



EXPANDING THE ONGOING SUPPORT TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WITH COUNTRY-DRIVEN PROCESSES TO ADVANCE NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS (NAPS)

Programme highlights 2016 – 2022



The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) or the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by UNEP or UNDP in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of UNEP or UNDP.

Acknowledgments

This highlights report has been prepared by the Programme team of the joint UNDP-UNEP NAP Global Support Programme. Special thanks to Tomke Rinschede for drafting, Felix Genet for designing and Melanie Pisano for coordination and finalization. Technical inputs from Sadya Ndoko and Rohini Kohli from UNDP are gratefully noted. The programme would like to thank members of its Technical Advisory Group and partners: FAO, GIZ, GWP, SEI, UNDRR, UNFCCC (Secretariat), UNHabitat, UNITAR, WHO and WMO.

EXPANDING THE
ONGOING SUPPORT
TO LEAST DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES WITH
COUNTRY-DRIVEN
PROCESSES TO ADVANCE
NATIONAL ADAPTATION
PLANS (NAPS)

Programme highlights 2016 – 2022

LIST OF CONTENTS

LIST OF BOXES	2
LIST OF ACRONYMS	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
1. PROGRAMME KEY HIGHLIGHTS	6
2. PROGRAMME BACKGROUND	7
3. FOUNDATIONAL SUPPORT TO ENHANCE ADAPTATION PLANNING AND TRANSITION TO IMPLEMENTATION	8
3.1 Stocktaking of past and ongoing adaptation activities	8
3.2 Mobilizing resources for strengthening adaptation planning	8
3.3 Interministerial coordination	10
3.4 Formulation of national adaptation plans	10
4. TECHNICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT	10
4.1 Regional trainings	11
4.2 Country level capacity development	12
4.3 Self-paced training and online resources	12
5. KNOWLEDGE BROKERING	12
6. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	12
6.1 Self-paced training and online resources	13
6.2 Self-paced training and online resources	14
7. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	14
8. PROGRAMME PARTNERS	15
9. LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE	16

List of boxes

Box 1: Nepal receives financial support from the GCF to advance their NAP process	9
Box 2: Supporting Haiti to Advance their NAP Process	9
Box 3: Africa Regional Training Workshop on Adaptation Finance	11
Box 4: National Adaptation Plans in focus: Lessons from Bangladesh	13

List of acronyms

APAN	Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network
CAF	Cancun Adaptation Framework
CAR	Central African Republic
CBA	Cost-benefit Analysis
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
COP	Conference of Parties
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
GAN	Global Adaptation Network
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGCA	Global Gender and Climate Alliance
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GWP	Global Water Partnership
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
LDC	Least Developed Country
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
NAP-GSP	National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
SCALA	Scaling up Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through NDCs and NAPs Programme
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WHO	United Nations World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations identifies 46 countries as a group categorized as “Least Developed Countries” (LDCs) around the world, based on three main criteria: low income, low human index and assets and high economic vulnerability. Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are among the most vulnerable to extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change, because they have the least capacity to cope with and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. In many LDCs, a large percentage of the populations live in rural areas and the livelihoods and food security of these communities heavily depend on the agriculture, livestock, natural resources and water sectors. Climate change poses a direct impact on these sectors, which in consequence impacts already vulnerable communities.

In 2011, at the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP17) the LDC Work Programme and scope for capacity development was established as Decision 5/CP.17, which acknowledged the specific needs and special situations of LDCs when adapting to the impacts of climate change. Under this decision, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As of December 2021, at the COP27 the LEG celebrated its 20th anniversary and looks towards the priorities for the next ten years.

To support fulfill the LDC Work Programme mandate, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) since 2013; it jointly implemented by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a support mechanism to assist LDCs to advance their National Adaptation Plans processes.

From 2016-2021, the NAP-GSP provided accurate climate change adaptation support to 59 developing countries, of which 28 were LDCs. This Highlights Report provides an overview of the NAP-GSP’s expanded foundational support to enhance adaptation planning and transition to implementing National Adaptation Plans in LDCs. The report aims to cover the technical capacity development provided through regional and country-level trainings. Thanks to the NAP-GSP partners, the Programme held in-person and virtual South-South and North-South exchanges, developed online tools and training packages as well as facilitated knowledge

brokering between countries to share experiences and lesson learned about their adaptation planning processes over the years.

