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Matters relating to the least developed countries

The 40th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

Report by the secretariat*

Summary

The 40th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group took place virtually from 10 to 13 August 2021. The Group discussed progress in implementing its activities 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.

* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



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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
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
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NWP	Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change
PA-ALIGN tool	Paris Agreement alignment tool
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
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
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

I. Mandate

1. COP 21 extended the mandate of the LEG under its current terms of reference¹ and mandated the Group to undertake a number of additional activities.²
2. In addition, CMA 1 mandated the LEG to undertake activities to facilitate implementation of the Paris Agreement,³ and COP 24 mandated the Group to continue to support implementation of the LDC work programme.⁴ 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.⁵
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.⁶
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.⁷

II. The 40th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

A. Proceedings

5. The 40th meeting of the LEG was held virtually from 10 to 13 August 2021. At the meeting, the LEG discussed direct country support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs through Open NAPs, the virtual training for the LDCs on implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement and the NAP writing workshop; technical guidance on NAPs and the work of the NAP technical working group; matters relating to accessing funding from the GCF and the LDCF; the strategy for and organization of NAP Expos; tracking progress on NAPs; addressing gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs; addressing mandates from CMA 1; and matters relating to integrating a gender perspective into its work. The activities for 2021–2022 are presented in annex I.
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, 14 representatives of eight LDCs⁸ 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 16 organizations⁹ took part in the meeting. Representatives of other constituted bodies and programmes were also invited.
7. The LEG welcomed Jennifer Hobbs (Ireland) as a new member from Parties included in Annex II to the Convention, replacing Ben Siddle (Ireland). The LEG extended its

¹ 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.

² Decision 19/CP.21, paras. 1–2.

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

⁴ Decision 16/CP.24, paras. 5–6.

⁵ Decision 7/CP.25, para. 3.

⁶ Decision 21/CP.22, para. 14.

⁷ Decision 6/CP.16, para. 3.

⁸ Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

⁹ African Climate Policy Centre, African Development Bank, CCAFS, Climate Service Center Germany, FAO, GCF, GEF, German Agency for International Cooperation, Global Water Partnership, NAP Global Network, Regional Training Centre for Agrometeorology and Operational Hydrology and their Applications, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, United Nations Capital Development Fund, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, World Health Organization and World Meteorological Organization. The representatives of UNDP and UNEP were also representing the NAP-GSP.

appreciation to Mr. Siddle for his participation as a LEG member from July 2020 to May 2021.

8. The LEG reiterated the appointment of 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) Kenel Delusca (Haiti) in work with the Consultative Group of Experts and the PCCB;

(c) Mery Yaou (Togo) and Benon Yassin (Malawi) in work under the NWP;

(d) Fredrick Manyika (United Republic of Tanzania) and Ms. Mohamed in work with the SCF;

(e) Ram Prasad Lamsal (Nepal) in work with the Technology Executive Committee;

(f) Idrissa Semde (Burkina Faso) in the task force on displacement of the WIM Executive Committee;

(g) Mr. Yassin in the expert group on non-economic losses of the WIM Executive Committee, with Amina Laura Schild (Germany) as alternate.

9. Ms. Yaou will continue to be the gender focal point for the LEG.

10. A list of the members of the LEG as at 13 August 2021 is provided in annex II.

B. Intersessional work and events

11. The LEG took note of the activities carried out during the intersessional period.

12. With the engagement of the NAP technical working group, the LEG continued to provide direct country support for formulating and implementing NAPs under Open NAPs. It took note of several activities carried out under this initiative, including the provision of assistance to the Comoros, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe in information gathering for drafting their first NAPs.

13. With the assistance of the secretariat, the LEG continued its regular virtual meetings with the LDCs participating in Open NAPs¹⁰ and the LDCs that had attended the workshop on NAPs held in Nairobi from 2 to 6 September 2019.¹¹

14. With the support of the NAP technical working group, the LEG facilitated the review of draft NAPs with the aim of providing technical inputs to those NAPs and feedback to the countries. The LEG invited all the LDCs to promote and take advantage of peer learning on emerging good practices for presenting the results of implementation of their NAPs.

15. The LEG continued to enhance its online training course for the LDCs on implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, to be launched in the first quarter of 2022, developing a draft informational brochure for the PA-ALIGN tool on which the training is focused.

16. The LEG finalized its technical paper on regional approaches to adaptation planning and implementation, to be published before COP 26.

17. The draft fourth volume of the LEG publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs is being updated to more fully address the CMA mandate to prepare synthesis reports on specific adaptation themes.¹²

¹⁰ Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Haiti, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Yemen.

¹¹ See document FCCC/SBI/2019/16, para. 23.

¹² Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 13.

18. A background paper that will contribute to the development of methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support provided for adaptation¹³ is being prepared by a joint AC and LEG working group on this topic. The draft is under discussion by the working group.

19. Following the postponement of the NAP writing workshop planned for May 2021 (see paras. 35–37 below), the LEG continued its discussion, at regular meetings, with the NAP technical working group and the LDCs on how to ensure the workshop would respond to the needs of the LDCs.

