

National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP)

South-South Knowledge Exchange Forum

June 2021

Key Highlights

Introduction

The National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) organized an online South-South Knowledge Exchange Forum during 28 June to 1 July 2021. The Forum aimed to facilitate an exchange of learnings, lessons learnt, as well as existing and untapped opportunities experienced by Least Developed Country (LDC) Parties in addressing their medium- and long-term adaptation needs through the process to formulate, implement, and finance National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). These insights will help countries to make greater strides in their respective NAP processes in the near future. The Forum also aimed at informing current NAP formulation efforts by facilitating a global exchange, highlighting emerging best practices, and presenting experiences with existing tools that policymakers, technical experts, and government officials have made use of.

The NAP-GSP is jointly implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF).

The Forum was delivered over four days and each day focused on a set of topics. Given the significant time differences between countries, participants have been clustered into three different groups.

This report presents an overview of the key messages captured under seven topics which were the key building blocks of the South-South Knowledge Exchange Forum.

Opening of the Forum

Group 1: Mr. Mozaharul Alam (Regional Coordinator ROAP, UNEP) opened the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) South-South Knowledge Exchange Forum for group 1 by giving an overview of the NAP-GSP, which is jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP, with funding from the GEF. Due to the current ongoing pandemic this forum had to be organized through online platform, with over 300 participants from multiple time zones spread across three group of countries and four days. The opening remarks were given by Ms. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director, UNEP Regional Office of the Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Jaco Cilliers, Manager of the Bangkok Regional Hub, UNDP, and Mr. Ram Prasad Lamsal, Nepal- LEG Vice Chair.

Group 2: Ms. Rohini Kohli (Lead Technical Specialist, Adaptation Planning, UNDP) opened the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) South-South Knowledge Exchange Forum for group 2 by thanking participants for joining this session from different parts of Africa. After three weeks of hectic negotiations conducted virtually, the team wished it could have done this Forum in person. She continued that the team is grateful for participants taking the time to joining this session today. The opening remarks were given by Ms. Jessica Troni, Head Climate Change Adaptation Unit, Ecosystems Division, UNEP, Dr. (Mr.) Filipe Domingos Freires Lúcio, Director, Regional Strategic Office, Member Services & Development Department, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and Mr. Ram Prasad Lamsal, Nepal- LEG Vice Chair.

Group 1: *Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Kiribati, Solomon Island, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. A total of 77 country participants attended the discussions over the four days.*

Group 2: *Burundi (F), Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Zambia, Comoros (F), Djibouti (F), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar (F), Somalia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen. A total of 105 country participants attended the discussions over the four days.*

Group 3: *Haiti (F), Burkina Faso (F), Gambia, Guinea (F), Guinea-Bissau (L), Liberia, Mali (F), Mauritania (F), São Tomé and Príncipe (L), Senegal (F), Sierra Leone (A), Togo (F), Angola (L), Benin (F), Central African Republic (F), Chad (F), Democratic Republic of the Congo (F), Niger (F), Mozambique (L). A total of 158 country participants attended the discussions over the four days.*

Group 3: Ms. Elisabeth Bernhardt, Programme Officer, Climate Change Adaptation, and Coordinator GAN, UNEP, opened the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) South-South Knowledge Exchange Forum for group 3 by thanking participants for joining this session from different parts around the globe. Over the next four days this Forum will facilitate an exchange of the learnings, lessons learnt, existing and untapped opportunities, by the LDCs in addressing their medium- and long-term adaptation needs through the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). The opening remarks were given by Ms. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, Director and Regional Representative, UNEP Regional Office for Africa and Mr. Kenel Delusca, Haiti - LEG Chair.

Key Highlights

Topic 1: Formulation of mandate and institutional coordination mechanism for NAP process.

1. NAPs should be developed using a whole-of-society approach that leaves no one behind.

- Participatory and inclusive approaches “leaving no one behind” have improved cross-sectoral and cross-ministerial communication and coordination structures (Nepal), and the lessons-learned especially from previous efforts on National Adaptation Plan of Action (Bhutan) have supported formulation processes of the NAP. National Climate Change Committees and multi-sectoral committees on climate change have been set up as a result of institutional coordination mechanisms. Bhutan and Nepal have set up technical working groups to support formulation and implementation of NAP.
- The creation of a strong coordination set up is vital, with clear roles and responsibilities, and to be able to identify synergies and coherence amongst key stakeholders (Madagascar, Somalia). Strong partnerships and knowledge exchange are key for a strong NAP (Madagascar).

- In Bhutan, there are around 22 technical working group members that are being maintained throughout various climate change projects to ensure synergies amongst different projects and avoid duplication of efforts. Nepal has set up Thematic Working Groups across 12 thematic areas (8 sector-specific and 4 cross-cutting) and a strong NAP Institutional Coordination Mechanism (including a NAP Steering Committee, Project Management Unit, Provincial Climate Change Coordination Committee, and others).
 - In Togo, a technical coordination committee was implemented, which followed the major mission to organize communication and awareness and approve and control the quality of integrating adaptation into the national development frameworks and budgets.
2. Government ministries, sub-national governments, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, the academe and the private sector are all important stakeholders that can provide valuable inputs for NAP.
- Successful formulation of a strong NAP can be used as a basis for attracting international support to increase national resilience (Bhutan), clear outcomes and activities that target the set-up of sound coordination, planning, and finance frameworks is vital for a strong NAP. Political will is key (Somalia).
 - Local development plans play an integral role to help implement and integrate national adaptation planning efforts at the local level (Senegal).
 - Important to integrate adaptation into finance and planning ministries and include such stakeholders during all stages of the NAP. It is further crucial to coordinate across many ministries, institutions, and partners, nationally and internationally (Senegal).
3. Climate change adaptation must also be mainstreamed into national development policies and plans.

