

Best Practices and Lessons Learned in addressing adaptation in LDCs through the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) Process



LDCs under the UNFCCC

“The Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology.”

UNFCCC, Article 4.9

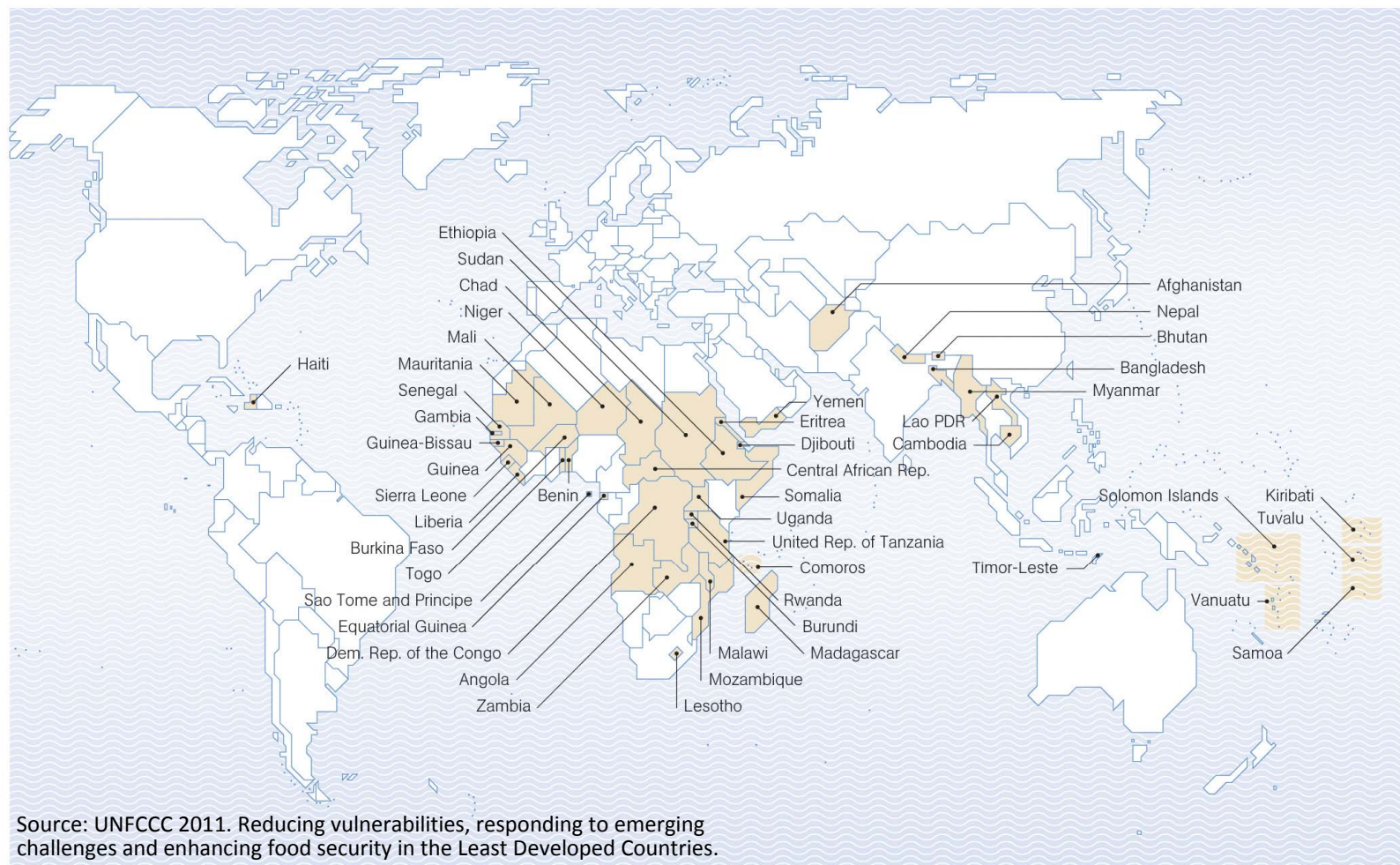
LDCs:

- **Are acutely vulnerable to a variety of external shocks, including natural disasters.**
 - **Are disproportionately exposed to the adverse effects of climate change, loss of biodiversity, desertification and other forms of environmental degradation.**
- **Lack many of the key elements of adaptive capacity to respond to climate change and other environmental crises.**
 - **Face increasing environmental pressures and depletion of scarce natural resources, which exacerbates the impacts of climate change.**



LDCs under the UNFCCC - Regional Distribution

Figure IV-5. The least developed countries as at February 2011



Rationale and Focus for NAPAs

In order to address the urgent adaptation needs of LDCs, a new approach was needed that would focus on enhancing adaptive capacity to climate variability, which itself would help address the adverse effects of climate change.

NAPAs provide a process for LDCs to identify priority activities that respond to their urgent and immediate needs with regard to adaptation to climate change.

The NAPAs focus on urgent and immediate needs - those for which further delay could increase vulnerability or lead to increased costs at a later stage.

The NAPA takes into account existing coping strategies at the grassroots level, and builds upon that to identify priority activities.

NAPAs are designed to use existing information; and no new research is needed.