20. The LEG held a virtual event on 4 May 2021 to impart information on its work in supporting the LDCs in adaptation¹⁴ as an event held by the SBI Chair in the first half of 2021. The event also provided an opportunity for the LDCs to reiterate their priority needs and highlight the critical role of the LEG in ensuring that they receive quality support in addressing those needs.

21. The NAP technical working group conducted one intersessional meeting to discuss tracking of progress on NAPs, inputs to the NAP writing workshop and organization of the NAP Expo. The group also regularly provided its inputs to draft NAPs via email.

22. The LEG took note of the value of teleconferences in advancing aspects of its work programme, including Open NAPs, the training for the LDCs on implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and the publications through which it provides technical guidance to support the NAP process.

C. Status of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans¹⁵

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

23. 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 August 2021, at least 126 of the 154 developing countries had undertaken activities related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs. It also noted that 7 LDCs and 17 other developing countries¹⁶ had completed and submitted their NAPs on NAP Central,¹⁷ and that several countries had developed and submitted sectoral and thematic strategies and other relevant outputs.¹⁸

24. The LEG further noted that six of the seven LDCs that had submitted their NAPs as at 31 August 2021¹⁹ had also prepared and submitted a total of 14 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

¹³ As per decision 11/CMA.1, paras. 34–35.

¹⁴ See https://unfccc.int/event/info_event_LEG_SB2021.

¹⁵ 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>.

¹⁶ Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Guatemala, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Togo and Uruguay.

¹⁷ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/national-adaptation-plans.aspx>.

¹⁸ See https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/NAP_output.aspx.

¹⁹ Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kiribati, Sudan and Togo.

water resources. Proposals from Burkina Faso,²⁰ Cambodia,²¹ Ethiopia,²² Kiribati²³ and the Sudan²⁴ had been approved for funding by the GCF.

2. Progress in relation to support provided

25. 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,²⁵ 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

<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Number of submitted proposals</i>	<i>Number of proposals approved or in approval process</i>	<i>Number of projects with funds disbursed</i>
GCF ^a	Africa	44 (28)	30 (19)	25 (16)
	Asia-Pacific	29 (6)	12 (5)	12 (4)
	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	14	12	11
	Latin America and the Caribbean	19 (1)	15 (1)	14 (1)
Total		106 (35)	70 (25)	62 (21)
LDCF ^b	Africa	7	7	4
	Asia-Pacific	1	1	–
	Latin America and the Caribbean	0	0	–
Total		8	8	4

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.

^a Figures as at 31 July 2021; the first figures are for all developing countries and those in parentheses are for the LDCs.

^b Figures as at 31 June 2021; one project mentioned in previous reports was cancelled owing to a change in scope.

26. Table 2 lists the project proposals submitted by the six LDCs referred to in paragraph 24 above to the GCF for accessing funding for implementing policies, projects and programmes identified in their NAPs. The projects referred to in paragraph 28 below that are being funded through the LDCF also address adaptation priorities associated with NAPs.

27. Regarding technical support, the LEG has continued to offer direct support to the LDCs to accelerate 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 chapter III below. Information supplied by organizations²⁶ on their provision of technical support to the LDCs is contained in annex III. Several organizations have continued

²⁰ Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/africa-hydromet-program-strengthening-climate-resilience-sub-saharan-africa-burkina-faso>.

²¹ Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/climate-friendly-agribusiness-value-chains-sector-project-0>.

²² Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/resilient-landscapes-and-livelihoods-project>.

²³ Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/south-tarawa-water-supply-project>.

²⁴ Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/sap019> and <https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp139>.

²⁵ See GCF Board decision B.13/09, para. (e). Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/boardroom/decisions>.

²⁶ Climate Service Center Germany, FAO, Global Water Partnership, ICIMOD, NAP Global Network, SLYCAN Trust, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, United Nations Capital Development Fund, and World Health Organization.

to contribute to the development of supplements to the NAP technical guidelines²⁷ (see paras. 40–41 below).

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

28. The LEG took note of the information provided by the GEF secretariat on the approval by the LDCF/Special Climate Change Fund Council in June 2021 of seven full-sized (i.e. receiving more than USD 2 million) projects, accounting for USD 60.73 million in funding.²⁸ 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 agriculture and food security, water resources management, fisheries and agropastoral management, and sustainable land management. These projects will potentially address impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic at the same time as climate change.

29. 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 Special Climate Change Fund. Following the first call, nine submitted projects, which are regional or global and are expected to benefit the respective LDCs, were selected to be funded.²⁹ The second call for proposals was launched with a deadline for submission of project concepts of 23 August 2021.

²⁷ 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>.

²⁸ Three projects in Bhutan, the Central African Republic and Lesotho; the four projects planned in Eritrea, Kiribati, Somalia and Timor-Leste are multi trust fund projects with the GEF Trust Fund.

²⁹ 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/documents>.

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 August 2021

<i>Country/ies^a</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	–
Burkina Faso , 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	–
Cambodia	Climate-Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project	Asian Development Bank	141.4	5 Jun. 2017	27 Mar. 2018
Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati , 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, Ethiopia , Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan 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

<i>Country/ies^a</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>
Sudan	Impact Forecast-Based Early Warning Systems	UNEP	10.0	25 Nov. 2018	–
	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
Togo	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 2 in document FCCC/SBI/2021/6.