- Integration of adaptation into development planning is crucial (Madagascar). It is vital to properly take stock of current and past activities on adaptation planning efforts, and identifying synergies between NAPs, NDCs, and SDG enhancement activities (Bhutan). It is important to identify existing initiatives in priority sectors and to align efforts to ensure non-duplication of measures (Madagascar).
 - NAPs should be addressing vulnerabilities through systematic vulnerability assessments, national capacity building, and making adaptation planning a part of regular development planning process (Bhutan). Long-term development policies are important to ensure that climate change in general and adaptation are being introduced across sectors and levels of government (Mongolia). Strong NDC/NAP implementation plans for the short-, medium-, and long-term are important milestones to support and complement such efforts. The country's NAP development process is in line with its NDC action plans and engages a variety of stakeholders and partners. National Climate Change Policies, as presented by Nepal, for example, are vital to ensure that efforts are cross-sectoral and cross-institutional.
4. Capacity building needs are vital.
- Nepal learnt that the country needs increased coordination efforts, especially more regular capacity building exercises and meetings. Further, there is no direct vertical linkage between/among sectoral ministries. Furthermore, the current pandemic hampering inclusive and consultative process and institutional capacity development. Gender inclusivity is central to the NAP process. Climate change adaptation cannot be successful without the involvement of all people in a country, and women in particular. The focus on gender should be an integral part of the communication and engagement plan (Somalia).
 - Important to develop strong M&E frameworks to monitor the NAP process (Malawi). It is vital to raise awareness of decision-makers and sectoral actors of the urgency to act by taking adequate measures in terms of adaptation and climate change (Togo). Further, enhance ownership through the verification of the inclusion of CC in the national budget at the level of the planning ministry. Difficulties include limited participation of local actors; difficulty in defining adaptation indicators; lack of gender indicators (Togo).

Determine indicators and facilitating a transparent and strong M&E system is vital and it requires that many stakeholders are working alongside each other, complementing each other's strengths and projects (Senegal).

- A strong vision for what the country wants to achieve with regards to its socio-economic development is important, which takes shape through in-depth multi-

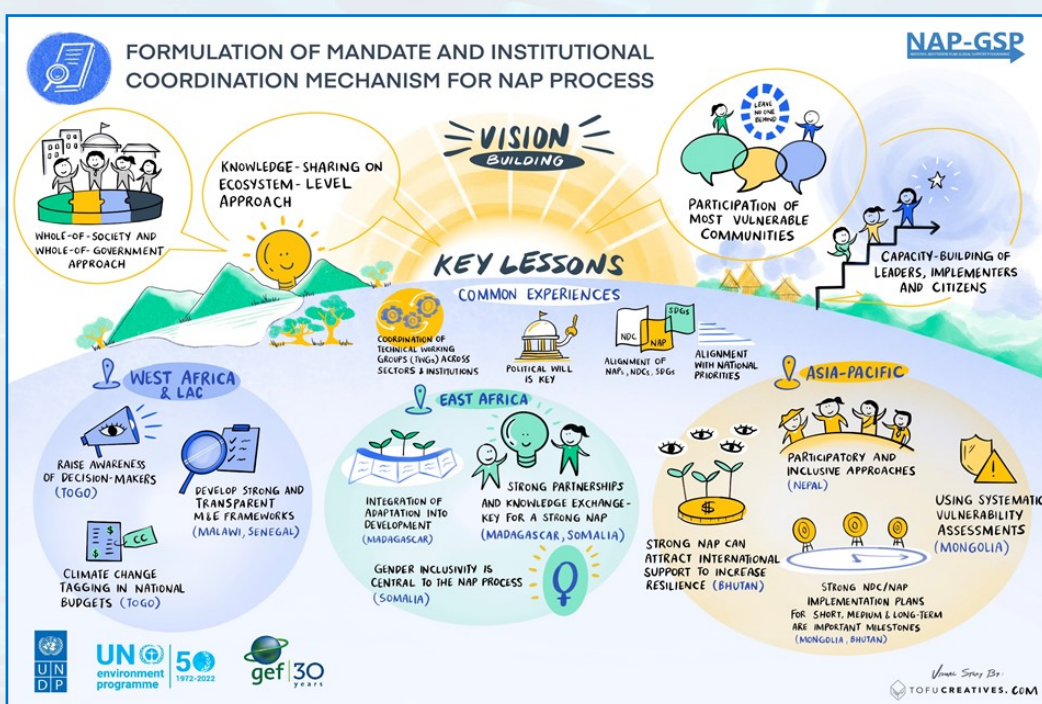


Figure 1: Visual presentation of key messages on mandate and coordination mechanism.

stakeholder consultations and raising awareness on the topic among various national stakeholders (Togo).

