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Matters relating to the least developed countries

The 50th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group*

Report by the secretariat

Summary

The 50th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 24 to 27 August 2026. It included discussion on the Group's progress in implementing its work programme for 2026–2027, as well as discussions with the Chair of the Least Developed Countries Group on commemorating 25 years since the establishment of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the least developed countries work programme and the Least Developed Countries Fund, and with representatives of the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund and relevant organizations on providing support to the least developed countries for formulating and implementing national adaptation plans. This report presents information on the status of, and the provision of technical guidance and support for, the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans in the least developed countries; ongoing activities of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in supporting the least developed countries, particularly in the context of national adaptation plans; the Group's integration of a gender perspective into its work; and the Group's collaboration with other UNFCCC constituted bodies and relevant organizations.

* The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline so as to include the most recent information.

Abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee
AF	Adaptation Fund
AI	artificial intelligence
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LDC	least developed country
LDC work programme	least developed countries work programme
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
NAP	national adaptation plan
NAP Global Network	National Adaptation Plan Global Network
NAPA	national adaptation programme of action
NDC	nationally determined contribution
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
SB	sessions of the subsidiary bodies
SCALA	Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
SIDS	small island developing State(s)
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

I. Mandate

1. COP 26 decided to extend the mandate of the LEG under its current terms of reference.[1] The LEG has been mandated by the COP and the CMA to, inter alia:[2]

(a) Support implementation of the LDC work programme;

(b) Provide technical guidance, support and advice to the LDCs in relation to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, the implementation of NAPAs, and matters such as regional approaches to adaptation planning, and strengthening gender-related considerations and considerations regarding vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems in relation to adaptation;

(c) Provide technical guidance and advice to the LDCs, in collaboration with the GCF secretariat, on accessing funding from the GCF for formulating and implementing NAPs;

(d) Formulate recommendations on ways to facilitate the mobilization of financial support for the formulation and implementation of NAPs with a view to addressing the challenges experienced by developing country Parties in accessing funding and support from the GCF for formulating and implementing NAPs, and submit the recommendations to the SCF for consideration;

(e) Undertake activities to facilitate implementation by the LDCs of the Paris Agreement, including preparation of synthesis reports in the context of recognizing the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties and contributing to the development of methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation action and relevant support;

(f) Enhance its provision of support to the LDCs for aligning NAPs and NDCs;

(g) Engage UNFCCC constituted bodies, the GCF, the GEF and its agencies, regional centres and networks, and a wide range of organizations in implementing the LEG work programme.

2. The LEG is mandated to report on its work to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at each of its sessions.[3]

3. COP 22 and COP 29 requested all constituted bodies to include in their regular reports information on progress towards integrating a gender perspective into their processes.[4] COP 30 invited them to enhance implementation of the Belém gender action plan for 2026–2034 and to consider the good practices identified in the synthesis report by the secretariat on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes[5] regarding the integration of a gender perspective their processes and reporting thereon.[6]

4. CMA 7 invited the constituted bodies to integrate just transition elements and outcomes of the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme into their existing workplans and include in their regular reports information on progress in implementing related activities.[7]

5. COP 30 requested the LEG to hold a meeting during NAP Expo 2026 to facilitate an exchange of views among relevant organizations and other stakeholders on enhancing

[1] Decision 15/CP.26, para. 1.

[2] As per decisions 5/CP.7, 29/CP.7, 7/CP.9, 4/CP.10, 4/CP.11, 8/CP.13, 6/CP.16, 5/CP.17, 12/CP.18, 3/CP.20, 1/CP.21, 19/CP.21, 16/CP.24, 7/CP.25, 15/CP.26, 9/CP.27, 10/CP.27, 15/CP.29, 11/CMA.1, 19/CMA.1, 11/CMA.4 and 2/CMA.5.

[3] Decision 6/CP.16, para. 3.

[4] Decisions 21/CP.22, para. 14, and 7/CP.29, para. 18.

[5] FCCC/CP/2025/6.

[6] Decision 7/CP.30, paras. 1 and 12. The Belém gender action plan is contained in the annex to that decision.

[7] Decision 2/CMA.7, para. 16.

provision of support to the LDCs for implementing NAPs, and include a summary of those views in this report.[8]

II. The 50th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

A. Proceedings

6. LEG 50 was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 24 to 27 August 2026.

7. At the meeting, the LEG discussed progress in implementing its work programme for 2026–2027;[9] enhancing its provision of technical support to the LDCs for formulating and implementing NAPs; advancing work on technical guidance on adaptation planning and implementation; supporting LDC access to finance and collaborating with the AF, the GCF and the GEF, in the context of the LDCF, on providing support to the LDCs for adaptation; strengthening capacity-building and peer learning, including at the regional level, in relation to the process to formulate and implement NAPs; monitoring and reporting on progress in that process; integrating gender considerations into its work; collaborating with other constituted bodies and organizations in fulfilling joint mandates and undertaking activities of common interest; and commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the LEG.

8. The LEG extended an invitation to the Chair of the LDC Group to participate in the meeting, including by providing input on commemorating 25 years since the establishment of the LDC work programme, the LEG and the LDCF and the commencement of the provision of support for adaptation planning in the LDCs within the UNFCCC process. In line with the reiterated request for the LEG to mobilize more partners to address specific priority needs of the LDCs,[10] the LEG also invited to the meeting representatives of the AF, the GCF, the GEF and some of its agencies,[11] and other relevant organizations to engage in discussion with the LEG on providing support to the LDCs for formulating and implementing NAPs, as well as with representatives of members of the NAP technical working group.[12]

9. The LEG expressed appreciation to its outgoing members from developed country Parties, Christian Araujo (Canada) and Maaike Willemsen (Kingdom of the Netherlands).

10. The following members were appointed as focal points by the LEG to cover both new and renewed appointments in its ongoing collaborative activities with other constituted bodies:

(a) Mokoena France (Lesotho) and Hana Hamadalla Mohamed (Sudan) in the AC NAP task force;

(b) Kenel Delusca (Haiti), Payai Manyok John (South Sudan) and Hana Hamadalla Mohamed in the joint working group of the AC, the LEG and the SCF on methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and relevant support;

(c) Kenel Delusca, Gabriel Kpaka (Sierra Leone) and Buddi Sagar Poudel (Nepal) in work with the Consultative Group of Experts;

(d) Richard Mfumu Lungu (Zambia) and Buddi Sagar Poudel in work with the Paris Committee on Capacity-building;

[8] Decision 15/CP.30, para. 14.
[9] Contained in document FCCC/SBI/2026/8, annex II.
[10] Decision 15/CP.30, para. 13.
[11] Representatives of FAO, IFAD and UNDP participated in the meeting; invitations had also been extended to the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, Conservation International, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and WWF.
[12] Representatives of the Climate Service Center Germany, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, the NAP Global Network, Sanitation and Water for All, UNCDF and the World Meteorological Organization participated in the meeting.

