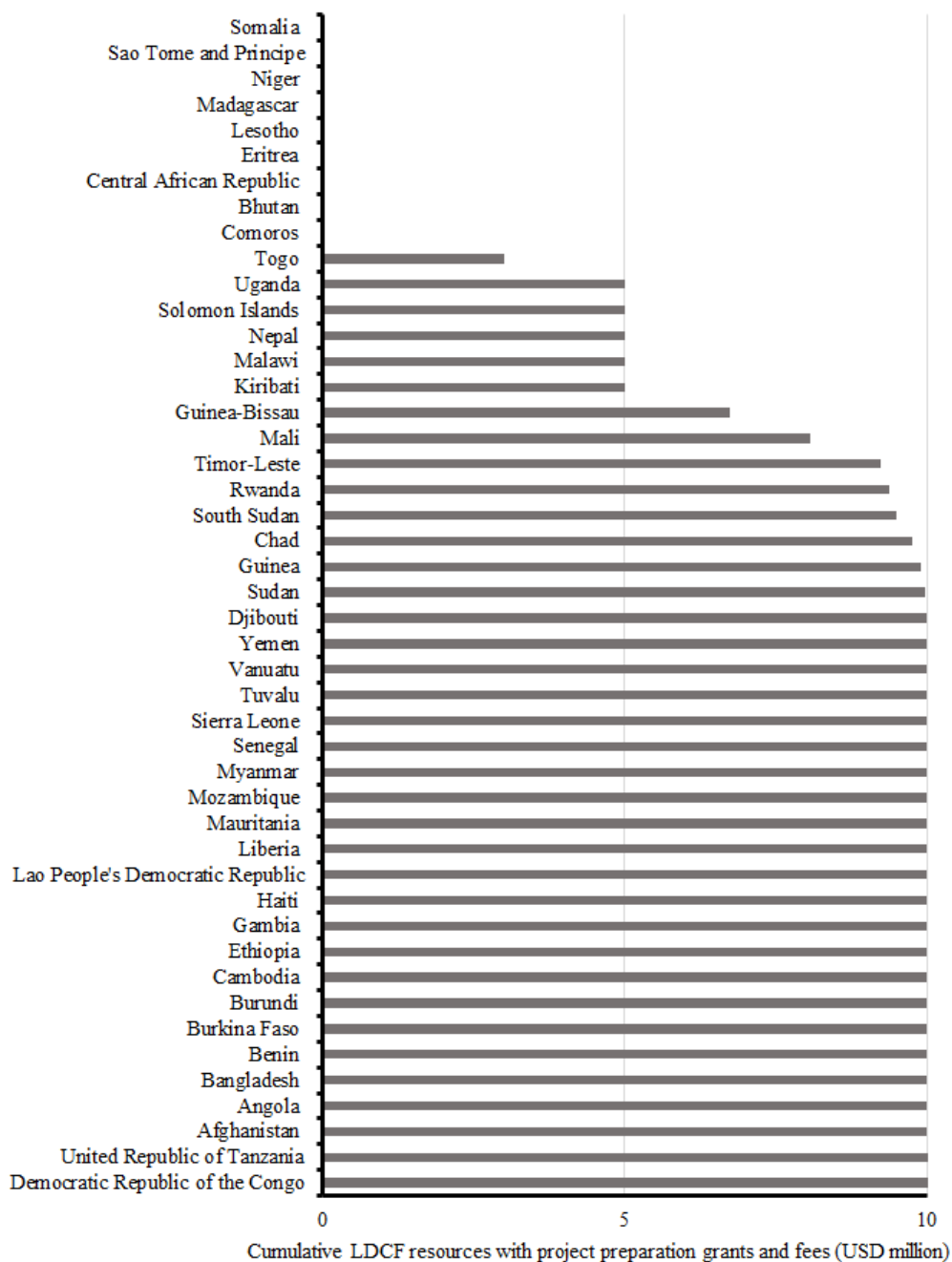
(a) The next LDCF work programme (including project proposals for accessing funding from the LDCF) will be considered by the LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2021, and the deadline for submission of project proposals is 31 March 2021;

(b) A second call for proposals under the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation is due to be issued in 2021;

(c) The GEF has launched consultations on the development of a draft programming strategy for its eighth replenishment period.