They must be action-oriented and country-driven and be flexible and based on national circumstances.

So as to effectively address urgent and immediate adaptation needs, NAPA documents should be presented in a simple format, easily understood both by policy-level decision-makers and by the public.



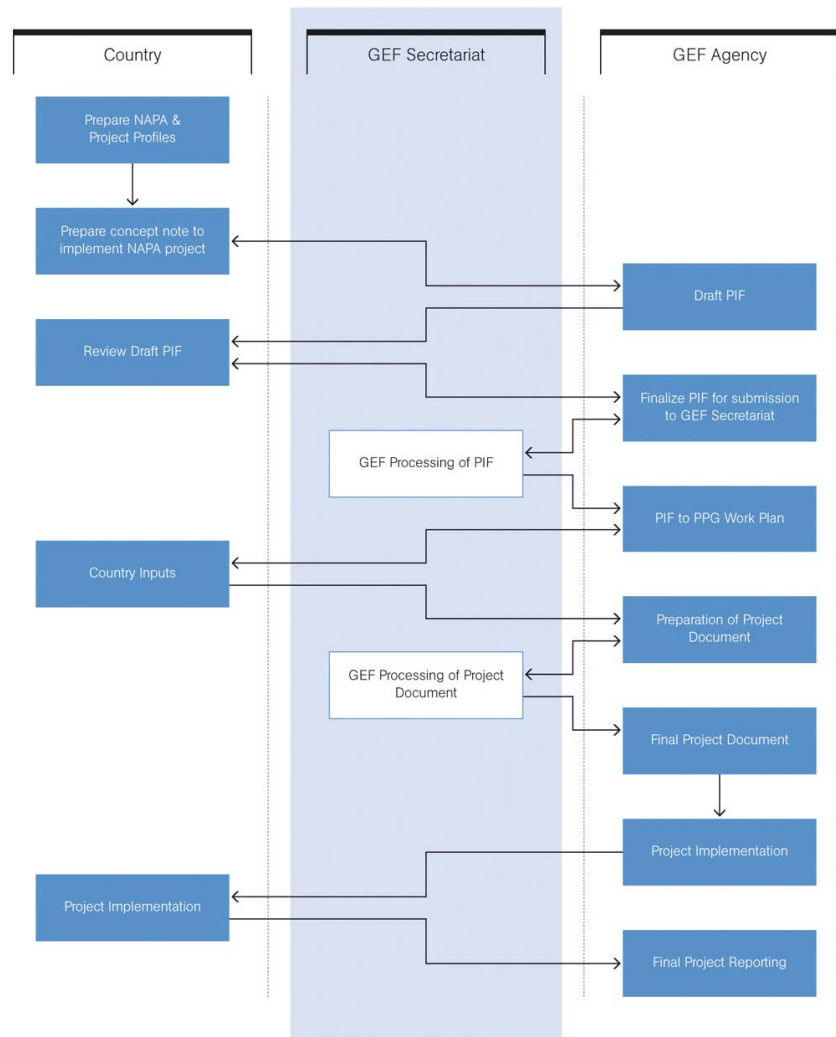
Outline of key steps in project development between the country, the GEF secretariat and the GEF agency

Once a NAPA has been submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat, the LDC Party can start the process of **implementation** under any of the funds available (currently: Adaptation Fund, Special Climate Change Fund [SCCF] and The Least Developed Countries Fund [LDCF], which is a dedicated fund).

To initiate implementation under the LDC Fund, an LDC Party prepares a concept note and requests a **GEF implementing agency** to assist it in submitting a proposal for funding to the GEF. The GEF agency then works with the country to develop the concept into a full project that is ready for implementation under the GEF project cycle.

The GEF cycle includes a sequence of steps that includes submission of a project identification form (PIF), followed by a project preparation grant (PPG), then a full-sized project (FSP) proposal.

Each of these stages is either approved by the GEF Chief Operating Officer and/or the GEF Council. The GEF agency works very closely with the country during each successive step, and ultimately supports the country in implementing the project.



COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

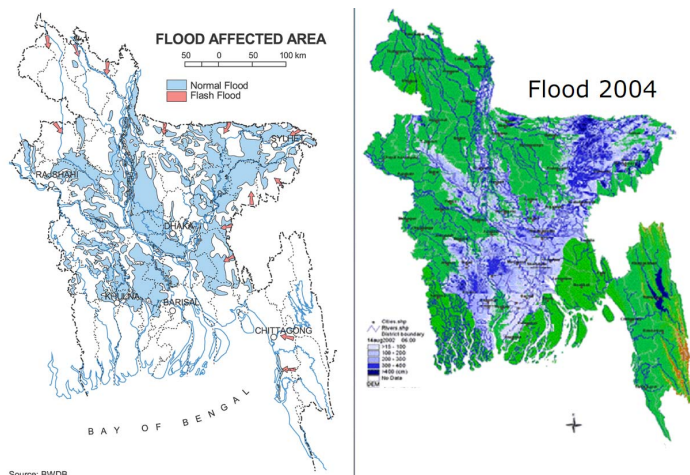


- A mostly low-lying country located in South Asia, Bangladesh is home to one of the largest deltas in the world.
- The most damaging effects associated with climate change in Bangladesh are floods, salinity intrusion, and droughts that are found to drastically affect crop productivity almost every year.
- The population living in the coastal area is more vulnerable than the population in other areas.