(e) Mokoena France, Payai Manyok John and Henry Caspar Tufah (Solomon Islands) in work with the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform;

(f) Fredrick Manyika (United Republic of Tanzania), Mery Yaou (Togo) and Benon Yassin (Malawi) in work under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change;

(g) Fredrick Manyika, Payai Manyok John and Idrissa Semde (Burkina Faso) in work with the SCF;

(h) Buddi Sagar Poudel in work with the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Technology Executive Committee;

(i) Orla Kilcullen (Ireland), Idrissa Semde and Henry Caspar Tufah in work with the task force on displacement of the WIM Executive Committee;

(j) Orla Kilcullen, Henry Caspar Tufah and Benon Yassin in work with the expert group on non-economic losses of the WIM Executive Committee;

(k) Gabriel Kpaka, Richard Mfumu Lungu and Mery Yaou in work with the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures.

11. A list of the members of the LEG as at 30 September 2026 is provided in the annex.

B. Activities since the 49th meeting of the Group

12. The LEG took note of the activities it has undertaken since LEG 49, including:

(a) Continuing to provide support to the LDCs that have yet to formulate their first NAP for doing so;

(b) Convening a regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific, held during the first Climate Week for 2026, in Yeosu, Republic of Korea, from 21 to 25 April 2026 under the theme of advancing implementation of NAPs aligned with the global goal on adaptation and access to relevant finance, which included exploring the application of AI in preparing NAPs;[13]

(c) Convening NAP Expo 2026 in Kigali, Rwanda, from 18 to 21 May 2026 under the theme of climate resilience by 2030 and beyond, with a focus on advancing NAP implementation, including by supporting participating countries in translating adaptation priorities into implementation-ready project portfolios and strengthening access to relevant finance;[14]

(d) Engaging in meetings and events at SB 64, including holding a side event on the work of the LEG in supporting the LDCs and participating in:

(i) The preparatory meeting for the LDCs, where the LEG Chair presented an overview of the work of the LEG and the support available to the LDCs for formulating and implementing NAPs;

(ii) Bilateral meetings with Parties to discuss opportunities for accessing support for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, including support related to application of NAPX,[15] an AI tool for organizing and accessing information on NAP priorities;

(iii) The mandated workshop under the Baku Adaptation Road Map;

(iv) A dialogue on the work of constituted bodies relating to adaptation and loss and damage;

[13] See https://unfccc.int/event/regional-nap-expo-CW1-2026.
[14] See https://expo.napcentral.org/2026/.
[15] See https://napx.napcentral.org/.

(v) The 11th meeting of the informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

(vi) A workshop on progress, challenges and opportunities related to identifying needs and accessing means of implementation for climate action in agriculture and food security;

(vii) The interactive segment of the Action for Climate Empowerment Gallery;

(viii) A round table on opportunities for carbon finance with adaptation benefits;

(ix) Workshop on ways to further engage local communities in the UNFCCC process;

(e) Participating in meetings of other constituted bodies, including meetings of the AC, to exchange information and strengthen coordination on adaptation-related work;

(f) Engaging with the GCF secretariat at the above-mentioned NAP Expos to discuss developments and continued collaboration relating to the GCF supporting the LDCs in accessing funding for NAPs;

(g) Developing NAPX as part of the NAP AI Studio package of guidance and tools to support the LDCs in advancing implementation of NAPs;

(h) Conducting a regional 'training of trainers' workshop for African LDCs and SIDS from 18 to 21 August 2026 in Nairobi to strengthen national capacities for the formulation, implementation, monitoring and reporting of NAPs, including by providing training on the application of NAPX and developing a pool of trainers to support continued capacity-building at the national level;[16]

(i) Meeting with the NAP progress report task force to discuss inputs to and information to be included in the 2026 report on progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

(j) Continuing to update NAP Central[17] as a repository of NAPs and NAP-related information and knowledge, as well as associated dashboards and NAP Exchange,[18] a web portal displaying NAP priorities of the LDCs and project concept notes.

C. Status of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans as at 30 September 2026[19]

13. The LEG noted that, of the 44 LDCs, 28 had prepared NAPs and submitted them on NAP Central,[20] 3 had draft NAPs that they expected to finalize and submit in 2026,[21] 11 were in the process of formulating NAPs with support from various organizations[22] and information from 2 LDCs regarding their NAPs was pending.[23]

[16] See https://unfccc.int/event/nap-workshop-africa-2026.

[17] https://napcentral.org/.

[18] See https://napx.napcentral.org/.

[19] This subchapter provides a snapshot of the progress of the LDCs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs. For detailed coverage of the progress of all developing countries, see the annual progress reports, available at https://unfccc.int/node/747.

[20] Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The NAPs are available at https://napcentral.org/submitted-naps.

[21] Angola, Malawi and Mali.

[22] Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Rwanda, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Uganda and Yemen.

[23] Afghanistan and Myanmar.

14. Table 1 presents the status of proposals for formulating NAPs 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.[24]

Table 1
Status of proposals submitted by developing countries for accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund for formulating national adaptation plans, as at 31 July 2026

Region	*Number of submitted proposals*	*Number of proposals approved or in the approval process*	*Number of projects with funds disbursed*
Africa	58 (35)	58 (35)	56 (34)
Asia and the Pacific	27 (8)	26 (7)	25 (6)
Eastern Europe	23 (1)	23 (1)	23 (1)
Latin America and the Caribbean	41 (1)	40 (1)	39 (1)
Total	**149 (45)**	**147 (44)**	**143 (42)**

Notes: (1) Figures in parentheses are for the LDCs; (2) a list of the submitting countries is available at https://napcentral.org/accessing_funding_for_NAPs.

15. Regarding technical support, the LEG continues to offer support to the LDCs for formulating and implementing NAPs via the following main modalities:

(a) Dialogues with individual LDCs to discuss their progress and technical support needs related to formulating and implementing NAPs, including hands-on demonstration of the use of NAPX;

(b) Global and regional NAP Expos, which facilitate exchange of experience between countries and foster partnerships between countries and organizations, agencies and research entities in support of the formulation and implementation of NAPs;

(c) The NAP technical working group and its four subgroups (NAP technical guidelines, NAP implementation support, NAP tracking, and multi-stakeholder forums), which assist the LEG in engaging a wide range of organizations and experts in activities that support the process to formulate and implement NAPs, including developing technical guidelines, reviewing draft NAPs, preparing technical papers, conducting training, identifying ways to address gaps and needs related to formulating and implementing NAPs, and developing tools for monitoring and reviewing progress in the NAP process;

(d) The pipeline development initiative, under which the LEG, with the support of delivery partners, assists the LDCs in formulating or updating NAPs and in identifying project ideas[25] to be developed into concept notes and subsequently proposals for accessing funding from climate funds for implementing the priority adaptation actions identified in those NAPs;

(e) The roster of experts on NAPs from the LDCs,[26] which is maintained by the LEG to support NAP formulation and implementation;

(f) The NAP data initiative,[27] which, by reproducing high-quality data and following global trends in open access, data-sharing and use of cutting-edge tools, enables the LDCs to easily integrate data and analysis results into their NAPs and related outputs.