^a For multi-country projects, the names of the countries with submitted NAPs are in bold.

III. Progress in implementing the rolling work programme for 2021–2022 and next steps

A. Direct country support

1. Open NAP initiative

30. 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. As at 31 August 2021, 18 countries were being supported under the initiative. They are grouped as follows:

(a) **Countries with a completed or draft NAP:** Timor-Leste has submitted its first NAP on NAP Central, while Sierra Leone and South Sudan have draft NAPs undergoing review and endorsement by their respective Governments;

(b) **Countries at an advanced stage of drafting their NAP:** Five countries³⁰ have received assistance from the LEG in collecting information for drafting their first NAPs. National experts have been recruited to assist them in undertaking a comprehensive analysis of key systems and proposing priority adaptation activities. Some of the experts have concluded, while others are nearing completion, of their work;

(c) **Countries at an early stage of drafting their NAP:** Eight countries³¹ have initiated the process to formulate and implement their first NAPs. The LEG continued to offer technical guidance to them on how to gather and synthesize information for their NAPs and on what elements should be included to facilitate implementation. Chad has funding from the LDCF for its NAP and is being supported by UNDP.

31. In addition to the 18 countries identified in paragraph 30 above, the LEG is supporting Bhutan, the Central African Republic and Haiti in advancing their NAPs, which are expected to be completed by the time of COP 26.

2. Provision of feedback on draft national adaptation plans

32. The LEG took note of the ongoing provision of feedback on draft NAPs upon the request of the LDCs. Building on the relevant discussion at the 39th meeting of the LEG, the NAP technical working group provided feedback on the draft NAPs to further support countries in ensuring that their NAPs incorporate lessons learned, including those from other countries, and emerging good practices in adaptation. As at 31 August 2021, three LDCs³² had received feedback on their draft NAPs.

3. Training for the least developed countries on implementing the Paris Agreement

33. The LEG took note of the progress in developing the online course for the LDCs on effectively and efficiently navigating and addressing elements of the Paris Agreement, based on the PA-ALIGN tool. It finalized a brochure on the tool, which will be used as part of the course materials and for publicizing the course.

34. The LEG agreed to conduct a webinar on the online training before COP 26 as part of publicizing the course, which will be launched in the first quarter of 2022.

4. National adaptation plan writing workshop

35. The LEG took note of its ongoing efforts to support the LDCs in commencing NAP implementation in parallel with undertaking NAP formulation. As part of these efforts, a NAP writing workshop was designed and undertaken to provide technical assistance to the LDCs still producing their NAPs and to those transitioning to implementation. In addition to supporting the LDCs in finalizing their first NAPs and ensuring that the NAPs are sufficiently

³⁰ Comoros, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe.

³¹ Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Somalia and Yemen.

³² Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and South Sudan.

detailed to facilitate their implementation, the workshop was also intended to benefit countries that had recently completed a NAP by helping them to identify project areas that could potentially be packaged into funding proposals. The workshop was planned by the NAP technical working group and supported by several partners.

36. The LEG agreed to divide the workshop into two parts:

(a) Part one (two days): supporting countries in finalizing the drafting of their NAPs. The focus was on presenting details from assessments and consultations, and on an effective implementation strategy (framing priorities as policies, projects or programmes, showing details of actors to be involved in taking next steps), including design of a funding strategy in coordination with GCF national designated authorities, and GCF country programming and other sources of support (e.g. other funding, technical assistance for vulnerability and risk assessment or management). The target participants were countries' NAP drafting teams and climate change focal points;

(b) Part two (three days): transitioning from NAP formulation to implementation. The focus was on understanding GCF processes relevant to the project priority areas and creating project profiles as a step towards preparing concept notes for submission to the GCF in the future. The target participants were national designated authorities and project developers in certain ministries.

37. The workshop took place virtually after the 40th meeting of the LEG from 30 August to 3 September 2021. It was attended by 60 participants from the LDCs and eight resource persons from relevant agencies. Planned next steps include:

(a) Establishing a help desk for answering questions and providing ongoing writing support;

(b) Providing ongoing support to countries, based on the status of formulating and implementing NAPs, to assist them in advancing their NAPs;

(c) Designing and conducting subsequent workshops covering other funding windows.

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

1. National adaptation plan technical working group

38. The NAP technical working group continued to actively engage in developing and providing technical guidance and support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. It held a virtual meeting in August 2021 to continue the discussion started at a meeting held in March 2021 on the tracking of progress on NAPs, at which next steps were considered by the LEG (see para. 55 below). It also discussed the NAP writing workshop (see paras. 35–37 above) and organization of the NAP Expo (see paras. 52–53 below).