NAPA PROCESS

- Stakeholder consultation was an integral part of NAPA formulation, and the NAPA team was composed of a multi-disciplinary group of experts.
- Due to the country specificities, preference was given to activities that promote safe life and livelihood, active participation of local communities and risk reduction from natural hazards.
- Based on its experience in preparing the NAPA, Bangladesh has also taken steps to establish a national framework to address climate change issues in the country.
- Since Bangladesh has extensive experience in involving local communities in forest protection and regeneration, the project draws from that.
- Bangladesh updated its NAPA in 2009, incorporating findings of studies on impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation need assessment carried out over the last few years.



Key timelines of the NAPA preparation process

Funding for NAPA preparation approved	April 2003
GEF Agency approval date	December 2003
NAPA preparation start	November 2004
Submission of NAPA to UNFCCC	November 2005

Bangladesh's experience shows that *the NAPA process can be useful for establishing institutional arrangements to address climate change issues in the country.*

Bangladesh listed 15 priority activities in its NAPA.

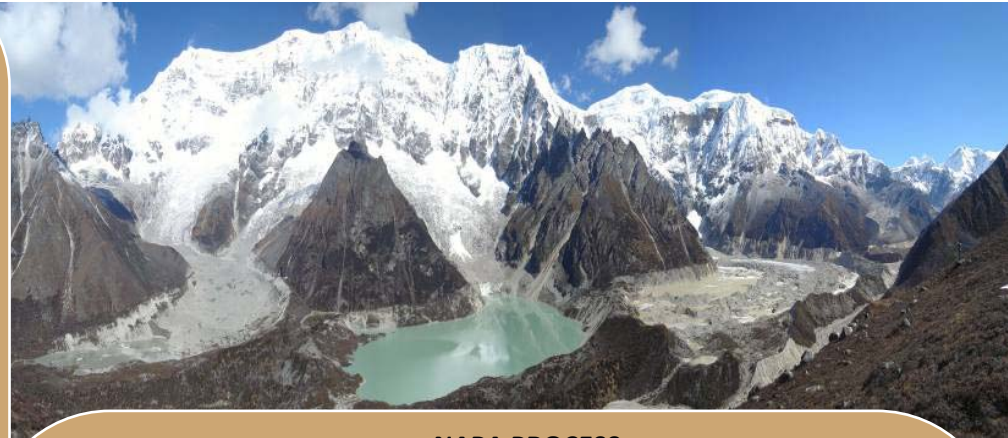
The first project is aimed at reducing the vulnerabilities of coastal communities to the impacts of climate change-induced risks.

Project Title: Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change through Coastal Afforestation

Implementing Agency	UNDP
No. of NAPA priority activities addressed	1/15
Cost in US\$ million (LDCF component/ total cost)	3.740/ 10.890
First submission of the concept note (PIF)	April 2007
GEF CEO endorsement of project	December 2008



- A small developing nation located in the fragile eastern Himalayan ecosystem, the kingdom of Bhutan's key sectors affected by the adverse effects of climate change include infrastructure, agriculture, forestry, water resources and energy and health.
- Seventy-nine percent of Bhutan's population, who are subsistence farmers, will be directly affected by temperature changes and unpredictable monsoon patterns, and the infrastructure will suffer more damages from landslides and flashfloods.
- The most significant impact, however, is the rapid melting of glaciers, which will not only affect the base flow of the rivers but will also dramatically increase the risk of glacial lake outburst floods.



NAPA PROCESS

- Bhutan counted on good stakeholder participation throughout the whole process, and also positive working relations among the different stakeholders, including with the GEF agency (UNDP). The NAPA was conceived within the framework of the Royal Government of Bhutan sustainable development planning.
- The existence of a clearly urgent risk posed by climate change in the country - the GLOFs - made it easier to define the first project to be submitted under the LDCF, and to allocate the funds once they were made available.
- Given the urgent nature of the problem to be addressed, it was considered that the overall time it took from the initial development of the project concept to the time when first disbursement for actual implementation was made (3 years) was lengthier than necessary.
- Bhutan's NAPA specifies that it will be periodically reviewed after actual implementation of the first priority projects within the context of the Royal Government's 5-Year Plan cycle.

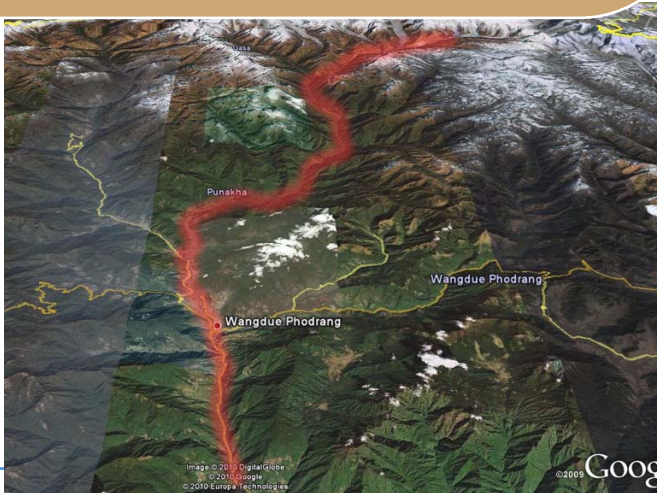


Figure credits: Thinley Namgyel, National Environment Commission, Royal Government of Bhutan