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

16. The LEG took note of the information provided by the GEF secretariat on the approval by the LDCF–SCCF between January 2026 and June 2026 of grant funding under the LDCF in the amount of USD 85.60 million for 2 global projects and 15 country projects. The

[24] See GCF Board decision B.13/09, para. (e).
[25] See https://napcentral.org/projectcatalogues.
[26] Available at https://napcentral.org/roster-of-experts.
[27] See document FCCC/SBI/2022/18, para. 26.

projects focus on adaptation action relating to coastal zone management, disaster risk management, climate information services, agriculture, natural resource management, infrastructure, health, and water resource management.

III. Ongoing activities and next steps

A. Authoritative technical guidance on adaptation planning and implementation

1. Addressing emerging needs of the least developed countries

17. The LEG noted emerging support needs of the LDCs as the adaptation architecture under the Convention and the Paris Agreement evolves and countries move towards implementation. For example, they require technical guidance for operationalizing the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience and the Belém Adaptation Indicators and meeting the requirements for biennial transparency reporting.

18. The LEG also noted their emerging technical guidance and support needs related to the evolving climate finance architecture, including the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, particularly support for articulating finance needs for adaptation, translating NAP priorities into investment-ready programmes and projects, and navigating modalities for accessing finance. The LEG further noted that the LDCs will have technical support needs with regard to implementing Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, including in terms of understanding its relevance to and potential implications for national climate action planning and implementation.

2. Supplements to the updated technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans

19. The LEG considered a draft technical guide on the stages of NAP implementation[28] and agreed to finalize it in 2026 as a supplement to the updated NAP technical guidelines.[29] The guide frames NAP implementation as a country-led, iterative process through which the priorities in the NAP are translated into executed and monitored adaptation action, financed through different funding channels, with results and learning fed back into subsequent planning and implementation. NAP implementation encompasses eight stages (organize, plan, package, finance, approve, disburse, deliver and learn), which can be grouped into four phases:

(a) **Foundation – organize and plan**: the country establishes its institutional, coordination, financing and delivery architecture for the implementation of NAPs and translates the NAP into a framework for sequenced implementation of costed priorities;

(b) **Access – package, finance and approve**: NAP priorities are developed into programmes or projects, matched with appropriate financing instruments, submitted on behalf of countries and approved for the target sources of finance;

(c) **Delivery – disburse and deliver**: approved finance is made available to the country and then delivered for implementation of activities through national, sectoral, subnational and local systems;

(d) **Learning – monitor, evaluate and adjust**: progress, effectiveness and equity of implementation of NAPs are assessed, lessons are documented, and the NAP and its implementation portfolios are updated.

20. NAP implementation thus encompasses the NAP priorities moving through all these stages, not only when a climate fund approves a project. The NAP priority becomes the means of accounting for progress, throughout NAP implementation, and makes it possible to

[28] Available at https://unfccc.int/documents/660779.

[29] LEG. 2025. *The NAP Technical Guidelines: Updated technical guidelines for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at https://napcentral.org/nap-guidelines.

measure coverage of the priorities, financing gaps, conversion of NAP priorities into projects, and the speed of implementation, delivery of funding for implementation and results thereof, consistently, without imposing the burden of a new survey on countries.

21. The LEG also considered a draft technical note on applying elements of the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience to NAPs[30] and agreed on the need for further work on the note prior to its finalization.

22. The LEG took note of the following planned supplements to the updated NAP technical guidelines under development by partner organizations:

(a) A technical note, by the World Meteorological Organization Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative, on costing implementation of adaptation action, with a focus on multi-hazard early warning systems and climate information services;

(b) A supplement, by UN-Water, on supporting achievement of climate-resilient water and sanitation security under the global goal on adaptation;

(c) A supplement, by the United Nations Children's Fund, on developing, implementing and monitoring implementation of child-responsive NAPs.

23. The LEG provided initial feedback on those supplements and will provide further input as their development progresses.

3. Tool for monitoring and evaluating progress, effectiveness and gaps in relation to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

24. The LEG developed a draft technical guidance note on "PEG M&E Pathways: Monitoring Distance to Limits",[31] an update to the PEG M&E tool.[32] The note was presented at NAP Expo 2026 and the LEG side event during SB 64, and shared on the LEG web page for feedback. A finalized version is planned for publication before the end of 2026.

4. Disseminating knowledge and best practices for adaptation planning and implementation

25. The LEG discussed supporting the LDCs in documenting and sharing their experience of formulating and implementing NAPs through the NAP scientific writing initiative launched at NAP Expo 2026.[33] The initiative aims to support the LDCs and SIDS in transforming knowledge generated through NAPs into structured knowledge products, such as scientific papers, case studies and compilations of lessons learned. Following the Expo, the LEG invited the LDCs and SIDS to submit ideas for a scientific publication under this aim. The LEG:

(a) Noted that five submissions had been received,[34] with several other LDCs and SIDS having expressed interest in making submissions;

(b) Agreed to reopen the submission window with a firm deadline to encourage additional contributions from interested LDCs and SIDS;

(c) Further discussed the road map for taking the initiative forward, including validation of submissions made, the mode of work, including online drafting and an in-person review and meeting for validating drafts developed, possible participation in the initiative by interested organizations, and the structure of the overall publication;

(d) Established a task force to review the submissions and provide feedback on advancing the submissions to contributing countries.

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[30] Available at https://unfccc.int/documents/657986.

[31] Available at https://unfccc.int/documents/657985.

[32] LEG. 2015. *Monitoring and assessing progress, effectiveness and gaps under the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans: The PEG M&E tool*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at https://unfccc.int/node/640432.

[33] See https://expo.napcentral.org/2026/event/2-8-1-nap-scientific-writing-workshop-leg-groups-red-and-yellow/.

[34] From Benin, Haiti, Lesotho, Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

B. Adaptation finance for implementing national adaptation plans

1. Matters relating to accessing funding

(a) Green Climate Fund

26. The GCF reported that, as at 31 July 2026, through the Expert Placement Scheme under the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, liaison officers[35] had been deployed in 21 LDCs; 96 requests for liaison officers had been received from developing countries, including 64 from the LDCs and SIDS, and 58 placement contracts had been signed and liaison officers placed. As ongoing challenges in relation to the Scheme, the GCF identified issues with the roll-out of the Scheme, difficulties in identifying available local experts with the required skills to act as liaison officers, and changes in focal points of national designated authorities affecting continuity of their engagement in the recruitment of liaison officers.

