



Responding to climate change in Least Developed Countries

Climate change threatens to undo decades of progress toward poverty reduction and poses grave risks to attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are some of the most vulnerable to climate change, as they are least able to recover from climate stresses and their economic growth is highly dependent on climate-sensitive sectors. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works to align human development and climate responses to promote sustainable development, especially in LDCs. UNDP takes a pro-poor and pro-MDG approach to development, and works to provide targeted and flexible support in response to country-specific climate change challenges.

UNDP has been active in the fight against climate change since the early 1990s, assisting LDCs with capacity development, adaptation and mitigation actions. Today UNDP has programmes or offices in 166 countries working to deliver technical support that helps countries reduce emissions, enhance resiliency and support the achievement of the MDGs.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Capacity development is present in all UNDP's climate change programmes and initiatives for developing countries. Still, UNDP has focused its support on developing capacities of LDCs to embed and integrate resilience building and adaptive capacity into domestic policies, and investment decision-making processes and practices.

Under the **National Communications Support Programme**, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides financial assistance to LDCs to prepare their national communications, made available under enabling activities implemented by UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank for a total of over US \$60 million. These enabling projects include facilitating information sharing and knowledge exchange and preparing technical reviews of draft reports on GHG inventories, vulnerability & adaptation (V&A), mitigation analysis, technology needs assessment and mainstreaming climate change. (<http://ncsp.undp.org>)

As part of **Samoa's** Second National Communication, the country developed a Climate Risk Profile (CRP) which includes an analysis of climate risks for the country. This CRP has been the core scientific tool used for the vulnerability and adaptation assessment, providing evidence of climate impacts such as increased frequency and intensity of extreme rainfalls. These extreme rainfalls cause flooding disrupting livelihoods and damaging local communities. Thanks to the CRP, extreme rainfalls have been recognized as a priority vulnerability issue, needing immediate adaptive action.

The **National Capacity Self-Assessments Programme** (NCSA), for which UNDP collaborates with GEF and UNEP, is a mechanism for undertaking a comprehensive assessment of country capacities and associated capacity needs to fulfill the requirements of the Rio Conventions. In the case of **Lao PDR**, the objectives of the NCSA report are to familiarize a wide audience with the NCSA and its specific contents, explore related capacity needs, provide a basis for the exchange of views and experiences, and, mobilize financial and technical support from donors to give follow-up on identified outputs and recommendations of the NCSA. (<http://nca.undp.org/docs/640.pdf>)

The US \$7.7 million project **Capacity Development for Policy Makers to Address Climate Change** helps 20 developing countries, including Bangladesh, Gambia, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Togo, to undertake assessments of investment and financial flows (I&FF) to address climate change. Assessments are made for some key economic sectors, in order to better understand the magnitude of funds needed to tackle climate change now and in the long term. (www.undpcc.org) In **Bangladesh**, UNDP together with TERI successfully trained national experts and Ministry representatives on I&FF assessments for the energy, water and agriculture sectors, while also reviewing the national workplan, and agreeing upon institutional arrangements for undertaking these assessments.

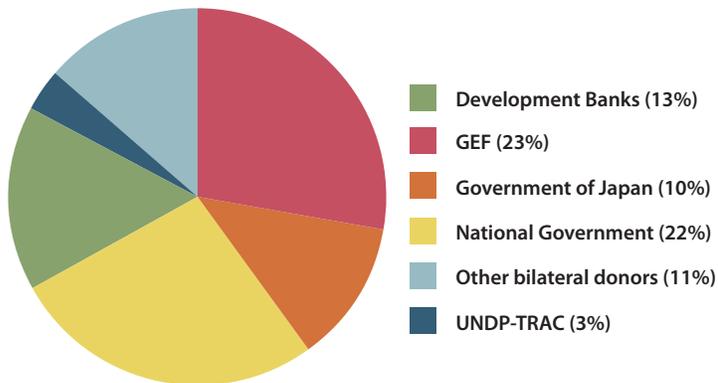
As a technical knowledge broker, UNDP is also involved in the **MDG Carbon Facility**, a one-stop shop for the technical development of CDM projects, the **UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation** (UN-REDD) partnership to preserve forests in developing countries, and **Capacity Development for a Clean Development Mechanism**.