Key timelines of the NAPA preparation process

Funding for NAPA preparation approved	October 2003
GEF Agency approval date	February 2004
NAPA preparation start	June 2004
Submission of NAPA to UNFCCC	May 2006

Bhutan's experience shows that the development of a concrete adaptation project, where the potential impacts of climate change are clear and the expected outcomes are tangible, is more likely to achieve the pre-defined objectives.

Bhutan's NAPA outlined 9 priority activities which are almost all location-specific.

Due to the urgent need to address potential glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), a project aimed at reducing these risks was given priority.

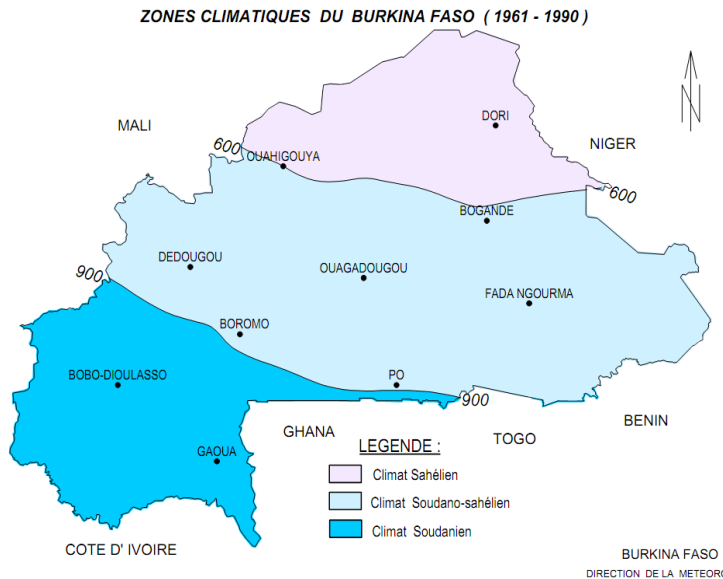
Project Title: Reducing climate-change induced risks and vulnerabilities from glacial lake outbursts in the Punhakha-Wangdi and Chamkhar Valleys

Implementing Agency	UNDP
No. of NAPA priority activities addressed	3/9
Cost in US\$ million (LDCF component/ total cost)	3.987/ 8.273
First submission of the concept note (PIF)	August 2007
GEF CEO endorsement of project	March 2008

Project highlight: GLOFs are very specific to mountainous areas and, therefore, this project has a good potential for replication both within the country and in other countries of the region facing the same problem.



- A landlocked country in Sub-saharan Africa essentially based on agriculture, Burkina Faso has been considerably affected by the adverse impacts of climate in the last twenty years.
- Four key sectors were identified as the most vulnerable to climate change: agriculture, water resources, livestock and forests/ biodiversity.
- The most vulnerable populations are to be found among poor rural communities, notably women, young people and small-scale farmers.



NAPA PROCESS

- Burkina Faso has adopted a programmatic approach for implementing the first priority activities of its NAPA, which was endorsed by bilateral donors.
- Soon after the Rio Conference in 1992, a national observatory was created in Burkina Faso, and in 2006 institutional arrangements led to the establishment of a common institutional framework in charge of implementing the three Rio Conventions (climate, biodiversity and desertification) and the Ramsar Convention (wetlands) in the country.
- The fact that relevant stakeholders have been actively involved in the process from the first stages of NAPA preparation is considered to have greatly facilitated implementation. Also, the implementation strategy adopted by the NAPA team allowed for an almost seamlessly processing into the first project's implementation.
- Burkina Faso is in the process of revising its NAPA to make it more comprehensive, a work which is to be carried out within NAPA component 2 on strategic planning.



Photo credits: Burkina Faso NAPA 2007

NAPA – Country Experiences

BURKINA FASO

Key timelines of the NAPA preparation process

Funding for NAPA preparation approved	July 2003
GEF Agency approval date	April 2004
NAPA preparation start	September 2005
Submission of NAPA to UNFCCC	December 2007

Burkina Faso's experience shows that well established institutional arrangements to deal with climate change issues in the country can greatly facilitate NAPA preparation and implementation and foster early strategic thinking to start considering medium-and long-term adaptation options .

Burkina Faso selected 12 priority activities and, in order to address a number of issues in its first project, the country decided to adopt a concerted programmatic approach involving three components, one of which financed through the LDCF and two other adaptation initiatives financed by other entities.

Project Title: Strengthening adaptation capacities and reducing the vulnerability to climate change in Burkina Faso

Implementing Agency	UNDP
No. of NAPA priority activities addressed	4/12 (of which 2 only partially)
Cost in US\$ million (LDCF component/ total cost)	3.300/ 23.445
First submission of the concept note (PIF)	May 2008
GEF CEO endorsement of project	April 2009

Project highlight: Burkina Faso's choice of a programmatic approach allowed for a wider implementation of the NAPA at the country level, addressing a broader set of adaptation priorities identified.