27. As at 31 July 2026, 126 projects supporting implementation of adaptation (and cross-cutting) priorities in the LDCs, in the amount of USD 4.63 billion, had been approved by the GCF, of which 28, amounting to USD 956 million, had been approved for 17 direct access entities, while 39 approvals had been provided under the GCF Project Preparation Facility, in the amount of USD 30.6 million to support the formulation of large-scale adaptation projects.

28. The GCF reported that 62.2 per cent of approved Project Preparation Facility applications and 53.7 per cent of committed Project Preparation Facility resources were directed to 46 direct access entities, while 37 of 60 approved funding proposals supported by the Facility were submitted by direct access entities. It also reported that 78.3 per cent of approved funding proposals supported by the Facility directed resources to the LDCs, SIDS and African States, and that its revised accreditation framework and measures under the Efficient GCF initiative[36] had been operationalized to accelerate accreditation processing.

29. The LEG noted that, as at 31 July 2026, 13 of the 44 LDCs had a total of 21 national direct access entities, of which 10 had not yet accessed funding from the GCF (see table 2).

Table 2
Direct access entities in the least developed countries accredited by the Green Climate Fund as at 31 July 2026

Country	*Direct access entity*	*Project size accreditation*	*Number of approved projects*
Bangladesh	Infrastructure Development Company	Medium	1
	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation	Medium	3
Benin	National Fund for the Environment	Micro	2
Burkina Faso	Intervention Fund for the Environment	Micro	0
Cambodia	National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development	Micro	1
Ethiopia	Ministry of Finance	Medium	2
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Environment Protection Fund	Micro	0
Mali	National Bank for Agricultural Development	Small	0
	Mali-Folkecenter – NYETAA	Micro	0
Nepal	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre	Small	1
	National Trust for Nature Conservation	Micro	1
	Nepal Investment Mega Bank	Medium	0

[35] See https://www.greenclimate.fund/access-funding/readiness-preparatory-support/gcf-liaison-officer.
[36] See https://www.greenclimate.fund/about/secretariat/efficient-gcf.

Country	*Direct access entity*	*Project size accreditation*	*Number of approved projects*
	Town Development Fund	Small	0
Rwanda	Development Bank of Rwanda	Medium	0
	Ministry of Environment	Small	3
Senegal	Agricultural Bank	Small	1
	Ecological Monitoring Centre	Micro	2
Uganda	Ministry of Water and Environment	Small	0
United Republic of Tanzania	Cooperative and Rural Development Bank	Medium	1
Zambia	Development Bank of Zambia	Medium	0
	Zambia National Commercial Bank	Small	0

Source: GCF open data library, available at https://data.greenclimate.fund/public.

Note: 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 micro, small and medium-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).

(b) Global Environment Facility

30. The LEG noted that, as at 30 June 2026, 78.4 per cent of the expected USD 920 million[37] for national programming under the LDCF in the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (covering 2022–2026) had been programmed on the basis of the USD 20 million initial cap per LDC. Of the 44 LDCs, 25 had accessed their full USD 20 million under the LDCF,[38] with USD 721.50 million for national programming and USD 35.09 million for global and regional initiatives, totalling USD 756.59 million in LDCF programming under the eighth replenishment. Table 3 indicates the LDCF resources not accessed by the LDCs under the eighth replenishment, which are not carried over to the ninth replenishment, which started on 1 July 2026. Owing to LDCF resource constraints, seven technically cleared full-sized projects[39] and five medium-sized projects[40] were unfunded during the eighth replenishment.

Table 3

Amount of resources not accessed by the least developed countries up to their resource cap under the Least Developed Countries Fund during the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (covering 2022–2026) as at 30 June 2026

(USD million)

Country	*Resources not accessed*
Afghanistan	20.00
Bangladesh	10.20
Benin	10.00
Democratic Republic of Congo	10.00
Eritrea	10.00
Guinea	9.00

[37] This amount includes the allocations for Bhutan and Sao Tome and Principe, which were considered LDCs at the start of the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund and are therefore eligible for LDCF support during that period.

[38] Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Yemen and Zambia.

[39] In Bangladesh, Benin, Eritrea, Guinea, Liberia, Mozambique and Niger.

[40] In Madagascar, Malawi, Nepal, Timor-Leste and Uganda.

Country	*Resources not accessed*
Guinea-Bissau	10.00
Haiti	10.00
Liberia	10.00
Madagascar	8.00
Malawi	5.00
Mozambique	10.00
Myanmar	20.00
Nepal	5.50
Niger	10.00
Sudan	10.00
Timor-Leste	10.00
Tuvalu	16.70
Uganda	4.00

Source: Adapted from table 1 of GEF document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.40/03.

(c) Adaptation Fund

31. The LEG noted that, as at 30 June 2026, the LDCs accounted for approximately 33 per cent of the overall AF project portfolio, representing approximately USD 542 million across the LDCs.

32. The LEG also noted that 40 LDCs had at least one AF project,[41] 8 with NAPs had at least one single-country AF project[42] and 10 had at least one regional project,[43] and that the current data systems of the AF do not systematically link individual projects to specific NAP priorities.

33. The LEG further noted that 13 LDCs with NAPs[44] had a combined 23 single-country project proposals under development or review under the AF, requesting approximately USD 229 million, and that the LDCs accounted for approximately USD 780 million of the active pipeline of the AF across 54 projects.

2. Discussion with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Adaptation Fund

(a) Moving from prioritization of adaptation action in national adaptation plans to implementation

34. The GCF representative indicated that close coordination between national designated authorities and accredited entities on implementation of adaptation action in NAPs, with the country fully owning the process throughout, and drawing on the full range of available support modalities, including support beyond the GCF, were recurring features among countries, with collaboration among multilateral climate funds and the use of country platforms cited as good practices in this regard.

35. The AF representative highlighted several features of its support for the LDCs, including (1) a three-stage process for submitting project proposals, through which countries can start by developing a pre-concept note and receive iterative feedback from the AF secretariat before a full submission; (2) the option of making regional adaptation project proposals; and (3) the use of small grants as a stepping stone to larger-scale financing. The development by the AF and the GCF of a joint framework for scaling up proven adaptation projects and programmes, initially funded by the AF, through GCF financing was noted,

[41] Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Timor-Leste are the LDCs that did not have an AF project.

[42] Bangladesh, Benin, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Nepal, Somalia and Zambia.

[43] Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Kiribati, Nepal, Niger, Togo and Zambia.

[44] Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Somalia, Tuvalu, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

which could help the LDCs to move from receiving smaller-scale support to larger-scale adaptation financing.

36. The GEF representative reported that progress from prioritization of adaptation priorities to implementation was strongest when projects were supported by sustained political ownership, interministerial coordination and inclusive consultation. The representative highlighted clear implementation arrangements, realistic timelines, and robust fiduciary safeguards and monitoring systems as important factors for approval of projects. Under the ninth replenishment of the GEF, the plan is to address barriers to the approval of projects through stronger country engagement, streamlined procedures and targeted capacity-building under the LDCF project-based implementation approach.