Topic 2: Development of NAP roadmap and NAP formulation.

1. Strong policies must be in place to support the development of the NAP.

- Integration of NAP into the National Development Plan is crucial through addressing vulnerabilities and building resilience and identifying means of implementation, which also directly align with multiple SDGs (Sierra Leone). The development of the NAP can be supported by strong policies and initiatives, such as NDCs, NPCC, NAMA, NAPA, CPEIR, NCs, Climate Change M&E, and others and other environment policies and sectoral strategies or efforts that support the NAP process along with aligning to national policies and initiatives (Cambodia, Zambia, Nepal). Important to steer the NAP Process from project-based adaptation towards an approach where adaptation is integrated into national development planning and budgeting processes (Lao PDR). It is important to coordinate and strengthen partnerships in the country, and to build on the efforts of other policies and initiatives, such as NAPA, INDC, or NCs, to develop a strong NAP. Furthermore, planning is vital to remain up to date with national contexts and developments (Somalia).

2. It is important to steer the process towards an integrated approach to planning, budgeting, and implementation.

- A strong NAP roadmap needs thorough planning (Fiji's NAP has been developed over 14 months) with a long-term vision, with stages moving from planning, through implementation, and learning (Cambodia). It is important to thoroughly assess sectoral vulnerabilities and risks, as well as adaptation needs and priorities for the medium- to long-term of sectors (Nepal, Fiji). The preparation phase of the NAP process is an important milestone with the objective to strengthen the institutional

and technical capacities to advance the NAP (Lao PDR). Sectoral NAPs, such as the Health NAP in Timor-Leste, require high level commitments of respective sectoral and government ministries.

3. Countries can use existing adaptation initiatives to identify building blocks and entry points.

- It is important to build synergies with existing adaptation initiatives, ecosystem-based adaptation & promote nature-based solution to adaptation, promote multi-stakeholder partnerships, and establish thematic working groups that work cross-cutting. Both federal and vertical coordination efforts are vital, and the establishment and mobilization of climate change coordination committees can enhance NAP formulation processes (Malawi, Nepal). Increased sectoral ownership through engagement of the wider array of the stakeholders (both state and non-state actors) is highly important (Nepal). It is further of significance to sensitize provincial governments to prioritize climate change adaptation in the provincial plan, programme, and budget, and support them to increase their capacities on adaptation planning (Nepal).

4. It is important to set up a strong M&E system and to properly cost the NAP (Fiji). Strong data and information are important to prevent onset of adverse outcomes while often not readily available (Timor-Leste). A sound NAP roadmap should outline the chronological sequence of key steps agreed by stakeholders to be followed and expected outputs and milestones towards having a NAP. It is a product of a multi-stakeholder consultative process which intended to build consensus amongst various key stakeholders. It was followed by the development of a stocktaking report. This report should provide a baseline of the climate change discourse with regards to policy, legal and institutional arrangements on which the NAP process should build on (Zambia).

5. It is important to produce communication products of the NAP roadmap to enhance

public awareness and support for the process and should be continuous especially at sub-national level involving traditional leaders, smallholder producers and ordinary community members (Zambia). Multi-stakeholder consultations involving NGOs, public and private sector, research institutions including women, youth and disability organizations is critical in building consensus and agreement on the NAP process (Zambia). Launching of the roadmap at a high-level political event ensures increased awareness and political support for the process (Zambia). Generating awareness about NAP process among national stakeholders and identifying areas of potential added value is crucial (Malawi).

6. Challenges often include lack of national human and financial capacity (Somalia, South Sudan), or capacity gaps due to high fluctuations in ministries (Malawi), especially amongst key sectors. Private sector involvement is to be harnessed to increase investments in climate change management (South Sudan), especially with often high unpredictability of funding resources.
7. It is important to overcome an oftentimes limited access to, and integration of, national and international data available on climate

change, risks, and socio-economic vulnerabilities (South Sudan, Malawi).

8. Stakeholder (vulnerable sectors) commitment to implement sector NAPs through their spending plans remains a subject of discussion (Malawi). Strong ownership and accountability are key to the success or failure of a sustainable and strong NAP (Sierra Leone). Guiding principles for a successful NAP roadmap development and formulation are vital, such as inclusivity (ownership and shared responsibility), participation, accountability, learning/reflexivity, and adaptability (Sierra Leone, Gambia).
9. Mandate of the NAP could be strengthened with the establishment of the climate change portfolio under the Climate Change Secretariat and Sectoral NAPs and local adaptation plans are intended to complement and enhance the overall NAP process (Gambia).
10. Evidence generation, i.e., conducting vulnerability assessments, and working across sectors, is key for a strong NAP process (Mozambique and Ethiopia).

Topic 3: Climate science and vulnerability and risk assessments to guide decision-making in adaptation.

1. Adaptation planning needs a robust scientific evidence base supported by meaningful, down-scaled, understandable data and information systems for decision-makers.