During 2020-2021, based upon country requests, the Programme in consultation with the LDC Expert Group and the project board incorporated designed a work plan to support seven LDCs in formulating their first NAPs. During the programme duration, many LDCs were able to access other sources of financing support - including the GCF readiness adaptation planning window, as well as support from bilaterals, which has resulted in an acceleration of adaptation planning support to countries. Due to a combination of these factors, partnerships fostered by the NAP GSP with development partners, more comprehensive NAPs, as well as mainstreaming processes are expected between 2022 and 2025.

The cumulative support from the programme not only advanced the NAPs processes in country, but also contributed to the growing momentum of climate change adaptation actions providing the opportunity for LDC representatives to participate at key international and regional events. It further supported countries to increase their capacity for accessing and mobilizing adaptation finance – both domestically and internationally, which strengthened their adaptation planning capacities for increased resilience to climate change.



1. PROGRAMME KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **28 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have received individual support:** Benin, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Vanuatu, and Zambia.
- The Programme supported the development of **22 country briefs** from the series of NAP in focus, including: Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burundi, Cambodia, CAR, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, DRC, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Timor Leste.
- **5 regional briefs** (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Caribbean, Latin America and Middle East and Northern Africa) and 15 NAP stocktaking reports were completed.
- **278 technicians from 42 LDCs were trained**, of which 106 were women.
- **1 self-paced training (e-modules) on the NAP process. In addition, 4 comprehensive thematic training packages** to advance the NAP process in developing countries, including LDCs, have been developed on the following themes: [Ecosystem-based Adaptation \(EbA\)](#), [appraisal and prioritization of adaptation options](#), [adaptation finance](#), and [mainstreaming of adaptation in water resource management](#).
- **5 regional training workshops were organized in association with the NAP-GSP for developing countries (non-LDCs) and 4 regional training workshops that were targeted towards LDCs, exclusively.** The themes of these trainings covered: innovation and implementation of NAPs for the Caribbean including Haiti; appraisal and prioritization of adaptation options for Asia and Pacific countries; South-South cooperation and adaptation finance for African countries; mainstreaming of climate change adaptation in water resource management for Asian countries; formulating NAPs for an integrated, risk-informed climate response for African and Asia Pacific LDCs; and accelerating NAPs and integrating transboundary climate risks into the NAP process for Asian LDCs.,
- The Programme facilitated the **exchange of knowledge and lessons learned** through South-South and North-South cooperation. The [final flagship event of the Programme](#) was a South-South Knowledge Exchange Forum which was held from 28 June to 1 July 2021. The event aimed to facilitate an exchange by the LDCs of the learnings, lessons learned, existing and untapped opportunities in addressing medium- and long-term adaptation needs through the NAP process. It was attended by approximately 170 country participants from 30 LDCs and 6 non-LDCs from the 4 regions [Asia, Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)]. The event also brought in the targeted subject matter expertise of 10 NAP-GSP partners (FAO, GIZ, NAP-Global Network, SEI, UN-Habitat, UNDRR, UN Women, UNITAR, WHO, and WMO).
- It **promoted its activities and successes through a dedicated website** with a great number of web stories, a quarterly e-newsletter sent to more than 2,600 recipients, and via main social media accounts such as Twitter, YouTube, or Flickr. Approximately 2,000 visitors visited the NAP GSP website (<http://globalsupportprogramme.org/nap-gsp>) every month.

- The Programme assisted LDCs in identifying, accessing and sequencing various sources of climate finance. It developed a **targeted training module on climate finance** focusing on project preparation that was provided during training workshops in LDCs.
- It mainstreamed **gender considerations and women's empowerment** through encouraging participation of women at the regional targeted training workshops, developing training module on gender and climate change adaptation, and creating gender-sensitive content, amongst others.

2. PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Climate change and associated climate variability negatively affect future development and pose a serious challenge to poverty reduction and sustainable development efforts, globally. Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are particularly impacted, and while they have made significant progress towards addressing the most urgent and immediate effects of climate change more work is needed to integrate medium- to long-term adaptation needs into the framework of national development planning and budget processes. LDCs often lack access to well-organized knowledge, institutional structures, and technical capacities to inform climate-resilient planning in the medium- to long-term.

A request was made at the 2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP17) in Durban for United Nations agencies to consider support mechanisms to assist LDCs to advance their National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes. As a response, in 2013, the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) was tasked to *"Assisting Least Developed Countries with country-driven processes to advance National Adaptation Plans"*. It was implemented jointly by UNDP and UNEP, and financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). It provided critical support to a majority of LDCs to initiate or advance their NAP process. Gaps remain in the capacity of LDCs to implement and/or advance NAP processes, and the demand for support is increasing.

To continue supporting LDCs and contributing to addressing the above-mentioned gaps, UNDP and UNEP implemented the project *"Expanding the Ongoing Support to Least Developed Countries with country-driven processes to advance National Adaptation Plans"* commencing in 2016. It aimed to further strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of LDCs to plan, finance, and implement adaptation interventions through the integration of climate change into medium- to long-term development frameworks. These objectives are achieved through the provision of institutional and technical support, training, and the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned.

Over 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic posed restrictions on travel and group-gatherings, which impacted the timely delivery of in-country support. The Programme took adaptive steps that shifted greater investment in national experts and preformed virtual data collection, accordingly. Since 2020, planned workshops and Forums were conducted online. In this context, the project board decided to extend the project until December 2021.

3. FOUNDATIONAL SUPPORT TO ENHANCE ADAPTATION PLANNING AND TRANSITION TO IMPLEMENTATION

The expanded LDC Support Programme was built on the previous phase of enhancing the institutional support to LDCs, and included new countries that requested support and others that requested additional follow-up support.

The Programme provided institutional and capacity development support and assisted LDCs in undertaking new or ongoing initiatives to strengthen national capacities for:

- Vulnerability analysis particularly focusing on country-specific priority sectors;
- Economic assessment of adaptation options;
- Climate-resilient planning and budgeting, taking gender into consideration;
- Policy development;
- Coordination and collaboration capacities;
- Leadership capacities; and
- Management capacities [e.g., financial readiness and monitoring and evaluation (M&E)].

These activities were undertaken in coordination with other global programmes for capacity development. By fostering coordination between different ministries, the Programme helped to identify and align its objectives with relevant ongoing and planned initiatives related to national planning and budgeting.

3.1 STOCKTAKING OF PAST AND ONGOING ADAPTATION ACTIVITIES

The Programme supported LDCs in undertaking a stocktaking exercise. The country stocktaking reports included an overview of the climate change context and vulnerabilities, national policies and institutional set-ups, key stakeholders, on-going climate change adaptation initiatives, and provided assessments of capacity development needs. The reports identified gaps and weaknesses for effectively addressing climate risks. It also proposed suitable options for governance structure and institutional coordination mechanisms were also proposed.

3.2 MOBILIZING RESOURCES FOR STRENGTHENING ADAPTATION PLANNING

Country teams in LDCs received support for stocktaking and baseline analysis of entry points and definition for NAP process related activities, identifying, accessing, and sequencing various sources of climate finance, notably from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). This enabled countries to mobilize additional resources that are necessary to further progress in their NAP process and sustained their efforts after the NAP-GSP lifetime.

A [targeted training module on climate finance](#) substantially focused on project preparation and was provided during training workshops to experts from LDCs. It was used to capacitate national technical staff to understand the processes of developing and overseeing bankable project processes, and to enable them to collaborate and guide external project preparation experts. The programme also collaborated with the LEG to deliver an online workshop on NAP formulation and transition towards NAP implementation with a focus on accessing the GCF. It also organized a webinar on accessing the GCF in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership (GWP).

Eleven LDCs were supported by the NAP-GSP (Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, DRC, Guinea, Haiti, Liberia, Madagascar, Niger, Somalia and Tanzania) have had their NAP readiness proposal approved by the GCF.