45. The LEG agreed to continue to work with the GEF secretariat to raise awareness among the LDCs and stakeholders of the latest developments with regard to accessing funding from the LDCF.

Figure 2  
**Funding accessed under the Least Developed Countries Fund by the least developed countries in the seventh replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (2018–2022) as at 31 March 2021**



Source: Data taken from GEF document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.29/03/Rev.01. Available at <https://www.thegef.org/council-meetings/lcfscf-council-meetings-29>.

**D. NAP Expos**

46. The LEG noted that it remains unfeasible to hold an in-person global NAP Expo in 2021 owing to the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It took note of the following technical events held virtually, which would otherwise have been convened as part of the NAP Expo:



- (a) NAP country platform, on 29 October 2020;<sup>36</sup>
- (b) NAP champions webinar on advancing adaptation through NAPs, on 14 October 2020;<sup>37</sup>
- (c) Ongoing NAP country dialogues with the LDCs;
- (d) Working meetings of the NAP technical working group to advance its work.

47. The LEG also noted that multiple factors make it challenging for the LDCs to effectively engage in virtual events, including Internet connectivity, participation across time zones and the limiting effect of virtual arrangements on the nature of engagement. It agreed to consider these challenges in deciding which events to hold virtually in 2021.

## **E. Tracking progress of national adaptation plans and country case files**

48. The LEG monitors the progress of developing countries and the support provided and received in the process to formulate and implement NAPs through various means, including an offline tracking tool, an online questionnaire on NAPs and country profiling. The information gathered by the LEG is published in the annual progress report to the SBI at the end of each year.

49. The LEG took note of the process for tracking progress and discussed how to enhance data collection by incorporating new metrics and expanding the synthesis of the data to show trends in key indicators of progress.

50. The LEG agreed on the following next steps taking into account the recommendations of the NAP technical working group:

- (a) Working with different organizations supporting the LDCs on enhancing data collection to improve coverage of metrics and countries;
- (b) Enhancing the tracking tool to include outcome and impact metrics and assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs and support;
- (c) Increasing efforts to include country profile summaries in NAPs, and identifying how that information can be used to help monitor and assess LDCs' NAPs and adaptation needs.

51. The LEG also took note of the ongoing dialogues with the LDCs on their progress in formulating and/or implementing NAPs and specific challenges and needs and ways to address them. It noted the progress of the 18 LDCs referred to in paragraph 19(b) above prioritized to receive support for gathering and utilizing existing information to prepare their first NAP in line with the goal of all LDCs producing their first NAP by the end of 2020 or soon thereafter. It agreed to continue engaging in dialogues with the LDCs to support them in making progress in formulating their NAPs.

## **F. Gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans**

52. The LEG continued its consideration of the mandates from the COP to consider gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs and ways to address them<sup>38</sup> and include information thereon in its reports.<sup>39</sup>

53. The LEG took note of the priority activities in its work programme related to addressing such gaps and needs, including:

<sup>36</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/node/253935>.

<sup>37</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/node/253972>.

<sup>38</sup> Decision 8/CP.24, para. 17.

<sup>39</sup> Decision 7/CP.25, paras. 2–4.

- (a) Enhancing provision of support through the Open NAP initiative and NAP country dialogues to the LDCs for formulating their NAPs as soon as possible;
- (b) Conducting project development workshops to assist the LDCs in implementing priorities associated with their NAPs;
- (c) Expanding the range of technical tools, including related to regional approaches, available to support countries in addressing their adaptation needs.

54. The LEG agreed to apply further approaches to addressing the gaps and needs, such as by engaging with the LDCs to identify national needs in relation to specific activities and ways to address them, and by enhancing relevant outreach to providers of support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

## **G. Addressing the mandates from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session**

55. The LEG considered its progress in implementing the following activities mandated at CMA 1:

- (a) Preparing synthesis reports on specific adaptation themes, focusing on relevant lessons learned and good practices in developing country Parties;<sup>40</sup>
- (b) Contributing to the development of methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support by continuing to compile existing methodologies;<sup>41</sup>
- (c) Preparing a synthesis report in its area of expertise for the technical assessment component of the global stocktake.<sup>42</sup>

56. Regarding synthesis reports on specific adaptation themes, the LEG took note of the ongoing development of the fourth volume of its publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs (see para. 59(a) below).