(b) Access to finance and delivery arrangements

37. The GCF representative noted that the GCF Readiness Programme can support countries in identifying potential national institutions that can pursue GCF accreditation for accessing funding. The project-specific assessment approach allows countries to work with an institution of their choice, including a non-accredited institution, to implement a specific GCF-funded project.

38. The representative reported that the project-specific assessment approach portfolio comprised, as at 31 July 2026, 12 approved funding proposals representing USD 624.6 million in GCF financing, with additional applicants anticipated for consideration by the GCF Board. The approach can facilitate project implementation in the short term, while readiness support for identifying and strengthening national institutions provides medium- to longer-term solution to building national capacity for obtaining direct access funding.

39. The representative indicated that entities in the LDCs pursuing direct access accreditation may require targeted support for strengthening institutional systems, particularly in relation to fiduciary governance, environmental and social safeguards, and gender policies. The GCF is developing support mechanisms for direct access accreditation, including targeted pre-accreditation technical assistance, and a dedicated readiness window that provides up to USD 1 million per entity over four years for post-accreditation support and strengthening the institutional and programming capacity of direct access entities.

40. The GEF representative reported that, under its ninth replenishment, NAPs will serve as a basis for identifying and prioritizing LDCF investments, with an emphasis on implementation. The LDCs can use their NAPs, as well as NDCs, NAPAs where applicable and other nationally approved strategies, to identify priority adaptation needs and translate them into projects and programmes eligible for funding under the LDCF.

41. The representative also reported that, through the LDCF country engagement strategy, programming dialogues and project-based implementation approach, countries and project executing entities will be supported in relation to project design, implementation readiness, fiduciary and safeguards compliance, monitoring, reporting and adaptive management. Enhanced GEF Portal and systematic pipeline tracking will support tracking from national prioritization and concept development through submission, approval and implementation.

3. Effective and iterative process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

42. The LEG discussed the development of a registry containing a list of adaptation priorities presented in NAPs and a catalogue of associated project profiles, with the registry and catalogue drawing on relevant functionalities of NAPX to facilitate their use by climate funds, delivery partners and other actors in supporting NAP implementation, while also providing a basis for tracking implementation progress and informing reporting on national adaptation priorities and progress.

43. The LEG agreed that the registry and catalogue will be made available on the UNFCCC website for long-term archival and dissemination and that further work is needed to develop the concept, including whether priorities from sources other than NAPs can be included, how the information will be presented, and the potential uses for the registry and catalogue.

C. Technical support for the transition from formulation to implementation of national adaptation plans

1. Enhancing support for formulating, updating and implementing national adaptation plans

44. The LEG noted the ongoing technical support provided to the LDCs and SIDS for formulating and implementing NAPs following engagement with country teams at NAP Expo 2026[45] and during SB 64.[46]

45. Recognizing the importance of providing sustained technical support to countries for advancing their formulation and implementation of NAPs, the LEG agreed to:

(a) Continue providing technical support to the LDCs for formulating NAPs taking into account countries' differing stages of progress and country-specific technical needs and challenges;

(b) Continue following up with countries that have received or are receiving technical support and leverage relevant regional training activities to address any gaps or challenges faced in formulating NAPs;

(c) Assess the extent to which project ideas for implementing NAP priorities developed through LEG workshops and partner initiatives have progressed to concept notes and submitted project proposals, with a view to informing future support efforts.

2. National adaptation plan technical working group and its subgroups

46. The LEG took note of the continued support provided by the NAP technical working group for the work of the LEG, including in organizing NAP Expos and coordinating the provision of technical support to the LDCs for formulating and implementing NAPs. The LEG agreed to continue engaging various organizations and experts through the NAP technical working group to further accelerate NAP formulation and implementation in the LDCs.

D. Capacity-building and peer learning, including at the regional level, in relation to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

1. Training on formulating and implementing national adaptation plans

47. The aims of the regional 'training of trainers' workshop for African LDCs and SIDS, organized under the LEG work programme for 2026–2027 and the NAP 3.0 initiative,[47] were to build the capacity of trainers from the LDCs and SIDS to deliver national training on the application of NAPX and to accelerate NAP formulation and implementation.

48. The LEG noted the successful conduct of the workshop and highlighted its relevance in complementing the ongoing direct provision of support to countries for advancing NAP implementation.

49. By the end of the workshop, participants had:

(a) Gained hands-on experience in applying NAPX and AI-assisted approaches to support NAP formulation and implementation;

(b) Exchanged experience and good practices relevant to using AI for advancing NAP formulation and implementation;

[45] Concerning Comoros, Djibouti, Guinea, Malawi, Mauritania, Senegal, South Sudan, Uganda and Yemen.

[46] Concerning Burundi, Chad, Kiribati, Mozambique, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

[47] See https://unfccc.int/NAP-3.0.

(c) Identified areas requiring further technical support and follow-up, including additional practical exercises, country-specific case studies on the application of NAPX and guidance on the use of AI tools for generating NAP-related outputs such as concept notes and project profiles.

50. The LEG agreed on the following actions to be undertaken following the workshop:

(a) Following up with participants to assess progress in cascading the training to the country level and identify further technical support needs of countries;

(b) Developing a simplified one- to two-day version of the training for replication at the country level, complemented by an online refresher for the trainers who participated in the regional workshop;

(c) Providing follow-up materials and AI prompts progressively, linked to demonstrated progress by countries in applying NAPX and delivering training at the country level;

(d) Taking into account participant feedback in designing future training activities;

(e) Developing a technical note describing NAPX and its applications.

51. The LEG plans to organize similar 'training of trainers' workshops for the LDCs and SIDS in the Asia-Pacific region to support the application of NAPX and AI-assisted approaches in NAP formulation and implementation, to be held in 2026–2027.

2. NAP Expos

52. The LEG took note of the successful conduct of the regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific, which was aimed at strengthening participants' understanding of how the different elements of the adaptation process are connected, from understanding the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience and identifying national adaptation priorities and pathways to planning adaptation implementation, accessing support and monitoring progress. It highlighted the importance of coordinating actors across sectors and levels of governance, including ministries, local governments, climate funds and other stakeholders, in support of integrating countries' adaptation priorities into the effective formulation and implementation of NAPs.

53. The LEG also took note of the successful conduct of NAP Expo 2026 and expressed appreciation to all contributors to the event and the diverse stakeholders that participated.