- Importance of prioritizing sectors that the assessment focus on. Following a mix of top-down and bottom-up approaches makes sense to account for all data-levels and stakeholders impact

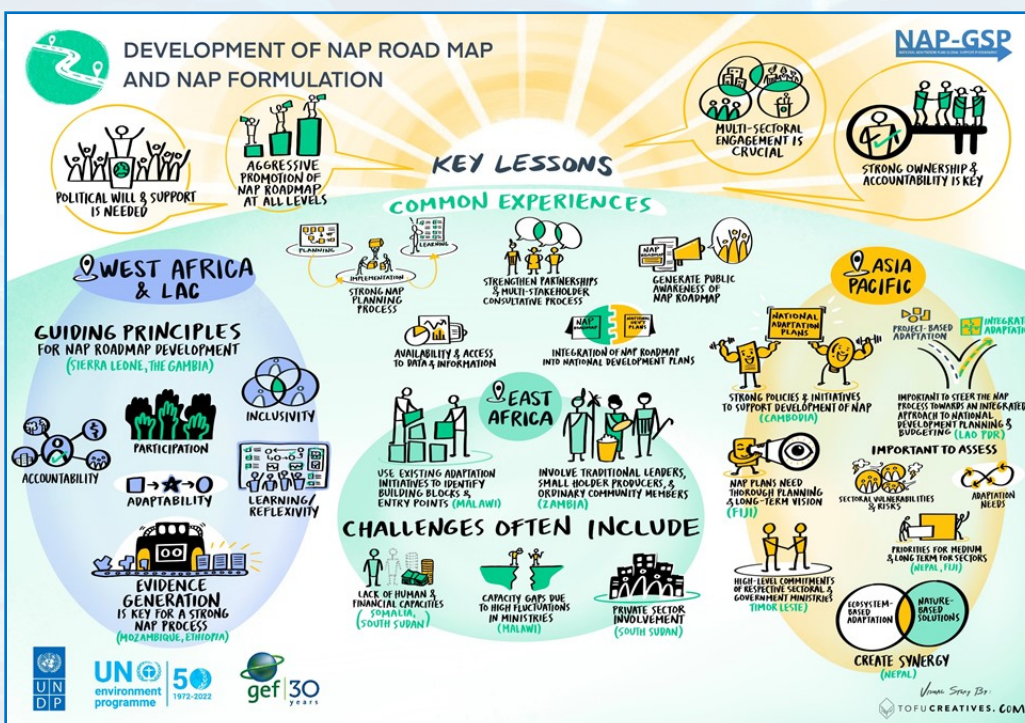


Figure 2: Visual presentation of key messages on NAP roadmap and NAP formulation.

and relying on most granular information is important to capture as much information as possible for post-analyses purposes (technical working groups may help) (Bhutan). Only scientific evidence-based data and information leads to a sound NAP (Malawi). It is crucial to include socio-economic data in vulnerability and risk assessments, as climate change and variability affect virtually all socio-economic sectors (Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia). Important to develop an evidence base to identify how climate change impacts different sectors, and to verify the information developed, to inform adaptation strategies and action plans for key sectors (Liberia).

- With climate risk information and vulnerability assessments available it is possible for decision-makers to target vulnerable sectors and prioritize, target vulnerability hot-spots, have information on drivers for vulnerability, and identify possible resilience-building and adaptation measures (Zimbabwe).
2. Considering past efforts on climate adaptation, especially in sectors of concern, is inevitable (Bhutan). It is important to consider the knock-on effects of a change in climate. Bhutan realized that Malaria and Dengue will become prevalent in some parts of the country, and Nepal investigated that there will be significant increases in diarrheal cases with a 1-degree temperature rise.
 3. Important to move from the vulnerability assessments to an operational framework, while realizing that this is not a simple task (Nepal). In most developing countries both historic and future climate data or information is not readily available. If it is available, it is quite complicated and not easy to understand, or downscaled to work with it. CORDEX and Regional Climate Models are very helpful (Zimbabwe). Making use of standardized climate modelling systems, such as the Regional Climate Model (RCM), can significantly enhance national assessments. Can be helpful to make use of

different climate models from different institutions to compare and verify data (Cambodia).

4. Collaboration and partnerships can help build this evidence base.
 - Close cooperation with national universities in developing environmental and climate science-related programmes for national capacity building efforts is key to increase national experts (Liberia). Important elements of vulnerability and risk assessments are developing a strong methodology, identify and create consent on indicators, and to collect, manage, and analyze data (Mozambique, Ethiopia).
 - Collaboration and partnership with multiple sectors and development partners specially with national meteorology agencies, universities, and research institutes, both nationally and internationally, has helped making progress (Mozambique, Ethiopia). Limited data collection capacities might also limit access to international finance (DRC). Important to establish a physical science basis and enhance research support capabilities for climate change adaptation (Cambodia).
 - User-engagement in enhancing climate information services is an integral part for platform development (WMO).
 - Data needs to be presented and validated by a variety of key stakeholders (Madagascar, Ethiopia). Sound data and information will allow to generate climate projections across several sectors, such as access to water, health impacts, nutrition, and others. Access to sound data and early warning alters on the household level in remote areas is still limited (Madagascar). Seeing climate change as an underlying risk factor for all assessments is vital to generate sound data and information and projections (UNDRR).
5. No data, no national adaptation planning (WMO) and adaptation that is not risk-informed leads to maladaptation (UNDRR).