57. Regarding methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support, the LEG agreed on the following steps, pending further discussion with the AC and the SCF:

- (a) Engaging in discussions with the AC on the way forward for the technical work on developing methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support as referred to in Article 7, paragraph 14(c), of the Paris Agreement;
- (b) Continuing to compile, on the adaptation knowledge portal, existing methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support, with a focus on methodologies applicable to the LDCs;
- (c) Exploring with the AC the possibility of establishing a thematic expert group to solicit insights and ideas, building on previous work of the AC and the LEG, on reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support in the context of Article 7, paragraph 14(c), of the Paris Agreement. The LEG developed draft terms of reference for the potential thematic expert group, to be discussed with the AC and the SCF;

(d) The secretariat to publish the annex to the background note prepared by the AC and the LEG on such methodologies, after final review, as a knowledge product.

58. Regarding the synthesis report for the technical assessment component of the global stocktake, the LEG discussed a draft outline, covering progress of developing countries in formulating and implementing NAPs; support needed, provided and received; experience, good practices and lessons learned; and opportunities, challenges, gaps and needs. The synthesis report, which will draw on the existing work of the LEG and inputs from the LDCs and relevant bodies and organizations, is planned to be completed by March 2022.

<sup>40</sup> Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 13.

<sup>41</sup> Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 35.

<sup>42</sup> Decision 19/CMA.1, para. 24.

## H. Publications and technical papers

59. The LEG took note of progress in developing the following publications and technical papers:

(a) The fourth volume of its publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs. It took note of the inputs from various organizations on suggested best practices and lessons learned to be included, relevant case studies and possible criteria for selecting the best practices and lessons learned to be included, and will finalize the publication on the basis of those inputs;

(b) A technical paper on regional approaches to adaptation planning, which is being processed for publication;

(c) An outreach publication based on the 2020 progress report on the process to formulate and implement NAPs.<sup>43</sup> The publication will include detailed graphical presentation of progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

## I. Integrating a gender perspective into the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

60. The LEG took note of its ongoing provision of technical guidance and support to the LDCs related to strengthening gender considerations in adaptation, including facilitating the application of the toolkit<sup>44</sup> for a gender-responsive process to formulate and implement NAPs, produced jointly with the AC and the NAP Global Network.

61. The LEG agreed to continue monitoring participation in its events to identify patterns in the engagement of women with a view to considering further improvements as necessary.<sup>45</sup> Table 4 provides statistics on participation in recent meetings of the LEG.

Table 4

**Participation in recent meetings of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group**

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Total number of participants</i>	<i>Female participants (%)</i>	<i>Male participants (%)</i>
37 <sup>th</sup> meeting, 6–8 February 2020	24	46	54
Stocktaking meeting, 10–12 February 2020	66	27	73
38 <sup>th</sup> meeting, 17–21 August 2020	64	45	55
39 <sup>th</sup> meeting, 10–12 March 2021	59	42	58

## J. Collaboration with other bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement

62. The LEG took note of the following ongoing collaborative activities with other bodies and under other processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement:

(a) Addressing the mandates contained in decision 11/CMA.1 in collaboration with the AC and continuing to engage in the AC NAP task force;

(b) Engaging with NWP partner organizations in work on NAPs and complementary activities under the NWP;

(c) Contributing to the work of the WIM Executive Committee, including under its task force on displacement and expert group on non-economic losses;

<sup>43</sup> FCCC/SBI/2020/INF.13.

<sup>44</sup> NAP Global Network and UNFCCC. 2019. *Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)*. A Dazé and C Church (eds.). Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada: International Institute for Sustainable Development. Available at <http://www.napglobalnetwork.org/resource/toolkit-for-gender-responsive-national-adaptation-plans/>.

<sup>45</sup> In response to decision 21/CP.22, para. 14.

- (d) Working with the Consultative Group of Experts on training on assessing vulnerability and other aspects of adaptation;
- (e) Contributing to the work of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building on coherence and coordination of capacity-building activities;
- (f) Collaborating with the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform regarding incorporating indigenous and traditional knowledge into the formulation and implementation of NAPs;
- (g) Working with the Technology Executive Committee on adaptation technologies;
- (h) Engaging all relevant bodies in developing the virtual training for the LDCs on implementing the Paris Agreement.

63. The LEG agreed to continue engaging in these collaborative activities, including through active participation by the LEG members referred to in paragraph 9 above.