39. The NAP technical working group will focus on the following next steps:

(a) Considering creating small groups focused on:

(i) Preparing technical guidance to support work on supplements and an integrative supplement to the NAP technical guidelines, and the technical papers on the “pre-emptive–contingency–losses” framework, addressing risks, regional approaches to adaptation, and guidance for describing common systems being considered in adaptation, including through modelling and analysing the limits to adaptation action;

(ii) Monitoring and evaluation to support work on tracking progress on NAPs, including by expanding the PEG M&E tool to include outcome and impact metrics in addition to input, process and output metrics, and providing guidance on expanding on complex steps from the PEG M&E list of metrics to facilitate better tracking of progress and identifying where bottlenecks in the process to formulate and implement NAPs can be cleared;

- (iii) Providing writing support for the drafting of NAPs through the Open NAP initiative and in the transition to the implementation phase of the projects and programmes identified in NAPs;
 - (iv) Enhancing the NAP data initiative to address identified data gaps and assembling information and tools from existing sources to further assist LDCs in meeting their data needs;
 - (v) Addressing the needs of vulnerable groups with a focus on gender considerations, indigenous peoples and youth;
- (b) Continuing work on determining what information NAPs should contain and how the information should be structured so as to facilitate NAP implementation, and using the findings from this work as the basis for the support provided by various entities for drafting NAPs;
 - (c) Working with partners and countries to promote the sharing of information on the many outputs of the process to formulate and implement NAPs not yet captured, and making it available on NAP Central.

2. Supplements to the national adaptation plan technical guidelines

- 40. The LEG took note of the most recently published supplements to the NAP technical guidelines, under the NWP³³ and by UNDRR.³⁴
- 41. Further supplements are expected to be published in 2021 on:
 - (a) Implementing digital agriculture to enable adaptation, by CCAFS;
 - (b) Integrating ecosystem-based adaptation into NAPs, by UNDP and UNEP;
 - (c) Applying Earth observations in NAPs, by the Group on Earth Observations.

3. NAP Central

- 42. As the main repository for NAPs submitted by developing countries, NAP Central contained 24 NAPs as at 31 August 2021.
- 43. The secretariat is redesigning the interface for NAP Central to enhance its usability and broadening the portal to showcase, in addition to submitted NAPs, activities carried out by countries during the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

C. Accessing funding

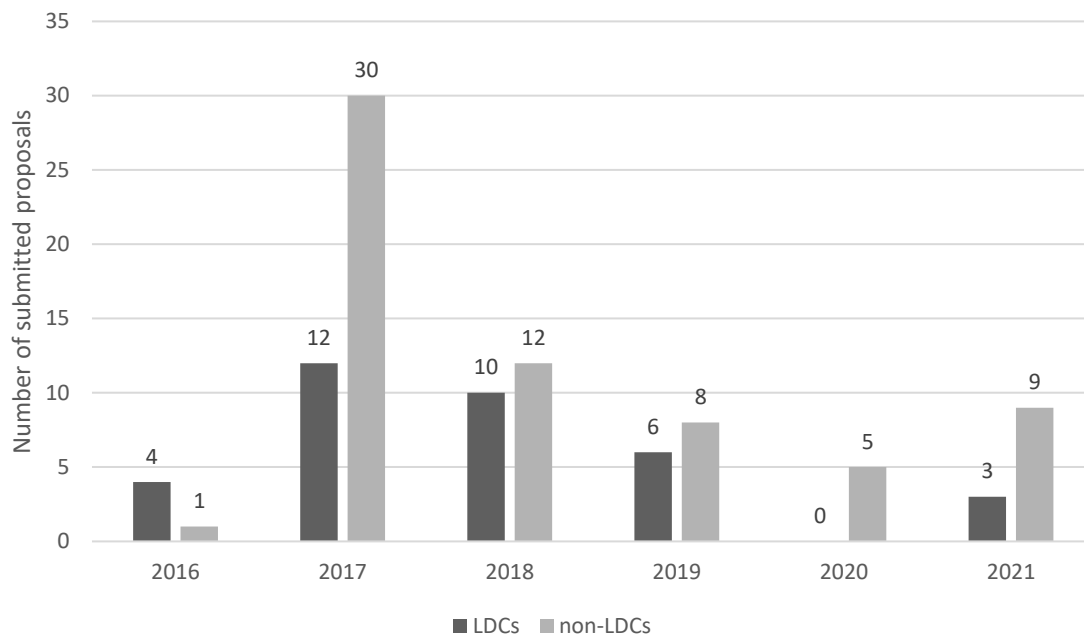
1. Green Climate Fund

- 44. As at 31 July 2021, 24 LDCs had accessed funding from the GCF and 13 LDCs had proposals in the pipeline under the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for formulating NAPs. Of the 46 LDCs, 9 have yet to prepare or submit a proposal for accessing funding. The figure below presents the number of submissions of NAP readiness proposals by developing countries to the GCF each year since 2016.

³³ UNFCCC. 2021. *Coastal adaptation and nature-based solutions for the implementation of NAPs: considerations for GCF proposal development. A supplement to the UNFCCC NAP technical guidelines*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/278047>.

³⁴ UNDRR. 2021. *Promoting Synergy and Alignment Between Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Context of National Adaptation Plans: A Supplement to the UNFCCC NAP Technical Guidelines*. Geneva: UNDRR. Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Guidelines/Pages/Supplements.aspx>.