NAPA – Country Experiences

HAITI

- Located on the western side of the Hispaniola Island, Haiti is mostly a mountainous country.
- The country has lost most of its forest cover and is thus prone to erosion processes. It has also been increasingly affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes and tropical storms, as also by floods and droughts, whose impacts are aggravated by unsound urbanization practices, use of natural resources and waste management.
- The most vulnerable sectors to climate change are: agriculture and land degradation; coastal zones; and water management.



NAPA PROCESS

- The NAPA preparation took place in an unstable political context and public consultations were difficult to organize, which resulted in a longer NAPA preparation time frame than initially expected.
- Consultations with community and local authorities was considered a very important step, as it provided complementary and additional information, as well as an opportunity to know the adaptation measures that the communities have already adopted.
- Soon after completing the NAPA, Haiti experienced many institutional changes, which resulted in the activities of the NAPA team being suspended between 2006-2008.
- The instability of the government and the many changes that occurred at ministerial level did not allow for fast mainstreaming into national plans, and to some extent it affected the activities carried out by the committee on climate change.
- After a string of natural disasters, many information and data are no longer considered accurate, and it is now felt that a revision/ update of the NAPA can provide an opportunity to re-assess the country's priorities in regards to its adaptation to the most adverse effect of climate change.



Photo credits: Haiti NAPA 2006

NAPA – Country Experiences

HAITI

Key timelines of the NAPA preparation process

Funding for NAPA preparation approved	January 2003
GEF Agency approval date	April 2004
NAPA preparation start	Mar/ Apr 2003
Submission of NAPA to UNFCCC	December 2006

Haiti defined 8 priority activities. A project addressing the adaptive capacities of coastal communities was developed as Haiti's first project under the LDCF.

However, a second project aimed at reducing disaster risk in agriculture to improve food security was developed and granted expeditious processing following the 2010 earthquake.

Haiti's experience shows that *continuous support for the NAPA team during the design of implementation is critical to avoid any delays in implementation and to nurture the capacity built during the preparation phase.*

Project Title: Strengthening adaptive capacities to address climate change threats on sustainable development strategies for coastal communities in Haiti

Implementing Agency	UNDP
Cost in US\$ million (LDCF component/ total cost)	3.960/ 11.060
First submission of the concept note (PIF)	August 2008
GEF CEO endorsement of project:	Dec 2010

Project Title: Strengthening climate resilience and reducing disaster risk in agriculture to improve food security in Haiti post-earthquake

Implementing Agency	FAO
Cost in US\$ million (LDCF component/ total cost)	2.999 / 8.230
First submission of the concept note (PIF)	February 2010
GEF CEO endorsement of project	Not CEO endorsed yet



NAPA – Country Experiences

KIRIBATI

- Kiribati is located in central Pacific and is comprised of 33 atolls with approximately 800 sq. km of land area. The maximum height found on any atolls is 4 meters, which makes the country vulnerable to sea level increases, salt-water intrusion and floods.
- Moreover, bleaching of coral reefs can result in loss in fish production.
- Climate change would likely increase the epidemic potential of dengue fever and the incidence of tropical diseases. Sea level rise would also affect agriculture due to saltwater intrusion and loss of coastal land, thereby reducing available land for agriculture.



NAPA PROCESS

- During the preparation of NAPA, the team undertook a very thorough consultation with the local population of all the inhabited islands. A wide range of stakeholders representing all layers of the population were consulted. This created a high level of awareness across all stakeholders.
- Simultaneous to the NAPA preparation process, another adaptation programme was developed under the name “Kiribati Adaptation Programme” (KAP), which is funded by the GEF and co-financed by AusAID (not linked to the NAPA).
- The World Bank wanted to merge the NAPA and the KAP projects, but the government of Kiribati believes that since KAP was already underway when the NAPA process began, the NAPA projects should be formulated so as to avoid repetitions and the projects should not be merged.
- Although the team does not foresee any major changes over time in the country’s selection and ranking of priority adaptation activities, the interest in the revision for Kiribati lies in potential scaling up of adaptation activities.



Key timelines of the NAPA preparation process

Funding for NAPA preparation approved	October 2003
GEF Agency approval date	October 2005
NAPA preparation start	June 2004
Submission of NAPA to UNFCCC	January 2007

Kiribati's experience shows that *multi-stakeholder consultations during NAPA preparation can raise great awareness regarding adaptation needs in the country among the various stakeholders.*

Kiribati's NAPA outlined 10 priority activities.