## **K. Discussions with representatives of the least developed countries and relevant organizations**

64. The LEG engaged the representatives of the LDCs at the meeting to lead a discussion on LDCs' priorities and needs for support. The representatives were also invited to contribute to the discussions on other topics at the meeting.

65. The LDC representatives communicated the LDCs' key priorities in terms of the LEG providing technical support, namely that the LEG should:

- (a) Ensure that all LDCs are supported in urgently finalizing their NAPs and moving towards implementation;
- (b) Support the LDCs in developing bankable projects by providing capacity-building and brokering support from different organizations;
- (c) Mobilize, including through the NAP technical working group, support for the LDCs in critical areas, such as for developing effective adaptation solutions for key risks and systems, data and tools, and for measuring the outcomes of adaptation measures;
- (d) Launch the virtual training for the LDCs on implementing the Paris Agreement.

66. The LDC representatives emphasized that the LDCs are committed to formulating and implementing their NAPs and eager to do so despite persistent challenges. They expressed their support for the Open NAP initiative and called on the LEG to ensure that all LDCs receive assistance for formulating and implementing their NAPs under the initiative. The representatives indicated that accessing the GCF remains a challenge for the LDCs, and that reliance on international accredited entities constrains national capacity-building, thereby reinforcing the lack of both readiness and direct access to the GCF.

67. The LDC representatives also indicated that the LDCs face unique challenges in engaging via virtual platforms, which should be taken into consideration and adequate steps taken to enable their virtual participation as necessary.

68. In addition, the LEG engaged the representatives of organizations at the meeting specifically in discussing supporting the LDCs in relation to accessing funding from the GCF and the LDCF, the technical guidance on NAPs and the work of the NAP technical working group, and tracking progress on NAPs, as well as new developments in relation to the provision of support to the LDCs for their NAPs. It invited the organizations to highlight their major activities in 2021 for supporting the LDCs in formulating and implementing their NAPs (see annex III).

69. The representatives expressed the organizations' readiness to support the LEG in conducting the project development workshops and to work with countries on developing their proposals.

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## V. Work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2021–2022

70. The LEG developed its work programme for 2021–2022 as contained in annex II.

71. The work programme is aligned with the following priority activities elaborated in the report on the 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the LEG:<sup>46</sup>

(a) Enhancing provision of direct support to the LDCs that have not yet formulated any NAP to support them in meeting their goal of submitting their first NAP by the end of 2021;

(b) Effectively supporting all the LDCs in initiating and submitting a proposal to the GCF for addressing at least one of the priority adaptation needs associated with their NAP;

(c) Finalizing activities that are nearing completion.

72. The work programme takes into account the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for the delivery of activities.

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<sup>46</sup> FCCC/SBI/2020/14, para. 80.

**Annex I****Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group  
as at 10 March 2021**

Adao Soares Barbosa	Timor-Leste
Kenel Delusca	Haiti
Sonam Lhaden Khandu	Bhutan
Ram Prasad Lamsal	Nepal
Nikki Lulham	Canada
Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
Hana Hamadalla Mohamed	Sudan
Amina Laura Schild	Germany
Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
Ben Siddle	Ireland
Mery Yaou	Togo
Benon Yassin	Malawi
Choi Yeeting	Kiribati

## Annex II

### Least Developed Countries Expert Group work programme for 2021–2022

(a) **Enhance provision of direct support to the LDCs to enable them to meet their goal of submitting their first NAP in 2021:**

- (i) Continue to support the LDCs in formulating their first NAP in 2021 through the Open NAP initiative and direct interaction with country teams and relevant organizations;
- (ii) Make available data and information for addressing gaps, or sources of such data and information, as well as approaches, tools and models, to support the LDCs in their risk and vulnerability assessment work in the context of NAPs;
- (iii) Continue to advise the LDCs on ensuring the information contained in their NAPs is relevant to their purpose, such as the information needed for submitting project and programme proposals to the GCF, and fulfils adaptation reporting requirements;

(b) **Effectively support all the LDCs in initiating and submitting a proposal to the GCF for implementing at least one of the adaptation priorities associated with their NAP:**