54. Highlights of the Expo include:

(a) The launch of NAPX as part of the NAP AI Studio to support countries in advancing NAP formulation and implementation;

(b) Matchmaking of adaptation project ideas, aligned with countries' NAP priorities, with potential sources of finance, and discussions on readiness support for NAP formulation and implementation;

(c) Discussions on advancing NAP implementation through a portfolio-based approach, combining readiness, adaptation policy and concrete adaptation activities;

(d) Hands-on exercises for countries to assess progress towards achieving the global goal on adaptation targets in their national contexts, and discussions on strengthening monitoring, evaluation and reporting in relation to adaptation;

(e) The launch of the NAP scientific writing initiative to support participants in translating experience of NAP formulation and implementation into structured scientific publications with a view to sharing lessons and strengthening the adaptation knowledge base.

55. Noting the positive feedback on the matchmaking activities, the LEG agreed to:

(a) Continue the matchmaking and project-concept development work initiated at NAP Expo 2026 as an ongoing activity, including through future NAP Expos, with the active engagement of the AF, the GCF and the GEF, and address the need to actively include accredited delivery partners in the future;

(b) Further assess the extent to which project concept notes developed through LEG activities have progressed to become submitted or funded project proposals, including through engagement with funds and delivery partners, noting that access to delivery partners remains a key constraint on advancing country-developed project ideas;

(c) Explore mechanisms for tracking engagement between countries and delivery partners, including the outcomes of such engagement, with a view to building an evidence base on relevant barriers and good practices;

(d) Explore opportunities to engage delivery partners in using NAPX to support the development of project concepts with countries.

3. Capacity-building coordination platform for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans

56. The LEG noted the need for greater coordination among organizations undertaking capacity-building needs assessments in relation to NAP implementation and for capacity-building to be responsive to those needs.

57. The LEG reviewed a concept for a capacity-building coordination platform, aimed at enhancing coordination of capacity-building support for NAP formulation and implementation, and discussed its development as a framework for bringing together existing efforts to identify capacity-building needs and map them against the updated NAP technical guidelines and the eight stages of NAP implementation.

58. The LEG agreed to continue consideration of the capacity-building coordination platform, including its further development and possible next steps in this regard.

4. Meeting on enhancing support for implementing national adaptation plans

59. As mandated,[48] the LEG held a meeting, as referred to in paragraph 5 above, during NAP Expo 2026 to facilitate an exchange of views among representatives of Parties, constituted bodies, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the AF, United Nations organizations, multilateral and bilateral agencies, regional organizations and other stakeholders supporting adaptation planning and implementation.

60. The meeting highlighted the need to facilitate the transition from NAP formulation to implementation. The views expressed underscored that implementation extends beyond the approval of or access to finance and requires a functioning pathway from establishing the institutional and financing architecture, through developing costed and sequenced implementation strategies and investment-ready pipelines, securing and disbursement of finance, delivering adaptation actions through national and local systems, and tracking results and lessons learned.

61. Persistent bottlenecks along this pathway were identified, including:

(a) Limited access to GCF accredited entities that are willing and able to prepare and submit a project proposal based on one or more NAP priorities;

(b) Insufficient capacity of accredited entities to respond to the scale of LDC needs in terms of developing project proposals and supporting the implementation of multiple projects across several countries;

(c) Simplified access and templates for project proposals not necessarily leading to faster access to climate finance for implementation of projects for many LDCs;

(d) Unequal access to climate finance, with many LDCs continuing to face difficulties accessing available finance through climate funds despite significant adaptation finance needs;

(e) Limited uptake by financers of concept notes and project pipelines developed by the LDCs, as very few have progressed into projects that have been approved, had funds disbursed and been delivered;

[48] Decision 15/CP.30, para. 14.

(f) Low uptake of existing support offers by the LDCs, such as support provided for accreditation of direct access entities, deployment of liaison officers and support for project development;

(g) Capacity gaps in meeting fiduciary and procurement standards;

(h) Gaps in tracking progress beyond finance approved or accessed and results against NAP priorities, which make it difficult to determine which priorities have been funded, how much finance has been disbursed and how supported activities are contributing to NAP implementation.

62. The meeting also highlighted the need for support to be organized around country-led NAP implementation programmes, including by:

(a) Establishing a common NAP implementation tracking framework to track each priority from planning and packaging through approval, disbursement of funds, delivery and learning of lessons;

(b) Communicating NAP priorities in investible forms through standardized summaries tailored to different audiences;

(c) Supporting 'whole-of-NAP' implementation and investment strategies, which would provide the basis for the preparation and development of coherent investment portfolios, coordinated engagement with delivery partners, allocation of priorities among financing sources and identification of funding gaps;

(d) Providing longer-term institutional capacity-building for managing large adaptation programmes, including fiduciary, procurement and programme management capacities;

(e) Improving access of the LDCs to GCF accredited entities and increasing the number of accredited entities and other delivery partners and their capacity to respond to the scale of LDC needs in terms of developing project proposals and supporting the implementation of multiple projects across several countries.

63. Finally, the importance of moving from fragmented, project-based support towards a more coherent, country-led implementation architecture that connects readiness, investment planning, finance, delivery and learning across the NAP implementation stages was underscored.

64. The LEG agreed to take into account the views expressed during the meeting in its ongoing work on enhancing provision of support to the LDCs for implementing NAPs.

E. Synthesis of knowledge on adaptation, and monitoring and reporting on progress in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

65. The LEG considered the draft elements of the 2026 NAP progress report and discussed the approach to assessing and communicating progress in NAP implementation, including in relation to the different stages of implementation, adaptation finance and project alignment with NAP priorities.

66. The LEG invited organizations to identify the stages of NAP implementation addressed by their support and to provide verifiable data on support they have provided and the results achieved, along with examples of good practices to inform the report during its development.

67. The LEG agreed to develop a technical guide on the stages of NAP implementation and a technical paper on methodologies for tracking progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs to supplement the 2026 NAP progress report.

F. Integration of cross-cutting elements into and coordination of work programme activities

1. Response to mandates from the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

68. The LEG took note of progress and next steps in addressing the following mandates from the COP, the CMA and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation:

(a) Compiling an overview of climate finance flows and financial support provided for NAP formulation and implementation for inclusion in the 2026 report on progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs:[49] the LEG considered a draft overview and agreed to meet with the AC and the SCF to further refine the approach to compiling it;

(b) Developing tabular formats for adaptation reporting, including through biennial transparency reports:[50] the LEG considered an initial approach to developing the tabular formats, building on the organization in NAPX of adaptation information by risk, adaptation function and solution, and agreed to further develop the approach and engage with the AC and the Consultative Group of Experts to promote coherence in guidance being given to Parties on using the tabular formats through their respective work;

(c) Formulating recommendations on ways to address challenges in accessing funding from the GCF for NAP formulation and implementation and submitting them to the SCF for consideration:[51] the LEG submitted recommendations to the SCF on 17 August 2026 for consideration at its 41st meeting;

(d) Collaborating with other constituted bodies and organizations in undertaking work under common or related mandates:[52] the LEG considered ways to strengthen collaboration and support more structured engagement at an earlier stage of work, including through virtual meetings or small teams designated to work jointly on addressing specific mandates.