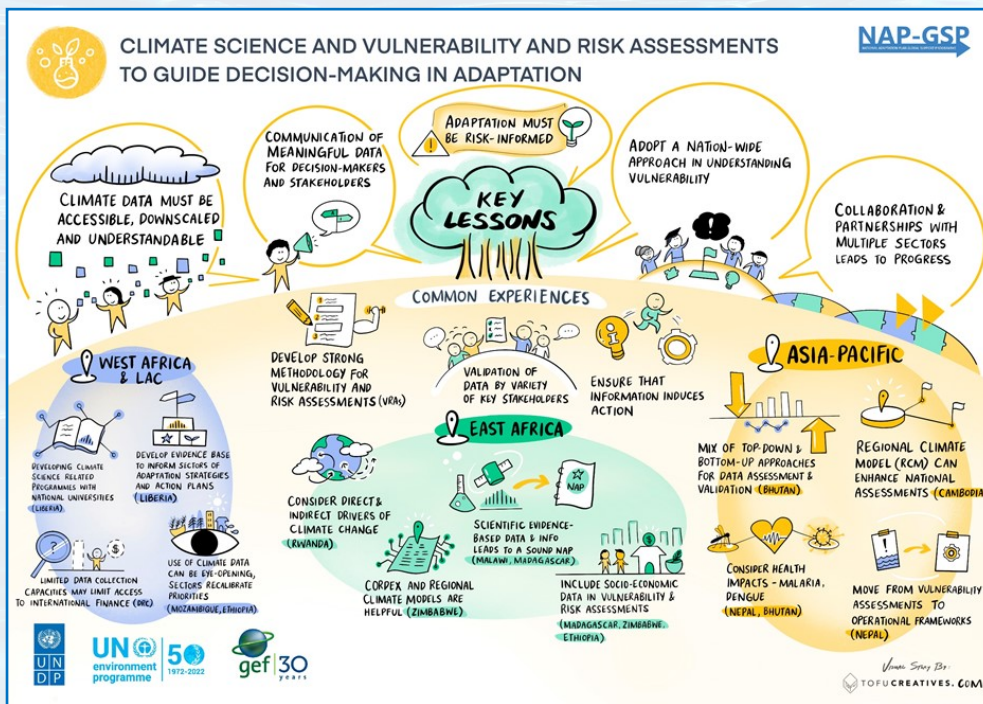


Figure 3: Visual presentation of key messages on climate science, vulnerability and risk assessments.

6. It is important to consider both direct and indirect drivers for climate change, and to keep data and information updated through regular repetition of vulnerability assessments (Rwanda). Using climate data for sectoral improvements can be eye-opening for sectors and recalibrate their focus and priorities (Mozambique, Ethiopia).

Topic 4: Integrating adaptation into national and subnational development planning and budgeting.

1. To support integration of adaptation, there must be sufficient support for coordination mechanisms and continuous capacity building for stakeholders at all levels.
 - Crucial to incorporate climate change into national policies, as well as integrating climate adaptation into sectoral plans and implementation. At the project level, it was important to follow a project proposal format to encourage project designers to identify climate change and adaptation-related aspects for each project (Sri Lanka).
 - Bhutan is also setting up a knowledge sharing platform for two-way sharing of information/data on climate change adaptation and mitigation. It will be a “one-stop” platform.

2. Creating an enabling environment in countries is critical to integrate climate change into national development plans (Lao PDR).

3. Integrating climate change in budget coding and budget formulation processes is complex, but highly important to make informed decisions (UNDP). National funds to mobilize domestic and international climate finance can be crucial to secure financing more efficiently and all sectors need to be captured when climate change is being

mainstreamed in sector plans and budgets. Climate change mainstreaming checklists that are being shared with planners can enhance the integration process and ensure that sectors keep track of priorities, and they can be used to assess progress over time (Rwanda).

4. Adaptation needs a long-term investment strategy.
 - Challenges remain high, such as low investments in adaptation and resilience-building efforts. There is further only little consideration in sector budgeting processes. It is recommended that awareness needs to be raised that adaptation should be seen as a long-term investment strategy, while building capacities and incentives (Rwanda). Most costs will be covered by mainstreaming, so the actual budget needs will only be minimal (Ethiopia).
 - Important to mainstream national and subnational development planning and budgeting to ensure sustainability of (health) national adaptation plans (WHO).
 - Information such as how to mobilize resources and what type of financial resources are at a country’s disposal need