Box 1: Nepal receives financial support from the GCF to advance its NAP process (2018)

The Government of Nepal with the support from UN Environment Programme (UNEP) launched its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to build institutional capacity to address the adverse impacts of climate change. This was Asia's first Green Climate Fund (GCF)-financed NAP project launched in Nepal.

The project benefitted from nearly US\$3 million in financing from the GCF. This three-year project supported Nepal to advance its process to formulate and implement its NAPs with a particular focus on climate-sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, infrastructure resilience and food security.

It supported the Government of Nepal to enhance adaptation planning processes, strengthen systems for developing and sharing climate risk and vulnerability information, and established financing and monitoring strategies for the NAP.

Box 2: Supporting Haiti to advance their NAP process

Haiti is exposed to the threat of sea level rise and increasingly intense hurricanes and tropical storms. These hazards are jeopardizing food security, infrastructure and the safety of the population.

In August 2017, the NAP-GSP undertook a mission to Haiti and initiated a stocktaking of available information, policies, plans, strategies and programmes relevant to the NAP process.

Based on the stocktaking mission, a Stocktaking Report was produced in consultation with all key stakeholders. This included a roadmap outlining the processes and objectives needed to develop the NAP. The participatory development of the NAP roadmap began at an inter-sectoral NAP training held in Montrouis (Haiti), and was later validated at a high-level NAP consultation workshop held in Port-au-Prince.

The Programme also helped build capacity and facilitated access to additional climate finance specifically through supporting the preparation of a Readiness and Preparatory Support Proposal to submit to the Green Climate Fund, that outlines the NAP project's request for funding. The Programme was approved in 2019.



3.3 INTERMINISTERIAL COORDINATION

To be sustainable, climate change adaptation planning and implementation needs to involve a variety of key stakeholders from ministries (for example, finance, development, planning, and environment), subnational governments, the civil society, the academia, and the private sector.

The Programme cooperated with a network of technical experts (for example, from UNDP, GIZ, and UNITAR) with experience in delivering training on the NAP process to conduct NAP country-level training for interministerial teams in LDCs. Stakeholders and promoted champions were recognized and activated through a training-of-trainers and mentoring, and a community of medium- to long-term adaptation practitioners was created.

As a result of the Programme, supported countries have started and/or advanced the mainstreaming of adaptation at national or sectoral levels, building on previous developments of policies, plans [such as the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)] and other climate change strategic plans, ongoing NAPs and NDCs. In many participating countries, the ministries of finance and/or development and planning accelerated the integration of adaptation in national planning and there was increased political will to mobilize resources for climate change adaptation. Guidelines on several aspects of adaptation planning processes have also been produced with the help of the Programme.

3.4 FORMULATION OF NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS

In response to the call made by the UNFCCC Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) for all LDCs to submit a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) by 2020, the project team worked closely with the LEG to identify underserved countries and support them in advancing their NAP preparation.

Support has been provided to seven countries (Burundi, [Chad](#), [Central African Republic](#), Democratic Republic of the Congo, [Sierra Leone](#), [South Sudan](#), and [Timor-Leste](#)) to prepare an initial NAP which summarizes existing climate-related information and presents the results of a gaps and needs analysis. Most of the NAPs are submitted to the UNFCCC. The programme also supported peer reviews of comprehensive NAPs, such as in Liberia.

4. TECHNICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The Programme supported targeted trainings on the development of tools and methodologies through regional training workshops and capacity building activities at the country level. National staff were trained on integrating adaptation into medium- to long-term national planning and budgeting. Impartial advisory support was also provided to LDCs based on their request.

Three comprehensive thematic training packages to advance the NAP process in developing countries, including LDCs, have been developed in collaboration with UNITAR on respectively:

- Mainstreaming of climate change adaptation in water resource management,
- Appraisal and prioritization of adaptation options for national adaptation planning, and
- Adaptation finance and gender Integration.

Additional gender modules on the practical application of gender considerations in the NAP process have been developed, with support of a gender expert.