The first project is aimed at strengthening the resilience of Kiribati to the impact of climate variability, climate change and climate-related hazards by reducing the impact of storm surges and coastal erosion on the quality and availability of freshwater resources and the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Project Title: Increasing resilience to climate variability and hazards

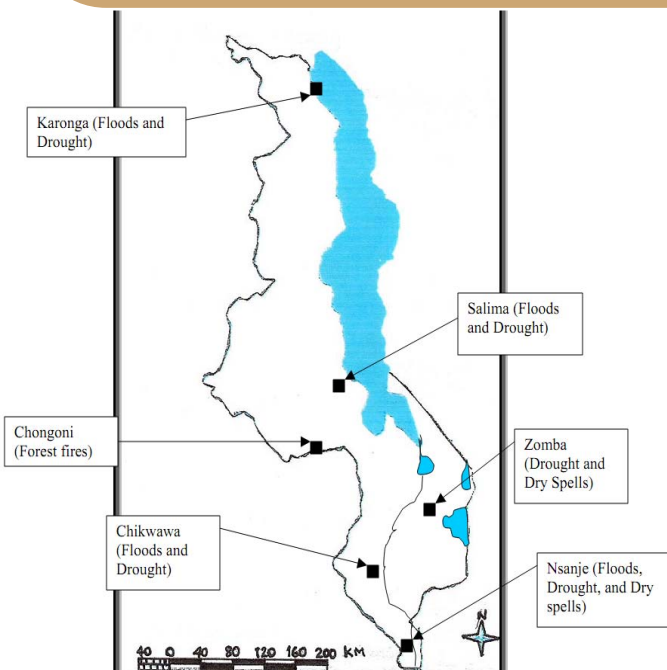
Implementing Agency	The World Bank (IBRD)
No. of NAPA priority activities addressed	5/10
Cost in US\$ million (LDCF component/ total cost):	3.300/ 6.600
First submission of the concept note (PIF)	August 2009
GEF CEO endorsement of project	Not CEO endorsed yet



NAPA – Country Experiences

MALAWI

- A landlocked country located in southeast Africa, **Malawi** has abundant natural resources, but the dependence of the population on these resources makes them highly vulnerable to climate variability and change.
- Malawi has experienced a number of adverse climatic hazards over the last several decades, the most serious of which have been dry spells, seasonal droughts, intense rainfall, riverine floods and flush floods.



NAPA PROCESS

- Malawi's NAPA was developed throughout 2004 and 2005, based on a multi-stakeholder approach and with the assistance of UNDP. Emphasis was given to vulnerable rural communities in the country.
- The LDCF project was designed so as to build on baseline activities planned under the existing African Development Bank's Smallholder Crop Production and Marketing Project (SCPMP). The aim of the LDCF project is then to "climate proof" the SCPMP.
- GEF CEO endorsement was granted to the project in August 2010, but implementation has not started yet because the AfDB is reviewing the project internally so as to ensure its alignment with the Bank's work plan. The project had already suffered delays from the change in template for project submission by the GEF, so the whole process from project development to actual implementation has been taking over four years.
- Malawi has already initiated a NAPA revision to integrate emerging issues, with the assistance of the AAP.



Photo credits: Malawi NAPA 2006

Key timelines of the NAPA preparation process

Funding for NAPA preparation approved	May 2003
GEF Agency approval date	June 2003
NAPA preparation start	December 2003
Submission of NAPA to UNFCCC	March 2006

Malawi's experience shows how different factors can result in major delays in project implementation on the ground, and highlights some of the constraints imposed by changing procedures or sometimes by rigid procedures.

Malawi listed 15 priority activities in its NAPA.

Due to the importance of agriculture in the country, the first project is aimed at improving resilience to current climate variability and future climate change by developing and implementing adaptation strategies and measures that will improve agricultural production and rural livelihoods.

Project Title: Climate adaptation for rural livelihoods and agriculture (CARLA)

Implementing Agency	AfDB
Cost in US\$ million (LDCF component/ total cost):	3.255/ 24.394
First submission of the concept note (PIF)	April 2007
GEF CEO endorsement of project	October 2010



NAPA – Country Experiences

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

- The archipelago of São Tomé and Príncipe is located off the western coast of Guinea, and it is comprised of two main islands and four islets.
- Fisheries seem to be more affected by climate change due to the fact that traditional practices are often unable to cope with recurrence of storms and floods and extensive coastal erosion.
- The agricultural and forest sectors are also vulnerable to harsher environmental conditions such as drought, soil erosion leading to desertification and flood-induced landfalls.



NAPA PROCESS

- Community participation played a key role in the methodology and characterization of the main vulnerabilities used in the STP NAPA.
- Six sectors were analysed to assess the vulnerability; adequate solutions were then found in a participatory manner through interaction with the communities and based on the six sectors mentioned.
- With the aim to implement the top priorities identified in the NAPA, the Government of São Tomé and Príncipe requested the World Bank's assistance in preparing a full-size Global Environment Facility project through the LDCF to address the most immediate adaptation needs in its vulnerable coastal zone, most specifically, the top two NAPA priorities and three additional associated sector priorities listed in the top tier of STP's NAPA.