- (i) Hold project development workshops for the LDCs, where possible with their chosen delivery partners, in 2021 to initiate their preparation of concept notes for proposals to be submitted to the GCF for accessing funding for implementing the adaptation priorities associated with their NAPs;
- (ii) Further develop the idea of enhancing the provision of writing support to the LDCs to facilitate their development of proposals for accessing funding for implementing their NAPs;

(c) **Successfully support the LDCs in establishing an effective and iterative process to formulate and implement NAPs, duly taking into consideration the two objectives of the process to formulate and implement NAPs and the guiding principles laid out in decision 5/CP.17:**

- (i) Produce outreach materials that elaborate good practices for addressing the objective of integrating NAPs into national development plans;
- (ii) Support the LDCs in addressing all the guiding principles of the process to formulate and implement NAPs through relevant modalities;
- (iii) Update the PEG M&E tool for use by countries to also assess the outcomes and impact of adaptation efforts in the context of NAPs, building on the best available science and tools;
- (iv) Continue to apply the PEG M&E tool in assessing progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs through the annual progress report on NAPs;
- (v) Support the LDCs in applying other monitoring and evaluation systems as necessary;
- (vi) Support the LDCs in documenting their results, as well as their experience and lessons learned, in formulating and implementing NAPs;

(d) **Continue to advance technical guidance on NAPs, including by elaborating newer risk-based approaches to adaptation, through the work of all supporting partners under the NAP technical working group:**

- (i) Finalize the technical paper on regional approaches to adaptation planning;

- (ii) Compile information on how the supplements to the NAP technical guidelines are being used to promote good practices;
- (iii) Finalize the integrative supplement to the NAP technical guidelines, with appropriate mapping to available supplements and including emerging risk-based approaches to adaptation planning such as of Canada and New Zealand, in order to improve the quality of adaptation assessment results to be included in NAPs;
- (iv) Pilot the integrative supplement as part of the Open NAP case studies;
- (v) Engage relevant organizations to enhance provision of technical support in areas critical to advancing the formulation and implementation of NAPs, such as climate data and scenarios, guidelines, risk and vulnerability assessment, development and review of draft NAPs, tracking progress on NAPs and cross-cutting areas such as training, education, research and youth;
- (vi) Explore ways of creating synergies between climate change adaptation and efforts to recover following the COVID-19 pandemic and apply them, and learning from experience of risk assessment and management;

**(e) Continue to track and monitor progress in formulating and implementing NAPs, including countries' experience and challenges in the process, with the support of the NAP technical working group:**

- (i) Continue to capture progress and challenges in undertaking the process to formulate and implement NAPs and present results via the NAP tracking tool on NAP Central;
- (ii) Compile information resulting from NAPs and their implementation, as well as from other related outputs, to support analysis of progress, outcomes and learning and for other purposes such as the review of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support;
- (iii) Improve the process for gathering information from different organizations on their provision of support to the LDCs with a view to enhancing the tracking of progress in formulating and implementing NAPs;
- (iv) Continue to communicate information on NAPs through the series of publications on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs;

**(f) Continue to engage and collaborate with the GCF and the GEF:**

- (i) Continue to include information in the regular LEG reports on support provided to the LDCs through the GCF and GEF;
- (ii) Support the LDCs in maximizing use of available technical assistance from the GCF, the GEF and other organizations in formulating and implementing their NAPs;
- (iii) Continue to share LDCs' experience of accessing funding from the GCF and GEF and explore proactive solutions to major challenges with them;

**(g) Continue to support the LDCs in aligning their activities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and continue to respond to their requests for support, including in relation to programmes that the LDC Group may be developing:**

- (i) Continue to engage the LDCs in one-to-one dialogues to help them maintain progress, and address any questions and challenges they may have;
- (ii) Continue to provide regular updates to the LDCs on activities related to supporting their formulation and implementation of NAPs;
- (iii) Create and maintain a roster of national and regional experts from the LDCs who can support the formulation of NAPs and their iterative review, building on any existing regional efforts;
- (iv) Continue to design training materials in relation to implementing the Paris Agreement, in collaboration with other constituted bodies and organizations;



(v) Launch the virtual training for the LDCs on implementing the Paris Agreement;

**(h) Respond to relevant mandates from the SBI, the COP and the CMA related to supporting implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement:**

(i) Continue to provide channels for Parties to provide information on progress on NAPs<sup>1</sup> and summarize the results in country profiles on NAP Central;