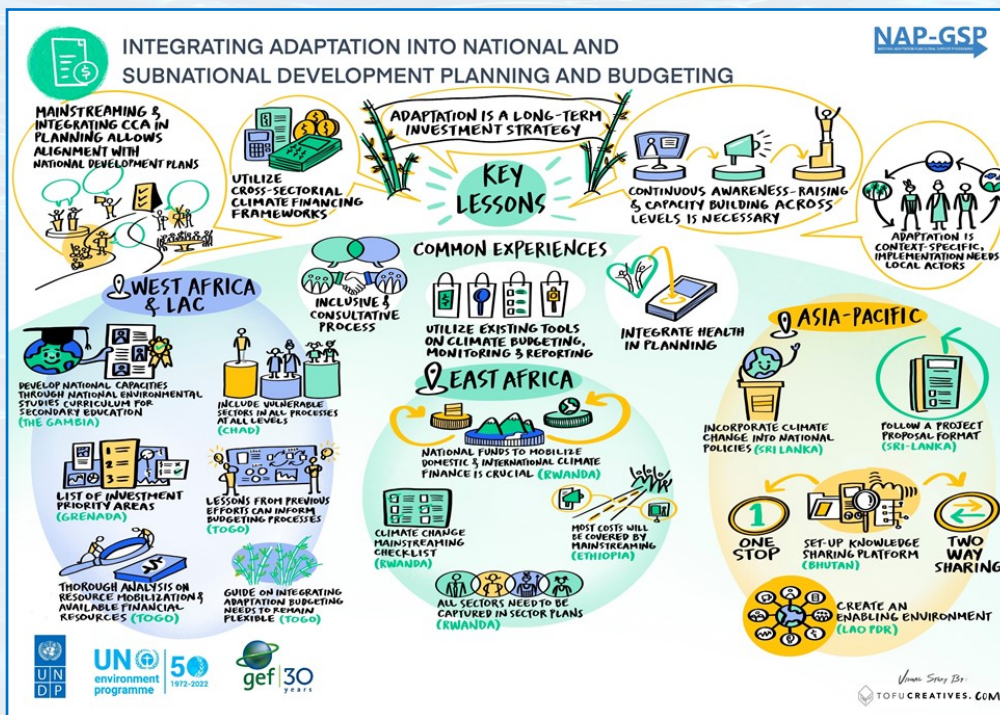


Figure 4: Visual presentation of key messages on integrating adaptation into national development planning and budgeting.

to thoroughly be analyzed. Planning for priority adaptation options, steps needed to carry out each option, and consider lessons from previous efforts, can inform budgeting processes. A guide on integrating adaptation budgeting into different sectors need to remain flexible to cater the needs of each respective sector (Togo).

5. A national environmental studies curriculum for secondary education as well as collaborating with universities will develop national capacities early on (Gambia).
6. It is imperative to include vulnerable groups into all planning and budgeting processes at all stages (Chad). A list of investment priority areas is part of the preparation of the NAP (Grenada).

Topic 5: Developing implementation strategies.

1. To ensure effective implementation of NAP, it is important to maintain momentum from planning and formulation.
 - The transition from planning to implementation should be seamless, but in practice there are many steps involved, which can be quite demotivating and frustrating. However, if we lose momentum, it might happen that the NAP

is being perceived as just another document (NAP Global Network).

- Realization of implementation strategies with a lack in financing is at severe risk. Countries need to come up with strong incentives to attract resources not only from international development partners and funds, but from the private sector as well (Fiji).

- The implementation strategy will also need to clearly outline how national adaptation planning will be integrated into national development planning efforts, might be advisable to develop sectoral NAPs to ensure sectoral ownership (Bhutan). State-level capacities on adaptation planning should continue to be strengthened to ensure their continued functioning and recognizing their vital role at the state level (Sudan).

2. Countries should promote and build on the enabling factors for implementation (availability of finance, effective institutional mechanisms, continuous capacity building and strong partnerships for information sharing). Absence of one or more of these factors can present challenges.

- Lack of financial resources and data impede implementation in many countries.
- Establishing state NAP institutions is a fundamental aspect of the implementation of NAP strategies (Sudan).
- Regional climate scenarios are still widely lacking in LDCs (Sudan). Constant development of training tool and utilizing those tools is needed to involve local stakeholders on a constant level (Liberia).
- Changing priorities hinder efficient NAP