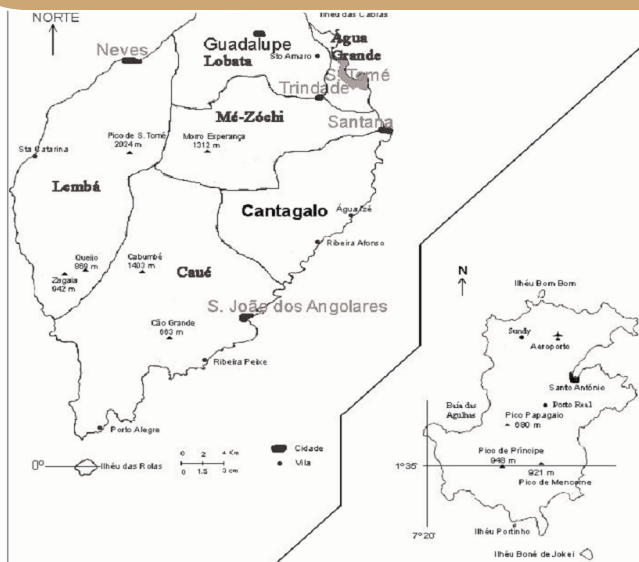


Photo credits: STP NAPA 2006



Key timelines of the NAPA preparation process

Funding for NAPA preparation approved	March 2004
GEF Agency approval date	October 2004
Submission of NAPA to UNFCCC	November 2007

São Tomé and Príncipe's experience shows that *focusing on the most affected development-related sectors is a good way to link the NAPA activities to national development plans.*

São Tomé and Príncipe listed **22 priority activities** in its NAPA, and two projects were already submitted under the LDCF.

The first STP project is designed as an integral part of STP's National Adaptation to Climate Change Program.

The second project is aimed at improving resilience of the livestock systems in support of the productivity of stockbreeding.

Project Title: São Tomé and Príncipe adaptation to climate change

Implementing Agency	World Bank (IBRD)
No. of NAPA priority activities addressed	6/22
Cost in US\$ million (LDCF component/ total cost)	4.873/ 18.332
First submission of the concept note (PIF)	May 2009
GEF CEO endorsement of project	Not CEO endorsed yet

Project Title: Strengthening the adaptive capacity of most vulnerable Sao Tomean's livestock-keeping households

Implementing Agency	AfDB
Cost in US\$ million (LDCF component/ total cost)	2.320/ 10.087
First submission of the concept note (PIF)	June 2010
GEF CEO endorsement of project	Not CEO endorsed yet



BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED



NAPA – Best Practices

NAPAs are widely viewed as a success story

One of the most notable features of the support to LDCs under the UNFCCC was the packaging of priorities for support into the LDC work programme in 2001.

The preparation of NAPAs has provided a valuable experience to the climate change process. In many LDCs, this was the first opportunity to undertake different climate change related studies and to align adaptation projects with national development priorities.

The NAPA preparation process also improved the level of awareness and capacity at the national and community levels, and this increased capacity has benefited other processes.

Best Practice:

The concurrent definition of the plan (the NAPA), technical support (through the LEG), and funding (through the LDCF), is a good practice for supporting national planning and implementation of activities and projects identified in the plans.

Lessons Learned:

Guidelines for the preparation and the implementation of a plan should be done concurrently, in order to guide finalization of the plan so no information is missed and the plans can be implemented without delay.



NAPA – Best Practices

The NAPA approach allows for flexible choices by the countries in how to design and implement it

The NAPA process builds on available knowledge, without the need for more research, and allows for flexible choices in the region and number of sectors that are considered. The approach of the NAPA can be applied to a specific geographic region of a country, from a local community to the whole country or multi-country region, and equally well to one or a few sectors, or all sectors of government.

Also, many countries have manifested an interest in scaling up or replicating similar projects, as also covering a greater number of target communities and regions without having to develop new projects for submission, which means concrete adaptation actions that were already tested could be implemented without delay.

Best Practice:

The use of locally defined criteria further increases the flexibility in the approach, to suit local development priorities.

Lessons Learned:

Some countries opted to focus on a sub-region of a big country, based on their perception of highly vulnerable regions in their country. Others chose to work in a few sectors deemed most vulnerable to climate change. This flexibility helped countries identify most urgent adaptation needs, given limited resources for the preparation phase.



NAPA – Best Practices

Engaging the stakeholders from the NAPA preparation stage in implementation and other subsequent steps has many advantages

It was noted that the establishment of an implementation framework for adaptation activities involving a wide range of stakeholders, including donors, during the NAPA preparation process often facilitated the efficient channelling of financial resources and technical expertise for adaptation actions to the local level.

Also, the active involvement of government officers in the NAPA process resulted in greater country ownership as the influence of the GEF implementing agencies on the design of NAPA projects decreased.

Best Practice:

Involving potential donors during the last stages of NAPA preparation when an implementation strategy is designed, is a very good practice, as it improves the alignment of implementation to on-going projects and programmes for the country from different sources of funding, greatly enhancing the process of identifying co-financing.

The involvement of multiple stakeholders and disciplines ensures that the outcome of the NAPA is fully owned by those that prepared it, and by endorsing the NAPA at appropriate levels of government, further ensures that the NAPA is fully owned by national governments.

Lessons Learned:

Given the limited funds in the LDCF, active exploration of additional funding from other sources contributes to full implementation of NAPAs.

In general, LDCs which have the lowest adaptive capacity and weak institutional arrangements tend to have limited success in accessing funds from the LDCF.



NAPA – Best Practices

Envisioning the involvement of NAPA teams in the long term helps raise awareness and ensures continuity of adaptation programmes and activities in the country

For all LDCs, support for the NAPA team ceased with closure of NAPA preparation projects, leading in many cases, to a disbanding of the NAPA teams. However, as opportunities for adaptation arise, it will become important to build on existing capacity and to promote continuity.