(ii) Continue to consider how to assist the LDCs in implementing NAPs and include information thereon in the regular LEG reports;

(iii) Continue to consider gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs and ways to address them;<sup>2</sup>

(iv) Continue to guide the secretariat in preparing a synthesis report on specific adaptation themes for consideration at CMA 3, focusing on lessons learned and good practices in developing country Parties, in collaboration with the AC;<sup>3</sup>

(v) Continue to support the development of methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support;<sup>4</sup>

(vi) Develop and regularly update an inventory of methodologies for the LDCs for assessing adaptation needs, including needs related to action, finance, capacity-building and technological support in the context of national adaptation planning and implementation,<sup>5</sup> with support from the NAP technical working group, as a contribution to a broader inventory of methodologies being developed by the AC and the LEG;

(vii) Prepare a synthesis report for the technical assessment phase of the global stocktake;<sup>6</sup>

(viii) Provide inputs to the second periodic review of the long-term global goal under the Convention and of overall progress towards achieving it with respect to NAPs and specific areas related to the LDCs;

(ix) Continue to report on progress towards integrating a gender perspective into the work of the LEG;

**(i) Continue to collaborate with other constituted bodies and organizations in fulfilling joint mandates and undertaking activities of common interest:**

(i) Collaborate with other constituted bodies and under programmes (especially the AC, the Consultative Group of Experts, the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, the NWP, the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, the SCF and the WIM Executive Committee) on activities related to NAPs, the least developed countries work programme, gender and responses to specific mandates from the SBI, the COP and the CMA;

(ii) Continue to engage and mobilize organizations in respect of support programmes for NAPs and support for the LDCs through the NAP technical working group;

(iii) Collaborate with UNDRR on exploring areas of coherence between adaptation and disaster risk reduction under the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;

(iv) Continue to engage and mobilize regional centres and networks in nominating LEG focal points;

<sup>1</sup> As per decision 8/CP.24, para. 23.

<sup>2</sup> As per decision 8/CP.24, para. 17.

<sup>3</sup> As per decision 11/CMA.1, para. 13.

<sup>4</sup> As per decision 11/CMA.1, para. 35.

<sup>5</sup> As per decision 11/CMA.1, para. 15.

<sup>6</sup> As per decision 19/CMA.1, para. 24.

- (v) Continue to mobilize organizations and regional centres and networks to enhance their provision of financial and technical support to the LDCs;
- (j) **Conduct global and regional outreach events on NAPs:**
  - (i) Organize a global NAP Expo annually and collaborate with organizations on organizing regional NAP Expos, to the extent possible depending on restrictions due to COVID-19;
  - (ii) Explore how to facilitate targeted events among the LDCs to enable peer learning and partnerships in the formulation and implementation of NAPs;
  - (iii) Continue to develop NAP Central as a repository for NAPs and other NAP-related information and knowledge;
  - (iv) Compile and share frequently asked questions derived from interaction with the LDCs;
  - (v) Showcase case studies of methodologies and tools used to achieve particular adaptation outputs and outcomes.

## Annex III

### Highlighted ongoing and planned activities of organizations for supporting the least developed countries in formulating and implementing their national adaptation plans in 2021