FAST FACTS on UNDP's portfolio in LDCs	
Total number of projects UNDP is supporting with accessing resources from the LDCF, as of end-2009	23
Total number of LDCF projects under implementation, as of March 2010	12
Total number of additional LDCF projects expected to begin implementation during second quarter 2010	5
Total number of additional LDCF projects expected to begin implementation during quarters 3 and 4 2010	6
Total number of additional countries UNDP has been asked to support with accessing LDCF resources, since January 2010	5

ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

UNDP currently supports more than 70% of LDCs to access financing from multiple sources including the adaptation funds from the GEF as well as resources from the Government of Japan, Spain, and other bi-lateral donors, international agencies, NGOs and development banks.

Distribution of UNDPs Adaptation Portfolio (% based on total funding)



Delivering US \$70 million to 22 LDCs, UNDP is the largest implementing agency of the **Least Developed Countries Fund** (LDCF) through the GEF. The LDCF supports National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) formulation projects, together with the design and implementation of priority NAPA interventions. (www.undp.org/climatechange/pillar_adaptation.shtml)

Bangladesh, one of most adversely affected countries to climate change, developed a NAPA that comprises realistically achievable country-driven adaptation activities responding to climate related challenges as water scarcity, drainage congestion and river bank erosion. Priority actions identified through a participatory approach are being implemented, including the community based adaptation through coastal afforestation project.

The GEF-managed **Special Climate Change Fund** (SCCF) and **Strategic Priority on Adaptation** (SPA) provide respectively US \$37 million and US \$16 million to UNDP's implementation of projects in 21 countries. In **Mauritania**, one of these projects seeks to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities to the different impacts of climate change. An integrated approach is adopted for the development and implementation of adaptation strategies such as monitoring sea-level and climate and improved access to data. These activities are strengthened by a regional observing network. (www.undp.org/climatechange/pillar_adaptation.shtml)

For the period 2008-2011 Japan provides US \$92.1 million to assist 21 African countries, 11 of which are LDCs, to adjust their national development processes to incorporate climate change risks and opportunities. In **Burkina Faso**, the Africa Adaptation Programme responds to factors undermining progress towards adapting to climate change, despite the development of significant capacity. Some actions of the ongoing project include the creation of a national mechanism to mobilize and allocate funds for climate adaptation, the enhancement of the capacity of meteorology institutes to observe and analyse the climate and its impact on development. (www.undp-adaptation.org/africaprogramme)

Through its **Community-Based Adaptation Programme**, UNDP and its partners are working with the small farmers and pastoralists of **Niger's** drylands where more droughts and floods threaten to destroy the communities' delicate ecosystem. Projects include reducing erosion around increasingly fragile water points and establishing seed banks to help farmers even out their production despite an increasingly variable ecosystem. The Niger projects form part of a \$4.5 million programme supporting community-driven projects across 10 pilot countries between now and 2012. (www.undp-adaptation.org/project/cba)

The Spain-funded **MDG Achievement Fund** (MDG-F) provides US \$89 million over four years (2007-2010) to projects in favour of environment and climate change adaptation and mitigation work toward reaching the MDGs. As part of the One-UN process UNDP supports adaptation measures in 13 countries, including **Malawi** where it integrates climate change risks into national development processes and UN country programming for agriculture.

As a joint initiative of UNEP and UNDP, funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs the **Climate Change and Development – Adapting by Reducing Vulnerability** three-year programme (CC-DARE) aims to become a practical example of UN cooperation. It provides financial and technical support to 15 Sub-Saharan countries, building the technical, analytical, and institutional capacity needed for integrating climate change risks and opportunities into national development planning and decision-making. In **Benin**, this overall objective translates into a capacity development project targeting pupils and teachers, by integrating climate change and environment issues in secondary school curricula. (www.ccdare.org)

Though climate adaptation is the first concern for many LDCs, UNDP has mobilized over US \$3.5 billion, mainly through GEF, to fund low-emission development projects in more than 100 countries, focusing on market transformation in certain key sectors such as renewable energy and sustainable transport. (www.undp.org/climatechange/pillar_mitigation.shtml)

In **Bhutan**, rising fossil fuel prices and the readily available biomass-based energy sources are pushing rural households and small/medium enterprises to resort to traditional energy sources for cooking and heating purposes. The GEF-funded project aims at the removal of barriers to sustainable utilization of available biomass resources and application of modern biomass energy technologies that can support economic and social development in the country's rural sector. Furthermore, the project builds on the Government's plan to develop a Comprehensive National Renewable Energy Policy and Strategy.

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