Each training package includes an E-tutorial, a participant's manual containing reading materials and exercises, a facilitator's manual on 'how to conduct the trainings', and a set of slides and evaluation forms. Additionally, a training-of-trainers for partner organizations was organized in March 2018 to enhance the delivery of future NAP-GSP trainings.

4.1 REGIONAL TRAININGS

The Programme organized NAP regional training workshops: two in Asia, three in the Pacific, three in Africa (two for Anglophone and one for Francophone countries) and one in Latin America and the Caribbean (in which Haiti was invited). Two additional workshops were planned in the first semester of 2020, one for Francophone African LDCs and one global workshop for LDCs. However, these were rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Box 3: Africa regional training workshop on adaptation finance

The NAP-GSP organized two four-day training workshops on Adaptation Finance for Africa, one for anglophone and one for francophone countries. Representatives from Ministries of Environment, Planning and Finance from over 50 countries across Africa met in Kigali (Rwanda) to attend consecutive workshops on adaptation financing, held in English from 25-28 September 2018, and in French from 1-4 October 2018.

African developing countries have requested for more support to access adaptation financing and for adaptation project development. The training workshops included knowledge exchange on the financial landscape of adaptation, exercises on developing bankable proposals, and discussions on best practices to facilitate South-South collaboration.

The trainings were facilitated by the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) together with experts from other organizations, including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), Regional Agricultural and Environment Initiatives Network Africa (RAEIN-AFRICA), Fund for Environment and Climate Change in Rwanda (FONERWA) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). For these trainings, the NAP-GSP team also collaborated with the UNDP Strengthening of Governance of Climate Finance team on sessions related to gender and climate finance.

During the regional training workshops, national experts from planning and finance ministries were trained on adaptation planning and climate change finance, while experts from climate change vulnerable sectors (such as agriculture and water) were trained on long-term vulnerability assessments and identification of appropriate adaptation options.

4.2 COUNTRY LEVEL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The Programme supported a total 20 LDCs in receiving training in climate finance, 16 in appraisal and prioritization of adaptation options, and seven in mainstreaming climate change adaptation in water resource management. In addition, four LDCs have received training in water and appraisal, four in appraisal and finance, and one in water and finance.

4.3 SELF-PACED TRAINING AND ONLINE RESOURCES

The Programme delivered a 3-module new e-training course on NAPs which aimed at strengthening understanding of the NAP process elements, challenges in NAP formulation and implementation strategies, including gender responsiveness, as well as access to finance. The modules were developed in English and French, in collaboration with UNITAR. The Programme also developed an E-compendium on NAPs, representing the entire knowledge wealth of NAP-GSP materials developed and published to date.

5. KNOWLEDGE BROKERING

The Programme developed country and regional briefs, participated in advocacy and enhanced digital outreach activities through its dedicated website, and other knowledge-sharing platforms. It actively promoted the content generated through social media and e-newsletters, amongst others.

Knowledge and lessons learned from individual countries were also captured in a series of filmed interviews as part of the regional training workshops and are available on the NAP-GSP YouTube channel and social media accounts, including Twitter, SlideShare, Flickr, and Adobe Spark. The latest interviews were conducted with representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, and Timor-Leste on the margins of the regional training workshop for Asian LDCs, which took place in September 2019. This was the last face to face meeting held before the pandemic started.

6. COUNTRY AND REGIONAL BRIEFS

Twenty two country briefs from the series of '*NAP in Focus – Lessons from Countries' Experiences*' have been produced and are available on the NAP-GSP website, including for Bangladesh, Benin (French and English), Bhutan, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic (CAR), Cote d'Ivoire (French and English), Djibouti, DRC (French and English), Guinea (French and English), Guinea Bissau, Haiti (French and English), Liberia, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger (French and English), Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Timor Leste. Six additional country briefs were produced in the remaining period of the project for CAR, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Timor-Leste.

Country experiences were also gathered through the participation at the LEG, UNFCCC intersessional meetings, COPs, and other global and regional events (for example, Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation (APAN) Forum, Adaptation Futures Conference, Gobeshona Conference, and NDC partnership meetings). Five regional briefs (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Caribbean, Latin America and the Middle East and North Africa), and NAP stocktaking reports for 15 countries were completed.