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Activities</i>
CGIAR	Developing a supplement to the NAP technical guidelines on digital agriculture to enable adaptation, with specific guidelines for policymakers
FAO	<p>Implementing in collaboration with UNDP a five-year programme (2020–2025) entitled “Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans”, with funding from the Government of Germany, providing support to Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Senegal and Uganda</p> <p>GCF portfolio: two approved GCF projects in Nepal and the Sudan; and 22 more projects (in the LDCs) in the pipeline</p> <p>LDCF portfolio: 13 LDCs (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zambia) being supported in accessing GEF resources in its seventh replenishment cycle</p> <p>Supporting LDCs on agriculture-related aspects of their NDCs</p> <p>Publishing two new supplements to the NAP technical guidelines, on forestry and agroforestry, and fisheries and aquaculture</p>
GEO	Developing a supplement to the NAP technical guidelines on how to integrate Earth observation data and remote sensing into NAPs (particularly for the agriculture sector)
GERICS	Developing climate indices related to climate change and agriculture for seven LDCs (Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo)
GIZ	<p>Preparing and piloting a tool for assisting the drafting of adaptation communications</p> <p>Continuing to work on climate risk analysis with the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research; so far, national studies have been conducted in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana and the Niger</p> <p>Providing further funding to the NAP Global Network to support countries in monitoring and evaluating adaptation in 2021</p> <p>Engaging in the NDC Partnership</p>
GWP	<p>Supporting Zambia in implementing a GCF NAP readiness project</p> <p>Supporting Benin, Cameroon, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia in mobilizing resources for NAP project preparation</p> <p>Supporting Djibouti, the Sudan and Uganda in integrated drought management and several West African countries in flood management</p>
NAP Global Network	<p>Providing technical support to at least five LDCs (Burkina Faso, Chad, Haiti, Solomon Islands and Somalia) for the process to formulate and implement NAPs</p> <p>Developing a supplement to the NAP technical guidelines on linking peacebuilding and adaptation in the context of conflict</p> <p>Conducting a virtual peer-learning summit on a gender-responsive process to formulate and implement NAPs</p>
SLYCAN Trust	<p>Supporting NAP preparation by holding virtual capacity-building workshops and developing targets for NAP implementation</p> <p>Implementing partnerships with Ghana and the Niger addressing human mobility and youth engagement</p>
UNCDF	<p>Supporting expansion of NAP-aligned LoCAL mechanisms in 14 LDCs: Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Cambodia, Gambia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Tuvalu, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania</p> <p>Supporting design and deployment of NAP-aligned LoCAL mechanisms in nine LDCs: Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sudan and Vanuatu</p>

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Activities</i>
	Supporting development of GCF project concept notes and readiness proposals related to subnational adaptation in nine LDCs: Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Mali, Niger, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Uganda
	Launching four-day training in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on LoCAL, focusing on vertical integration of the process to formulate and implement NAPs through LoCAL
	Supporting five LDCs in obtaining accreditation of national implementing entities to the Adaptation Fund (Cambodia) and the GCF (Benin, Bhutan, Niger and United Republic of Tanzania)
UNDP (including through the NAP-GSP)	Implementing 10 GCF NAP readiness projects in the LDCs (at least four of which will have a NAP by the end of 2021)
	Supporting Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone in completing their first NAP
	Supporting six LDCs (Burundi, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania) in resubmitting or finalizing their GCF NAP readiness proposals
	Supporting Cambodia in identifying priority adaptation needs and submitting proposals for accessing funding for addressing them through direct access if requested
	Conducting a South–South virtual exchange in June and new online training on specific elements of the formulation and implementation of NAPs, and compiling an e-compendium of all related NAP-GSP material (together with UNEP)
UNDRR	Conducting projects in 12 countries on applying system-level approaches, assisting with identifying adaptation needs and approaches, developing NAPs, amending national disaster strategies for adapting to climate change and developing bankable projects
	Preparing a supplement to the NAP technical guidelines on disaster risk reduction, to be finalized in the first half of 2021
UNEP (including through the NAP-GSP)	Providing one-to-one support to countries that have received either GEF (2 countries) or GCF (16 countries) funding for formulating NAPs
	Initiating a project to complete the launch of the process to formulate and implement NAPs in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Myanmar, and Sao Tome and Principe
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	Supporting development of updated NDCs in Liberia, Togo and Zimbabwe, ensuring adaptation is given sufficient priority
	Supporting implementation of projects focused on nature-based solutions and resilience of critical infrastructure in Ethiopia currently, with plans to scale up to other African LDCs
	Supporting coherence of policy formulation in the areas of climate, land, energy and water to assess interlinkages between these resource systems so as to strengthen adaptive capacity in Ethiopia, with plans to scale up to other African LDCs
United Nations Human Settlements Programme	Promoting integration of urban poor communities and addressing urban and community resilience and adaptation through flagship 1000 Cities Adapt Now programme
WHO	Providing technical guidance on quality criteria for health NAPs
	Supporting development of health-related project proposals under the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for the Niger and Sierra Leone
WMO	Supporting six LDCs (Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and South Sudan) in drafting their NAPs with historical data analysis and climate information, including identifying gaps and needs related to meteorological and climatological services
	Developing guidelines on how to use climate information for adaptation projects via a project, in the process of being approved, with the GCF on the “climate-science basis for action”

*Note:* This table is based on information provided by the organizations participating in the NAP technical working group meeting on 3 February 2021, and the content has been updated on the basis of information provided at the 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the LEG.