Number of proposals submitted by the least developed countries and other developing countries seeking funding under the Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for national adaptation plans in 2016–2021



45. The LEG took note of the following additional updates shared by the GCF:

(a) As at 1 July 2021, 143 readiness grants had been approved for the LDCs, amounting to USD 109.5 million, of which USD 53.1 million (128 grants) had been disbursed. The support offered to the LDCs includes advisory support services, technical assistance through GCF regional help desks and regional dialogues;

(b) Regarding project approval, as at 31 July 2021 the LDCs had received a total of USD 2.54 billion for 69 GCF-approved projects, representing 28.7 per cent of the total available GCF funding.

46. 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 remains low despite the interest of the GCF in receiving more submissions in this area. The LEG recognized that one of the prevailing challenges is the limited capacity to develop project proposals. The LEG also noted that, as at 31 August 2021, 12 of the 47 accredited national direct access entities in developing countries were in the LDCs (see table 3).

47. 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.

48. The LEG agreed to continue to 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 and finding ways to decrease the complexity and increase the efficiency of the funding proposal process, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

<i>Accredited entity</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Project size accreditation^a</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 Ltd.	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

^a 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

49. In addition to the information referred to in paragraph 29 above, the GEF secretariat provided the following update with regard to accessing funding from the LDCF:

(a) Between July 2018 and June 2021, 43 of the 46 LDCs were granted funding under the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund through the LDCF, and USD 407 million in funding has been mobilized;³⁵

(b) Since 2001, the LDCF total cumulative funding of USD 1,79 billion was allocated to more than 300 projects.

50. The GEF secretariat continued to encourage the LDCs to take advantage of the available funding support, noting that four of the LDCs have not yet done so.

51. 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.

D. NAP Expos

52. NAP Expos are the flagship outreach events of the LEG. The LEG took note of its plans for a global NAP Expo to be held in December 2021 as part of Korea Global Adaptation Week (subject to restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic).

53. It also took note of other events that could be conducted virtually in the event that the global NAP Expo cannot be held, including NAP country platforms, NAP champions webinars, launches of supplements to the NAP technical guidelines, the NAP writing workshop and hands-on training on the NAP data initiative.

³⁵ See GEF document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.30/03.

E. Tracking progress on national adaptation plans and country case files

54. 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 country profiling. With support of the secretariat, the LEG maintains a case file for each LDC and uses the information therein to develop a country profile. The profile includes issues of access to funding from the GCF and the LDCF. This and other information gathered by the LEG is published in the annual progress report to the SBI at the end of each year. The efforts of the LEG in tracking progress also facilitate the identification of good practices, bottlenecks and opportunities in supporting the LDCs.

55. The NAP technical working group discussed additional metrics to be used in preparing the progress report for the SBI and how to enhance data collection. It considered the idea of posting information on support provided to developing countries for NAPs collected from organizations in draft form online and inviting countries to preview and validate it. A related discussion on tracking progress is detailed in paragraphs 38–39 above.

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

56. The LEG compiles information on gaps and needs of the LDCs in relation to adaptation and NAPs on an ongoing basis. Numerous gaps and needs have emerged as bottlenecks to making progress on NAPs. The LEG is addressing or reviewing progress in relation to the following gaps and needs:

- (a) Accessing data from multiple sources, including data related to climate change scenarios, data that would be useful for vulnerability and risk assessments, and data that would be useful in providing the climate rationale for adaptation activities in project proposals;
- (b) Synthesizing available information on vulnerability and risk assessments in order to identify adaptation priorities and converting them into programmes and projects for implementation;
- (c) Accessing GCF readiness support for formulating NAPs;
- (d) Developing adaptation projects for implementation using funding from the GCF and other funds and sources;
- (e) Fully utilizing the LDCF allocation to each LDC;
- (f) Creating an effective long-term national adaptation programme or process to support the formulation and implementation of NAPs in an ongoing and iterative manner;
- (g) Identifying and harnessing synergies between NAP formulation and reporting under the Paris Agreement;
- (h) Developing useful monitoring and evaluation systems that support and guide successful adaptation;
- (i) Ensuring NAPs address multiple scales and levels of risk and governance, including regional and transboundary;
- (j) Progressing on NAPs despite circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (k) Learning how to effectively address climate risk using methods and approaches applied to address challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (l) Applying the best available science and knowledge, including local and indigenous peoples' knowledge, and building on the experience and good practices of other countries;
- (m) Applying alternative assessment approaches to establish effective adaptation plans that fully capture the uncertainties in climate change impacts;

(n) Fully and comprehensively assessing and managing risk, including by optimizing use of resources, and identifying elements of climate risk that can be addressed through pre-emptive action, including disaster risk reduction and contingency measures, or by addressing losses.³⁶

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

57. The LEG continued its consideration of 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.³⁷ The LEG took note of the revisions being made to the draft fourth volume of its publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs;

(b) Contributing to the development and compilation of methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support.³⁸ The LEG took note of a background paper on such methodologies and discussed how it could effectively participate in the joint working group on this topic with the AC and the SCF, including by assigning members to and updating the draft terms of reference for the related thematic expert group proposed at its 39th meeting;³⁹

(c) Preparing a synthesis report in its area of expertise for the technical assessment component of the global stocktake.⁴⁰ The LEG took note of the working paper presenting the expanded outline of the synthesis report, including the additional information on summaries of submitted NAPs.