The engagement of national experts/consultants and continuous collaboration with all relevant stakeholders across all sectors is also perceived as a significant factor that positively influence the effectiveness of the implementation of NAPAs.

Best Practice:

Countries that have maintained continuity in the institutional framework between NAPA preparation and implementation tended to be more effective in the implementation of their NAPA.

Lessons Learned:

Continuing support for the NAPA team to oversee design of implementation, beyond the end of the NAPA preparation project, is widely seen as a critical need for many LDCs, to avoid any delays in implementation and to nurture the great capacity built in LDCs during the preparation phase.

Also, promoting local expertise is seen by many as a means of ensuring stronger national ownership of NAPA projects.



NAPA – Best Practices

Regular interaction between the LEG and LDCs has been very useful for the countries

Parties have expressed great satisfaction at the work of the LEG, and this is due, in part, to the regular interaction with Parties to identify obstacles and come up with solutions.

The LEG also provided assistance by producing a number of guidance documents and workshops.

Best Practice:

The regular interaction between the LEG and Parties during side events and through surveys, as well as with the GEF and its agencies, has created a useful bridge between all stakeholders in the NAPA process, and has led to many difficulties being resolved to facilitate smooth preparation and implementation of NAPAs.

The diverse membership in the LEG has also contributed to balanced support being given to LDC Parties, building on the individual expertise and experience of each and every member.

Lessons Learned:

The annotations to the guidelines for the preparation of NAPAs have proven to be very useful in providing further explanation of the steps. Examples developed by the LEG, guide books and technical papers on the NAPA, have been very well received by Parties, as well as the regional workshops, which provided LDCs with the opportunity to clarify their doubts and exchange experiences with other countries.



NAPA – Best Practices

Good relations with the GEF agency results in a smoother implementation of NAPA projects

Each agency has its own procedures for developing projects, and although the agency will assist the country fulfil all the requirements in for the project, this may lead to delays in processing the project, and misunderstanding if the requirements are not clearly communicated.

Experience shows that countries that chose an agency with which they had had a previous positive experience in other projects were more satisfied, mostly because a better interaction also meant more transparency in the exchange of information, a clear understanding of each part's roles and responsibilities, a better ownership of the projects and more realistic expectations regarding the whole process.

Best Practice:

A good practice seems to be to choose an agency that has existing experience and activity in a given activity, since the agency can then easily apply its expertise to the project. In any case, taking the time to assess each agency's advantages against the country specific circumstances and project objectives can ensure a smoother process.

Lessons Learned:

Many countries have reported that good working relations with an agency at the country level can lead to a very positive interaction and smooth implementation of NAPA projects.

Good communications are also key to addressing bottlenecks as they arise. In the long run, addressing problems as they arise is far easier than cancelling a project and re-entering the GEF/LDCF pipeline with a new submission and another agency.



NAPA – Best Practices

Designing a thorough implementation strategy can improve the effectiveness of NAPA implementation

An important decision to be made early on is how to approach the implementation of the NAPA.

A country may initially choose to pursue only one project through the LDCF in order to get started quickly with implementation, or when there are no resources to design the more integrated approach. Most LDCs have followed this route so far and have accessed the LDCF for one project.

More recent discussions on adaptation have explored the value of programmatic approaches to increase the effectiveness of interventions and to ensure sustainability of the activities when they are fully integrated into sectoral and other national activities and programmes.

Best Practice:

Thorough implementation strategies can help take advantage of opportunities as increased funding becomes available. Countries that were able to carefully consider and plan their implementing strategy during NAPA preparation process generally had a seamless transition into the implementation phase.

Lessons Learned:

Some LDCs have felt that the absence of early guidelines for the implementation of NAPAs has prohibited the development of a comprehensive implementation strategy during the NAPA preparation phase. In fact, many LDCs adopted a single project approach and would have favoured a programmatic approach if clear guidelines to develop such an approach had been made available to them.



NAPA – Best Practices

The simplified LDCF project cycle provides expedited access to resources

The project cycle for the LDCF is much more simplified than for regular GEF projects, since projects under the LDCF are processed upon receipt, reducing delays.

However, many Parties felt that the evolution over time of the GEF guidelines and the need for LDCs to adjust to those changes led to excessive delays in the implementation of NAPA projects, as exemplified by the introduction of the new procedures to access GEF funding (a switch in GEF templates while some project proposals had already been submitted led to considerable delays in project approval).

Best Practice:

The simplified project cycle for LDCF projects has made it easier for LDCs to access funds under the GEF. In addition to that, funds were readily made available under the LDCF, which enabled straightforward funding for NAPAs.

The principle of “balanced access” used by the LDCF is also a good practice, as it avoids the risks of a “first come, first served” policy.

Lessons Learned:

Changing procedures is necessary to accommodate changes and enhancement to processes; however, due consideration should be given to transitional arrangements so as to avoid unnecessary and/ or excessive delays.

The lesson from the switch in GEF templates is that no delay should be imposed on projects in the pipeline to the point of re-submission and re-approval of projects if at all possible.



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