Box 4: National Adaptation Plans in focus: Lessons from Bangladesh

Bangladesh is often considered as one of the most vulnerable country to climate change, climate variability and extreme weather events. It is expected that climate change will impact a range of sectors (e.g., agriculture, forestry, healthcare, etc.) and will directly affect livelihoods, and worsen the economy and poverty rates.

Substantial engagement on climate change and adaptation planning has taken place in Bangladesh. It was one of the first LDCs to submit its National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) in 2005, identifying and prioritizing adaptation projects for immediate and urgent implementation. The Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan sets forward six pillars for climate change adaptation and mitigation, whilst identifying 44 priority programmes.

Adaptation is included in the key national development plan, such as the Seventh Five Year Plan for the period 2016-2020. Adaptation has been also integrated to a limited degree in key sectoral policies, such as water and agriculture. The Nationally Determined Contribution of Bangladesh (2015) identifies an adaptation goal to *“protect the population, enhance their adaptive capacity and livelihood options, and to protect the overall development of the country in its stride for economic progress and wellbeing for the people.”* The government of Bangladesh is engaged in the NAP process which is expected to deliver a comprehensive National Adaptation Plan in 2022 as well as upgradation of a national knowledge platform on adaptation. Through the NAP process it has taken a series of steps to capacitate decision-makers with risk informed planning and budgeting

6.1 ADVOCACY

The Programme activities significantly contributed to strengthen the NAP agenda in LDCs. Workshops organized by the NAP-GSP increased the intensity and efficiency of interactions between institutions and individuals working on NAPs. This helped building communities of NAP practitioners at global and regional levels.

It further produced several resources on the NAP process, and contributed to the GCF initiating a special window on NAPs as part of their Readiness process. While this is not a direct delivery of the Programme, to a great extent it is a consequence of the political will and advocacy promoted by the Programme through its participants.



The programme developed the [Supplementary Guidelines for integrating Ecosystem-based Adaptation \(EbA\) into NAPs](#). This was developed with extensive consultations with numerous partners, including the UNFCCC and LEG.

Lastly, the Programme developed thematic case studies and used key events, such as NAP Expos, COPs and Subsidiary Bodies interessional sessions to share knowledge generated, including the lessons learned in supporting countries. The NAP country briefs proved useful to negotiators to present their countries' situation.

6.2 DIGITAL OUTREACH

The Programme gathered and shared examples of best practices and enhanced knowledge exchange through knowledge-sharing platforms. The Programme published country milestones, event summaries and decisions, web stories and interviews with government stakeholders, interactive NAP tools and knowledge products through its public web platform. Approximately 2,000 visitors visit the NAP-GSP website every month (over 24,000 in total during the reporting period).

Seven webinars were conducted in collaboration with the following partners including:

- NAP Global Network (September 2019)
- Slycan Trust (June 2020), targeting Asian LDCs and focusing on the impacts of COVID-19 on Asian LDCs National Climate Plans
- NAP-Global Network (AFD) (July 2020), targeting Francophone LDCs and focusing on M&E for NAPs
- CapNet, targeting Lusophone LDCs (November 2020) looking at how NAPs can support the raised ambition of NDCs
- African Development Bank and the Africa Adaptation Initiative (December 2020), targeting Anglophone African LDCs and focusing on increasing adaptation action through aligning NAPs and NDCs
- Global Water Partnership (October and December 2021) on respectively integrating climate risks in the water sector and accessing the GCF Readiness window for NAPs.

7. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The project acknowledged that a comprehensive consideration of gender issues and women's empowerment is a prerequisite for sustainable development. It built on the lessons learned from its previous phase in order to improve gender mainstreaming in all of its activities.