H. Publications and technical papers

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

(a) A technical paper on regional approaches to adaptation planning;

(b) The 2021 progress report on NAPs;

(c) An informational brochure on the PA-ALIGN tool, which also addresses how to improve alignment between NAPs and adaptation information in NDCs;

(d) A technical note on the integrative framework for NAPs and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(e) A knowledge product on reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support;

(f) A synthesis report focused on NAPs for the technical assessment phase of the global stocktake;

(g) The fourth volume of the publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs;

(h) An integrative supplement to the NAP technical guidelines on mapping the existing supplements in terms of steps in the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

³⁶ See a 2020 paper on a strategic approach to comprehensive risk management in response to climate change impacts at <https://arxiv.org/abs/2004.06144>.

³⁷ Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 13.

³⁸ Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 35.

³⁹ See document FCCC/SBI/2021/6, para. 57(c).

⁴⁰ Decision 19/CMA.1, para. 24.

- (i) A compilation of emerging good practices documented in NAPs, which will facilitate their application, including in implementation strategies;
- (j) A guide to applying the “pre-emptive–contingency–losses” resilience continuum⁴¹ in formulating NAPs and implementing projects and programmes identified therein;
- (k) A book containing country-specific adaptation analyses, including examples of adverse impacts of climate change and the rationale for specific actions from each of the LDCs.

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

59. The LEG took note of its ongoing provision of technical guidance and support to the LDCs related to strengthening gender considerations in adaptation.

60. In the report on its 39th meeting,⁴² the LEG started providing information on participation in its events to identify patterns with a view to promoting women’s engagement, as necessary. Table 4 provides information on the participation of women in LEG meetings in 2020–2021.

Table 4

Participation of women in meetings of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in 2020–2021

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Total number of participants</i>	<i>Female participants (%)</i>
37 th meeting, 6–8 February 2020	24	46
Stocktaking meeting, 10–12 February 2020	66	27
38 th meeting, 17–21 August 2020	64	45
39 th meeting, 10–12 March 2021	59	42
40 th meeting, 10–13 August 2021	54	46

61. The LEG identified the following means of strengthening gender considerations in its work:

- (a) Making use of the UNFCCC gender action plan⁴³ and ensuring that the gaps identified therein are considered when developing support activities for the LDCs;
- (b) Considering how to apply and expand existing gender guidelines (jointly with partners such as the AC and the NAP Global Network) and developing relevant training;
- (c) Considering how to best support countries in gender mainstreaming at the national level.

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

62. The LEG took note of the following ongoing collaborative activities and potential areas for further collaboration 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, continuing to engage in the AC NAP task force, incorporating inputs from the AC into NAP Expo event planning, and broadening coordination with the AC on support provided to countries for formulating and implementing NAPs;

⁴¹ See <https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/2004/2004.06144.pdf>.

⁴² FCCC/SBI/2021/6, chap. IV.I.

⁴³ Decision 3/CP.25, annex.

(b) Continuing to collaborate with the WIM Executive Committee by participating in its task force on displacement and expert group on non-economic losses, noting that their products are of interest to the LDCs in their adaptation planning, and noting the potential to enhance collaboration on gender considerations with the WIM Executive Committee;

(c) Conducting capacity-building activities with the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform to improve the informed participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, and developing activities that promote the importance of engaging with indigenous peoples and local communities in this process;

(d) Engaging with NWP partner organizations in addressing knowledge gaps related to formulating and implementing NAPs, contributing to the Open NAP initiative and continuing to promote opportunities for engagement with the LDCs under the thematic areas of the NWP in order to ensure its knowledge products are aligned with ongoing technical support for and guidance on formulating and implementing NAPs;

(e) Contributing to the work of the PCCB by providing opportunities for engagement and recommendations related to the provision of capacity-building support to the LDCs for the 2021 progress report of the PCCB, and submitting proposals for events at the 3rd Capacity-building Hub, to be held at COP 26;

(f) Working with the Technology Executive Committee on a paper on innovative approaches to scaling up climate technologies, providing LDC case studies and investigating specific areas for collaboration.

63. The LEG agreed to continue engaging in these collaborative activities, including through active participation by the LEG members referred to in paragraph 8 above.

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

64. The LDC representatives participating in the meeting shared their view that, despite efforts to support the LDCs in adaptation, they are being left behind – a view that is manifested in the small number of LDCs that have submitted a NAP and the small number that have successfully accessed funding from the GCF for formulating a NAP or implementing priority actions identified therein.

65. As at previous LEG meetings, the representatives communicated and reiterated the LDCs' call for support for:

(a) Capacity-building and capacity development beyond formulating and implementing NAPs;

(b) Formulating NAPs (for all the LDCs by the end of 2021);

(c) Accessing GCF readiness support (for all the LDCs that have not yet accessed it);

(d) Transitioning from NAP formulation to NAP implementation using GCF and other sources of funding, including gaining understanding of and accessing the many areas of support available under the GCF other than readiness support, especially project proposal support;

(e) Learning from past national and regional climate change related events to inform vulnerability and risk assessment in addition to adaptation and resilience-building efforts;

(f) Engaging all stakeholders to enable them to better assess and understand vulnerability and climate risk in order to inform action;

(g) Moving beyond data collection to in-depth data analysis in order to understand vulnerability and climate risk, build an evidence base, inform decision-making and measure outcomes.