2. Consideration of gender

69. The LEG considered the draft paper on integrating gender considerations into NAP formulation and implementation, which is based on case studies, submitted in response to a call issued in 2024, on support provided by organizations to the LDCs for integrating gender considerations into NAPs.[53] The LEG agreed to finalize the paper and publish it before the end of 2026.

70. Gender-disaggregated information on participation in the events of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in 2026–2027 is provided in table 4, in line with the agreement of the LEG at its forty-eighth meeting to include such information in its reports in order to enhance transparency and accountability.[54]

Table 4
Participants in events of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in 2026–2027, by gender

Event	*Total number of participants*	*Female participants (%)*	*Male participants (%)*
Regional NAP Expo 2026	72	49	51
NAP workshop for Africa 2026	51	35	65
NAP Expo 2026	213	43	57

[49] Decision 8/CP.30, para. 12.
[50] Decision 12/CMA.7, para. 14.
[51] FCCC/SBI/2025/11, para. 133.
[52] Decision 19/CP.21, para. 7.
[53] See document FCCC/SBI/2025/7, para. 40.
[54] See document FCCC/SBI/2025/15, para. 47.

3. Collaboration under the UNFCCC

71. The LEG continues to collaborate with other constituted bodies in undertaking its work, as mandated by the COP and the CMA. In 2026, the AC organized sessions at the regional NAP Expo on translating indicators of progress towards the global goal on adaptation into national monitoring, evaluation and learning systems, and to NAP Expo 2026 on advancing adaptation monitoring, evaluation and learning systems and addressing adaptation reporting challenges through the NAP process. At SB 64, the LEG engaged in a joint dialogue with the AC, the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, and the WIM Executive Committee on their respective mandates, ongoing work and areas of support relevant to adaptation and loss and damage. In addition, the LEG participated in meetings of other constituted bodies to exchange information and strengthen coordination on adaptation-related work.

72. The LEG agreed to explore organization of a meeting with the other constituted bodies to discuss further enhancement of collaboration among them.

73. The LEG took note of its ongoing collaborative activities and potential areas for further collaboration under the UNFCCC and agreed to continue engaging, through its members, in those collaborative activities.

4. 25 years of the least developed countries work programme, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Least Developed Countries Fund and provision of adaptation support within the UNFCCC process

74. The Chair of the LDC Group congratulated the LEG on reaching 25 years since its establishment and highlighted the evolution of the LDC work programme over that time from addressing urgent and immediate needs through NAPAs to the longer-term NAP process, noting that implementation of adaptation at scale is now a key challenge for the LDCs.

75. The Chair of the LDC Group emphasized the importance of adequate, predictable and accessible adaptation finance for the LDCs and strengthening their capacity for adaptation implementation, and called for increasing focus on programmatic approaches to NAP implementation and differentiated support, reflecting the fact that LDCs are at different stages of the NAP process.

76. The LEG agreed to organize a high-level event for commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the LDC work programme, the LEG, the LDCF and provision of support for adaptation planning in the LDCs within the UNFCCC process at COP 31.

77. The LEG agreed to establish an organizing committee comprising representatives of the LEG, the LDC Group and the LDCF to coordinate preparations for the high-level event.

5. Discussion with Global Environment Facility agencies, organizations and regional networks and centres

78. The LEG considered the evolving support needs of the LDCs as they move from NAP formulation to implementation, and invited organizations to share their approaches to supporting NAP implementation, including continuous capacity-building and the roll-out at the national level of training in the application of NAPX.

(a) Support for implementation of national adaptation plans

79. The LEG discussed the NAP implementation pathway, comprising four phases and eight stages, as a framework for tracking progress in NAP implementation and informing the 2026 NAP progress report, and considered how existing support provided by organizations maps across the different stages.

80. The LEG and organizations discussed areas where further support is needed across the NAP implementation stages, including strengthening institutional and financial arrangements, developing investment strategies and accessing appropriate sources of finance, and supporting delivery and monitoring, evaluation and learning in relation to NAPs.

81. A representative of FAO highlighted its provision of support to the LDCs across the NAP implementation stages, noting that it supported 35 LDCs in formulating and

implementing NAPs in 2025. FAO supports the translation of NAP priorities into concrete implementation and funding proposals through, for example, the SCALA programme in five LDCs, the Food Security and Agriculture: Accelerating Adaptation project in two LDCs and the IMP-ACT project in one LDC. In its provision of support for the delivery of NAPs, it assists the LDCs, inter alia, in integrating NAP priorities into local plans, aligning disaster plans with NAP objectives and implementing locally led adaptation. The representative highlighted the support provided by FAO to the LDCs for developing monitoring, evaluation and learning systems for tracking adaptation progress and linking NAPs with other national processes, including NDCs and biennial transparency reports.

82. A representative of IFAD highlighted its provision of support to the LDCs for translating NAP priorities into fundable projects, mobilizing climate finance, strengthening institutional and technical capacity for adaptation planning and implementing adaptation interventions in rural areas, including through its Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme[55] and collaboration with the AF, the GCF and the GEF to support Governments in developing and financing adaptation projects. The representative noted that adaptation accounts for 91 per cent of IFAD climate finance in its thirteenth replenishment cycle (covering 2025–2027).

83. A representative of the NAP Global Network highlighted that approximately half of the requests for technical assistance and peer learning support it receives are from the LDCs and SIDS and that 20–30 per cent of those relate to the transition from NAP formulation to implementation. Ongoing provision of support to the Niger for adaptation budgeting and to Burkina Faso and Grenada for the planning and development of NAP investment frameworks; provision of sustained in-country support to Kiribati through embedded adaptation advisors; and provision of support to Nigeria for developing a project concept note for submission to the AF following a matchmaking symposium at NAP Expo 2026 (which connected 12 countries, including 8 LDCs, with climate finance institutions), were highlighted.

84. A representative of Sanitation and Water for All highlighted its provision of support to the LDCs for implementing NAPs through capacity strengthening, its coordination of stakeholders in water- and sanitation-related areas for working towards meeting the relevant target under the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience, and its engagement with the AF and the GCF to ensure that water and sanitation are reflected in their thematic guidance. The representative noted the development by Sanitation and Water for All, through consultation with members, of an implementation framework for climate-resilient water supply and sanitation; and highlighted the partnership's contribution to the development of the water supplement to the updated NAP technical guidelines led by UN-Water.

85. A representative of UNCDF highlighted its provision of support to the LDCs for moving from prioritization of actions in NAPs to investment and implementation, with a particular focus on packaging and financing adaptation priorities. UNCDF provides performance-based grants, loans and guarantees and supports blended finance and financial structuring to de-risk investments and mobilize additional finance, including from the private sector. The representative highlighted the importance of microfinance institutions, development finance institutions, central banks, commercial banks and national development banks for sequencing investments and blending different types of capital to catalyse additional finance for adaptation.