The project mainstreamed gender considerations through the following approaches:

- Participation from relevant ministries in the Programme's activities was encouraged to ensure that needs and challenges of women, youth, and other marginalized population groups are represented in the NAPs national teams;
- One-on-one technical support provided to LDCs included gender analyses and facilitated the mainstreaming of gender considerations into climate change adaptation plans;
- LDCs were encouraged to invite female participants to the regional targeted training workshops. To date, a total of 106 female participants were trained out of 278 participants, accounting for 38 percent of participants.
- A separate training module on gender and adaptation planning was developed and delivered in each of the three regions. Gender experts provided support on gender issues during the projects;
- Gender sensitive training sessions and workshops were delivered that ensured that: a) both male and female participants are empowered to meaningfully participate in the trainings, and b) all participants are made aware of their responsibility to respect the views of all of their colleagues during training sessions;
- Project partnered with relevant organizations, such as UN Women and Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA);
- Generated knowledge by the project is gender-sensitive, ensuring inclusion and sensitivity towards differences among target audiences; and
- The project used appropriate access and communication channels to reach men and women equally when disseminating knowledge and training materials.

8. PROGRAMME PARTNERS

The project collaborated with a range of related initiatives and partners focusing on strengthening LDC's capacities for integrating climate change adaptation into medium- to long-term planning.

NAP-GSP Partners include: the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, the UNFCCC's Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), the Adaptation Committee (AC), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO), and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

The programme has also been closely collaborating with other organizations and programmes to promote medium- to long-term adaptation planning knowledge in LDCs, building on the partnerships developed during the first phase of the NAP-GSP for LDCs, and including: UN specialized and bilateral agencies (AFD, AfDB; FAO, GIZ, GWP, UNICEF, IFAD, UN Habitat, UNITAR, UNOSD); research institutes, academic, think tanks and civil society organizations (Adaptation Futures, CapNet, CBA Conferences, Global Commission

on Adaptation, Gobeshona Conferences, GERICS, ICCCAD, KEI, LDCs University Consortium on Climate Change, SEI, SlycanTrust and TERI); regional and global networks (the NAP Global Network; the Global Adaptation Network (GAN); the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN); the Africa Adaptation Knowledge Network (AAKNet); and Communities of Practice (CoPs) within the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) and ADAPT-Asia Pacific “Knowledge Sharing Strategies and Platform”); UNDP Climate Promise, the NDC Partnership, UN Development Group (UNDG)’s joint Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS).

Activities were also closely coordinated with the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)-funded project support programme “Assisting non-LDC developing countries with country-driven processes to advance National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)”. The project implementation strategy was highly dependent on a comprehensive stakeholder participation at national and regional levels. Key national partners were identified; these included relevant planning ministries (such as Finance, Planning, and Development), as well as key line ministries (Agriculture, Water, Public Works, Energy, Environment, Health, Women’s Affairs, and Forestry).

The NAP-GSP for LDCs cooperates also with the newly established FAO-UNDP co-led SCALA programme (Scaling up Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through NDCs and NAPs), the successor of the Nap-Ag programme. The SCALA programme supports 12 countries, including five LDCs (Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Senegal, and Uganda).

9. LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

The programme identified, analyzed, and shared experiences and lessons learned that will be beneficial in the design and implementation for future national adaptation planning activities. This is extremely important as these experiences will play an integral part for assessing economic, environmental, and social vulnerabilities to current and future changes in climatic conditions.

Numerous LDCs have made great advancements in formulating and implementing their NAPs since the project inception. There is, however, room for further improvement in some areas, such as obtaining more funding, increasing private sector engagement, and developing long-term capacities, amongst others.

For the future, countries may want to consider expanding their stakeholder engagement with the youth, civil society, and the private sector. Interaction and collaboration of various stakeholders at different levels can increase the efficiency to achieving medium- to long-term objectives on climate change adaptation.

The Programme has developed an exit strategy for seeking to prepare the grounds for countries to continue to advance their NAP process beyond the duration of the project. This should be achieved through strengthening technical capacities of government stakeholders (for example, staff from the ministries of environment, development planning and finance), supporting the development of roadmaps, developing and sharing materials (such as tools, manuals, and lessons learned) that can inform the NAP process, raise awareness and involvement from the private sector, and help to identify, access, and sequence external financial resources.