66. On behalf of the LDCs, the representatives requested the LEG to consider the following:

(a) Speeding up the acceptance of experts nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts and improving LDCs' access to experts (e.g. during workshops);

(b) Documenting the experience of countries in addressing climate change impacts more comprehensively so as to understand the unique challenges and obstacles faced by each country;

(c) Facilitating access to platforms for the LDCs to share experience, challenges and solutions.

67. The LDC representatives conveyed their appreciation to the LEG for its continued efforts to support countries in addressing their gaps and needs related to formulating and implementing NAPs under the Open NAP initiative.

68. The LEG engaged the representatives of organizations participating in the meeting in discussions on the supplements to the NAP technical guidelines and other work of the NAP technical working group, supporting the Open NAP initiative, supporting the LDCs in accessing funding from the GCF and the LDCF, and further enhancing the provision of support to the LDCs in relation to addressing climate change. It invited the organizations to highlight their main activities in 2021 for supporting the LDCs in formulating and implementing NAPs (see annex III).

IV. Priority activities of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in 2021–2022

69. The LEG continued to take into account the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the delivery of its activities. It took note of the following priority activities and events for the remainder of 2021:

(a) Developing the 2021 progress report on NAPs;

(b) The joint working group meeting with the AC on methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support (on 26 August 2021);

(c) The NAP writing workshop (from 30 August to 3 September 2021);

(d) The United Nations meetings on preparation for the 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (in September 2021);⁴⁴

(e) A webinar on the online training for the LDCs on implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

(f) The LEG side event, NAP side event and other events to be held at COP 26 (in November 2021);

(g) The possible global NAP Expo (in December 2021);

(h) Cross-body collaboration with constituted bodies and programmes under the Convention on gender considerations.

70. The LEG will continue to prioritize providing support to the LDCs for achieving their goal of all submitting a NAP by the end of 2021 and for transitioning to NAP implementation.

71. The LEG will also prioritize completing development of the publications and technical papers referred to in paragraph 58 above.

⁴⁴ See <https://www.un.org/ldc5/>.

Annex I

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

The following activities are based on the outcomes of the 39th meeting of the LEG as updated at its 40th meeting:

(a) Enhance provision of direct support to the LDCs to enable them to meet their goal of submitting their first NAP by the end of 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 that 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, demonstrates how guiding principles of adaptation are addressed and contributes to 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) Conduct a NAP writing workshop for the LDCs in 2021 to accelerate the finalization of their NAPs, and initiate activities that assist with the transition to implementation of the adaptation priorities associated with the 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;

(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 pilot the integrative supplement as part of the Open NAP case studies;

(iv) 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;

(v) 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) 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;

(iii) 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 the GEF and the experience of the LDCs in accessing funding from the GCF and the GEF, and jointly explore proactive solutions to the major related challenges;

(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;

(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 NAPs⁴⁵ and summarize the results in country profiles on NAP Central;

⁴⁵ As per decision 8/CP.24, para. 23.

- (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;⁴⁶
- (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;⁴⁷
- (v) Continue to support the development of methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support;⁴⁸
- (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,⁴⁹ 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;⁵⁰
- (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 and ensure consideration of the UNFCCC gender action plan in developing the activities 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 PCCB, 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;
 - (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;

⁴⁶ As per decision 8/CP.24, para. 17.

⁴⁷ As per decision 11/CMA.1, para. 13.

⁴⁸ As per decision 11/CMA.1, para. 35.

⁴⁹ As per decision 11/CMA.1, para. 15.

⁵⁰ As per decision 19/CMA.1, para. 24.

- (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.

(k) Continue to promote LEG interaction with the LDCs and other Parties and relevant organizations:

- (i) Continue to invite the LDC Parties, the GCF, the GEF and its agencies, and relevant organizations to LEG meetings;
- (ii) Conduct a side event on the work of the LEG in supporting the LDCs at each session of the subsidiary bodies.

Annex II

[English only]

**Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group
as at 13 August 2021**

Adao Soares Barbosa	Timor-Leste
Kenel Delusca	Haiti
Jennifer Hobbs	Ireland
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
Mery Yaou	Togo
Benon Yassin	Malawi
Choi Yeeting	Kiribati

Annex III

Highlighted ongoing and planned activities of organizations for supporting the least developed countries in formulating and implementing their national adaptation plans as at 13 August 2021