86. A representative of UNDP highlighted its provision of support to the LDCs across the NAP implementation stages, noting that it supported the formulation and submission of 47 of the 79 NAPs submitted by developing countries, including 19 LDCs, and is supporting 17

[55] In the Programme's first phase, IFAD supported projects in Bangladesh, Benin, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, the Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, the Gambia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, the Niger, Rwanda, the Sudan and Uganda. In the second phase, support required was identified for projects in Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia. Under the Enhanced Programme, projects are being implemented in Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, the Niger, Somalia and Yemen.

LDCs with funding from the GCF Readiness Programme. UNDP is also implementing adaptation projects in 33 LDCs, through 58 projects funded by the AF, the GCF and the LDCF, with total funding of USD 681.90 million. Support is provided for NAP formulation, investment planning and readiness, project pipeline development and the preparation and implementation of full-size programmes under the GCF, and through the Adaptation Accelerator Hub, which supports countries in developing adaptation investment strategies and translating adaptation priorities into pipelines. Sector-specific support is also provided in collaboration with FAO through the SCALA programme and the World Health Organization in relation to health. The representative noted that the absence of a dedicated global NAP support programme limits opportunities for coordinated provision of support to countries. The engagement of UNDP in NAP Expo 2026 and the NAP Implementation Alliance[56] was highlighted.

(b) Capacity-building and collaboration

87. The LEG discussed NAPX and its potential to improve the management and use of information contained in NAPs by presenting structured information on country adaptation priorities, needs and solutions.

88. The LEG discussed the potential use of NAPX by organizations and delivery partners in supporting adaptation project development and NAP implementation, including the use of NAP priorities in developing investment concepts, and its potential to support tracking and reporting of NAP implementation.

89. The LEG agreed to explore opportunities for coordination with delivery partners to identify and address country-specific bottlenecks in progressing to NAP implementation, including issues related to the sequencing of NAP-related activities and deliverables within projects.

90. The LEG noted interest from organizations in receiving training on the use of NAPX and in applying it in their work in collaboration with countries.

91. The representative of FAO expressed its interest in exploring synergies with the work of the LEG on NAP-related products using AI, including through the forthcoming FAO Climate and Agrifood Policy Dashboard, which integrates NDCs, NAPs and national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The collaboration of FAO with national centres, universities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to strengthen the capacity of national stakeholders to implement adaptation action at the national and subnational level was highlighted.

92. The representative of IFAD highlighted its regional presence, networks and partnerships as avenues for continuous capacity-building for NAP implementation, including through technical support, peer learning, training, and South–South and triangular cooperation. Through its recently established climate adaptation finance ‘training of trainers’ programme, 15 trainers have been qualified to deliver training on adaptation finance and investment, with the next step being to create opportunities for them to do so across IFAD regions, country teams and partner networks and to adapt the training materials to country contexts. The representative noted that NAPX could support country-led adaptation planning and investment readiness, including by supporting countries in developing bankable projects aligned with NAP priorities for incorporation into IFAD country strategic frameworks and regional programmes.

93. The representative of the NAP Global Network highlighted online courses, peer learning and exchanges between regional NAP team cohorts and the deployment of national adaptation advisors in ministries leading NAP formulation and implementation as approaches to continuous capacity-building. Its online course on monitoring, evaluation and learning in the NAP process has been completed by more than 2,000 people and a course on gender equality and social inclusion in the NAP process has also been launched. The representative noted that the NAP Global Network could support national NAPX training on an on-demand basis, subject to availability of capacity and prioritization of requests.

[56] See https://www.adaptation-undp.org/nap-implementation-alliance.

94. The representative of Sanitation and Water for All highlighted its regional capacity-strengthening workshops, through which more than 350 people have received training to build their understanding of the global goal on adaptation, the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience and water- and sanitation-related targets, and their capacity to implement related adaptation priorities. The partnership's continued work with UN-Water and other partners to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders working on water- and sanitation-related matters to understand and implement NAP priorities was highlighted.

95. The representative of UNCDF highlighted its engagement with other United Nations entities and financing actors through platforms and initiatives that support climate resilience-building and access to adaptation finance. The role of climate finance units within ministries of finance and national development banks in supporting the transition from adaptation planning to investment and implementation was emphasized. UNCDF could work with such institutions to strengthen their familiarity with available financing tools and support their engagement in adaptation finance.

96. The representative of UNDP highlighted the role of national and regional networks, centres and universities in sustaining capacity-building for the NAP process, facilitating South–South knowledge exchange, developing courses and curricula on climate resilience and serving as knowledge hubs. The representative identified competitive procurement requirements as a constraint to engaging some universities and centres in the LDCs as providers of capacity-building support for NAP formulation and implementation and, where such engagement is possible, noted the need for long-term support to maintain their capacity-building role. Regarding support for national NAPX trainers, it was noted that training budgets within ongoing NAP projects could potentially support such activities, subject to available resources and project arrangements.

IV. Priority activities for 2026–2027

97. The LEG agreed to continue prioritizing its activities on the basis of its mandate and the evolving needs of the LDCs, in line with its work programme for 2026–2027.

98. The LEG identified the following priority activities for the remainder of 2026 and 2027:

(a) Continuing to provide technical advice to the LDCs transitioning from formulating to implementing NAPs;

(b) Strengthening capacity-building through the capacity-building coordination platform referred to in paragraph 57 above57 above and peer learning aimed at supporting NAP implementation;

(c) Developing a registry and catalogue of NAP adaptation priorities based on NAPs submitted by the LDCs to support implementation of NAPs through project development and matchmaking with potential funders, and to facilitate tracking progress in NAP implementation;

(d) Continuing to engage with the AF, the GCF and the GEF, including in the context of the LDCF, to address challenges faced by the LDCs in accessing adaptation finance;

(e) Preparing the 2026 NAP progress report, including the overview of climate finance flows, and continuing to track progress in NAP formulation and implementation;

(f) Finalizing and publishing technical products currently under development;

(g) Further developing NAPX, including preparing training materials, and promoting its uptake to support NAP implementation by countries and delivery partners;

(h) Conducting a regional 'training of trainers' workshop for Asia-Pacific LDCs and SIDS, focusing on capacity-building for using NAPX and implementing NAPs;

(i) Preparing for the commemoration of 25 years of the LDC work programme, the LEG and the LDCF and the commencement of the provision of adaptation planning support to the LDCs within the UNFCCC process at COP 31.

Annex

Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group as at 30 September 2026

Member	*Party*
Kenel Delusca	Haiti
Mokoena France	Lesotho
Payai Manyok John	South Sudan
Orla Kilcullen	Ireland
Gabriel Kpaka	Sierra Leone
Richard Mfumu Lungu	Zambia
Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
Hana Hamadalla Mohamed	Sudan
Buddi Sagar Poudel	Nepal
Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
Henry Caspar Tufah	Solomon Islands
Mery Yaou	Togo
Benon Yassin	Malawi