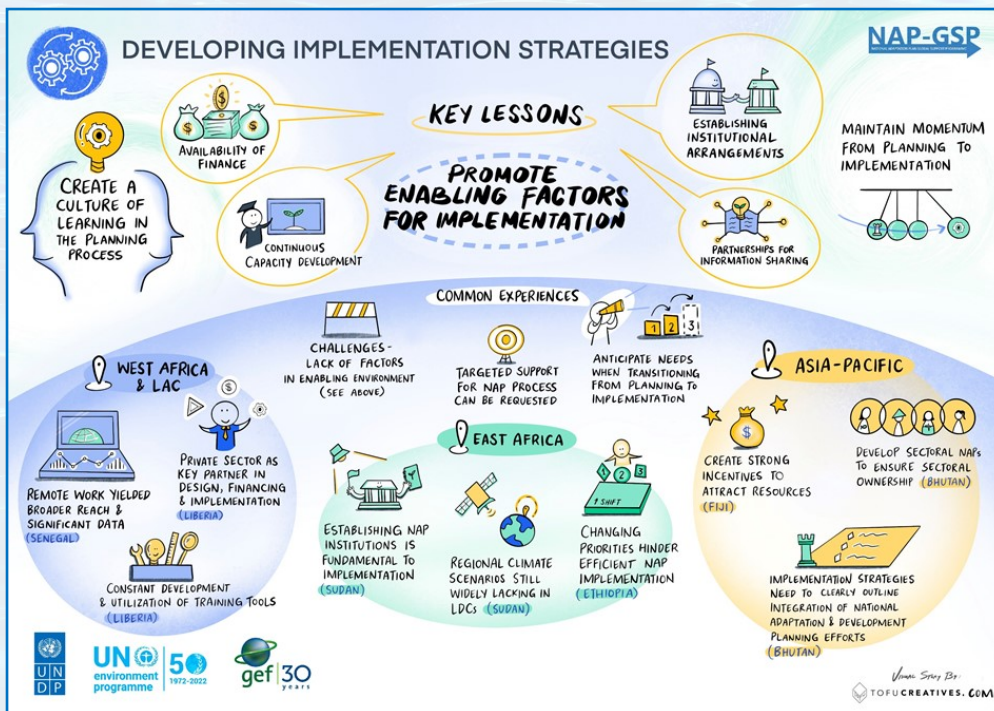


Figure 5: Visual presentation of key messages on developing implementation strategies.

implementation (Ethiopia). The COVID-19 pandemic had stark implications on the progressing implementation actions. However, remote work allowed us to reach a larger number, especially at the local level. This yielded in a significant amount of data. Remote work allowed us to have a broader reach. (Senegal). The private sector should be a key partner in the design, financing, and implementation of adaptation priorities (Liberia).

- Transitioning from planning to implementation is more than just accessing financial means (NAP Global Network).

Topic 6: Adopting inclusive approaches and fostering indigenous and community led approaches to NAPs including gender considerations.

1. Gender integration needs an intersectional approach, which recognizes that people within certain groups can have various identities (NAP Global Network).
 - Before inclusive approaches can be realized, facts need to be gathered. Not only to know what needs to be done but also to raise awareness of imbalances. It is important to start from the bottom, to ensure basic constitutional rights to create equal opportunities without any

discrimination or biases in all subsequent policy enhancement efforts. Inclusive approaches need clear action plans, resources, aggregated data, and clear mandates. It is not sufficient to simply have many women present and participating at events, but more to evaluate the quality of the discussions and the outcomes that they lead to (Nepal).

- Participatory approaches take time. Realizing this may lessen the tension between ‘progress’ and ‘process’ (NAP Global Network).

2. Participatory processes can take time, but it is not possible to develop a NAP without them.
 - Involvement of local and indigenous communities is a must for effective local actions. Informal institutions, culture and rules need to be adequately reflected in formal policies (Nepal). Budgeting processes need to consider inequality between men and women to be successful supporting a gender-responsive NAP process (Togo).
 - There needs to be evidence on the ground, measuring progress is not yet advanced (Uganda).
 - Conducting intersectional analyses is challenging, but highly important (Zambia).
 - Broad-based stakeholder consultations, that include the private sector, youth, women, civil society organizations, and academia, are vital to building the support for adaptation efforts. Inclusive approaches mean to integrate men and women at equal levels (Liberia).

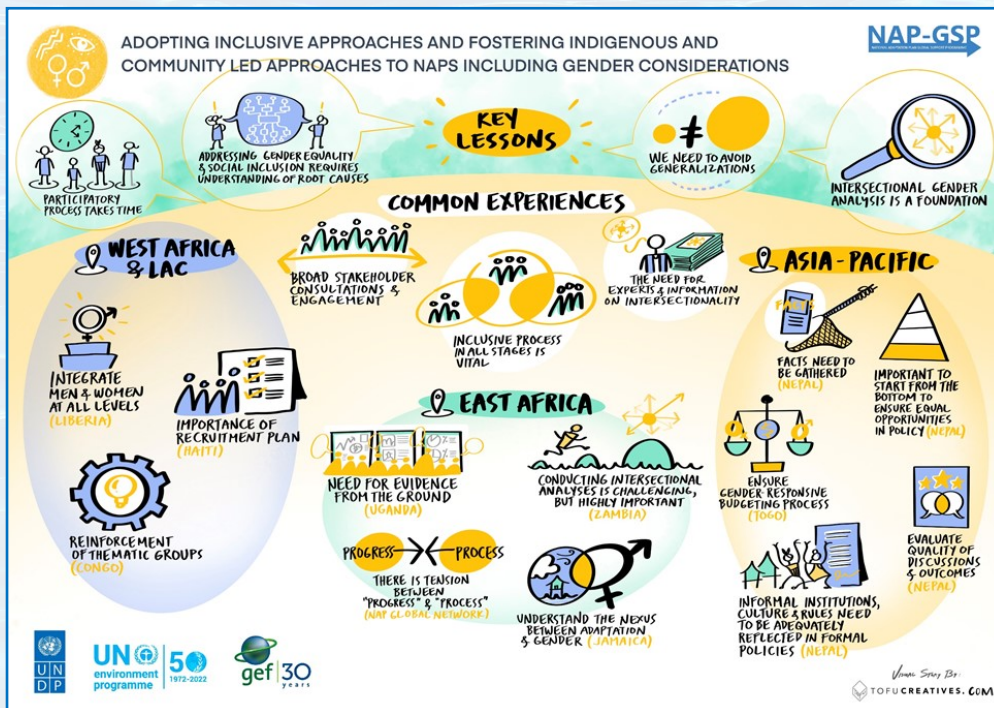


Figure 6: Visual presentation of key messages on inclusive approaches and gender consideration.