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Activities</i>
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 12 countries including 5 LDCs (Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Senegal and Uganda)</p> <p>GCF portfolio: two GCF-approved projects in Nepal and the Sudan; and 19 more projects (in the LDCs) in the pipeline (19 approved and 10 in the pipeline)</p> <p>LDCF portfolio: 36 projects in 26 LDCs being supported in accessing GEF resources. 13 LDCs supported under the seventh replenishment cycle of the GEF Trust Fund</p> <p>Supporting the LDCs with regard to 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>
Climate Service Center Germany	<p>Developing a high-resolution regional Earth observational system model and a decision support system for policymakers and practitioners, with a focus on agriculture and food security for West Africa, including for seven LDCs (Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo)</p>
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development	<p>Supporting two LDCs (Bhutan and Nepal) in developing capacity for vulnerability assessment</p> <p>Implementing various initiatives for climate services and information for the agriculture and tourism sectors and for disaster risk assessment in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region</p>
NAP Global Network	<p>Providing technical support to 13 LDCs (Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia and Uganda) 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>Organizing peer learning and exchange events and publishing knowledge, analysis and communications resources on integrating gender and social inclusion considerations; monitoring, evaluation and learning on adaptation; engaging the private sector in adaptation; developing NAP communication strategies; leveraging NAP processes for the formulation of adaptation communications; developing financing and resource mobilization strategies; enhancing sectoral integration of adaptation; increasing vertical integration to create linkages between national and subnational levels; integrating ecosystem-based adaptation approaches into NAPs; and aligning NAPs and peacebuilding processes</p>
SLYCAN Trust	<p>Supporting the engagement of civil society groups in NAP preparation</p> <p>Developing NAP country profiles for identifying NAP entry points for civil society in Chad, Mozambique, Malawi, Myanmar, the Niger, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania</p> <p>Developing research and knowledge products with national partnerships in Niger to analyse human mobility in adaptation processes</p> <p>Developing research and knowledge products on youth engagement in NAPs with a country focus on Niger interlinked with activities of the Global Youth Forum on Climate Change</p> <p>Publishing a policy brief on integrating climate and disaster risk finance options into NAPs</p>
United Nations Capital Development Fund	<p>Supporting the 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 the 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>

Organization	Activities
<p>UNDP (including through NAP-GSP)</p>	<p>Supporting the 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</p>
	<p>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)</p>
	<p>Implementing 10 GCF NAP readiness projects in the LDCs (at least four of which will have developed a NAP by the end of 2021)</p>
	<p>Supporting Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone in completing their first NAPs; Timor-Leste, which submitted its NAP in March 2021; and six LDCs (Burundi, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Senegal and United Republic of Tanzania) in resubmitting or finalizing their GCF NAP readiness proposals</p>
	<p>Implementing four LDCF-approved projects (in Chad, Malawi, Niger and Senegal) and supporting the Democratic Republic of the Congo in accessing funding from the LDCF</p>
	<p>Supporting Cambodia in identifying priority adaptation needs and submitting proposals to the GCF for accessing funding for addressing them through direct access, where requested</p>
	<p>Supporting 39 LDCs under the Climate Promise initiative, as a result of which 17 LDCs have submitted NDCs</p>
<p>UNDRR</p>	<p>Supporting 10 LDCs (Bhutan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mali, Rwanda, Togo, Uganda, Vanuatu and Zambia) under the UNDP NDC support programme to strengthen governance and institutional mechanisms and the enabling environment for investment in and implementation of adaptation action</p>
	<p>Supporting five LDCs (Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Senegal and Uganda) in NDC and NAP implementation through the joint UNDP–FAO programme entitled “Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans” funded by the Government of Germany through the International Climate Initiative</p>
<p>Conducting a south–south virtual exchange and new online training on specific elements of the formulation and implementation of NAPs, and compiling an e-compendium of all NAP-GSP material thereon (jointly with UNEP)</p>	<p>Producing a supplement to the NAP technical guidelines on promoting synergy and alignment between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the context of NAPs</p> <p>Using the supplement, as part of a training package on comprehensive risk management, in 16 LDCs and small island developing States in 2021–2022 towards better understanding and applying system-level approaches to addressing climate and disaster risks, and developing risk-informed NAPs and national disaster risk reduction strategies for adapting to climate change</p>
<p>UNEP (including through NAP-GSP)</p>	
<p>Providing support to six LDCs (Angola, Eritrea, Gambia, South Sudan, Vanuatu and Yemen) for securing GCF NAP readiness funding</p>	<p>Conducting a south–south knowledge exchange of learning and experience sharing with UNDP and NAP-GSP partners, attended by over 150 participants from 35 countries. The forum enabled country participants to exchange learning and experience on the key elements and stages of the NAP process</p>
<p>Preparing, in collaboration with the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the NAP-GSP, an e-training module on the NAP process: formulation, implementation and financing</p>	<p>Developing a supplement to the NAP technical guidelines on integrating ecosystem-based adaptation into NAPs, which will be launched in September 2021</p>
<p>World Health Organization</p>	<p>Developing technical guidance to support the development and implementation of health NAPs, including the recently published quality criteria for health NAPs, and updated guidance on conducting climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessments</p>
	<p>Supporting the development of health-related proposals under the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for eight LDCs: Ethiopia, Haiti, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Sierra Leone and United Republic of Tanzania</p>
	<p>Supporting 13 LDCs in conducting a health and climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessment to inform health NAPs</p>

Organization

Activities

Supporting 18 LDCs in developing the health component of their NAPs

Note: This table is based on information provided by the organizations participating in the NAP technical working group meeting as presented in annex III to document FCCC/SBI/2021/6. The content has been updated on the basis of information provided at the 40th meeting of the LEG.