- It is important to have a recruitment plan developed that guides the NAP process with the right expertise and resources (Haiti).

Topic 7: Mobilizing finance for NAP.

- Countries will need financial resources to develop and implement their NAPs
 - Adaptation is going to be expensive. Not doing any adaptation is going to be even more expensive from social, political, peacebuilding, ecological, and economical angles (Bhutan).
 - Establishing domestic Direct Access Entities that can access financial support from international climate funds such as the GCF is an important step towards faster and more self-sustaining climate finance (Bangladesh).
 - The amount that is needed varies from country to country and is expected to be significant (NAP Global Network, FAO).
 - A dedicated NAP financing strategy can help to align financial requirements with the sources of financing and should be developed early on in the process (NAP Global Network).
 - The agricultural sector is a priority within

most NAPs and NDCs, yet it had limited success in mobilizing finance at the scale needed (FAO).

- Finance can come from public and private sources, and can include national and sub-national budgets, bilateral and multilateral development funds and the private sector support.

- The private sector is the largest source of finance, yet countries should not expect that the private sector simply provides resources. They will respond to policy changes that incentivize them

(FAO).

- There are both demand and supply-side barriers to finance that need to be overcome. It is advisable to develop robust NAP investment strategies and plans that provide concrete climate risk informed investable opportunities. Significant financing is needed to implement the country's adaptation needs and priorities spelled out in NAPs, aim to use public finance as leverage for larger investments or to signal where need is greatest and consider that public finance sources can be layered. (FAO).
 - While realizing the importance of the private sector, financial support through international funds and development partners remains an important source of adaptation project finance (Tanzania, Madagascar).
- A financing strategy should include clear and realistic measures, realistic timeline with specific milestones (NAP Global Network).
 - Countries cannot rely on one single source of funding, and it is important that the sources are connected directly with vulnerable sectors because the various funding agencies may have their own priorities (Senegal).

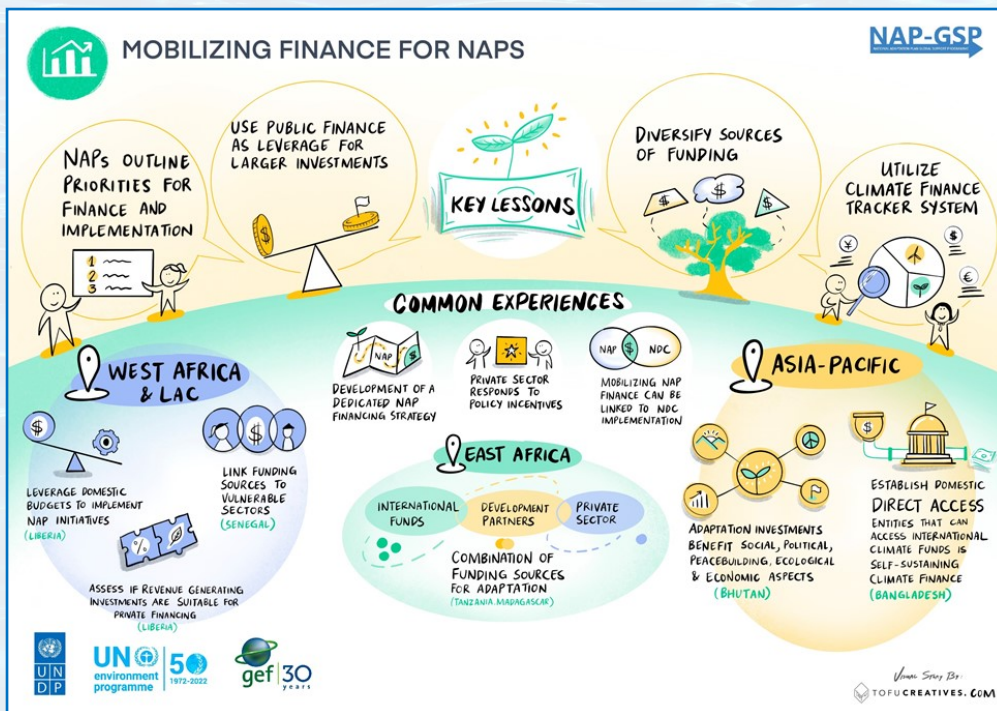


Figure 7: Visual presentation of key messages on mobilizing finance for NAP.

5. Assessing financial characteristics, i.e., if investments generate any revenue and if it is suitable for private financing, can generate a long-term financing vision (Liberia).

CONTRIBUTORS

The NAP-GSP would like to acknowledge with thanks the efforts of the team that prepared, coordinated, and supported the South-South Knowledge Exchange Forum.

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The forum was made successful with the efforts from NAP GSP colleagues from UNDP, who contributed at various stages of its preparation:

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The organization of the forum would not have been possible without the efforts from UNEP colleagues, especially:

Mr. Mohamed Elharati

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Special thanks to Ms. Jessica Troni, Ms. Lis Mullin Bernhardt, Mr. Alexander Forbes and other colleagues at UNEP Headquarter in Nairobi and Regional office of the Asia Pacific, for their guidance and support in organizing this Forum.