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Clean Energy Nepal

briefing

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A process for integrating climate change adaptation into development planning



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It is well established fact that people, their natural resources and human capital in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are in crisis due to climate change. High emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) by developed countries and those with high economic growth rate have resulted in accelerated change in climate system. However, 49 (LDCs) which emit only 4 percent of total greenhouse gases are most climate vulnerable. Moreover, the existence of some island countries is in question and mountainous countries like Nepal are facing increased climate-induced vulnerabilities.

Adaptation can be an appropriate and reliable option for the poor people of LDCs which have low or no technologies and economic resources, capacity and human capital to cope with the ongoing and emerging challenges of climate change. For vulnerable communities, adaptation is not a choice but a compulsion. The climate change crisis calls for promoting sustainable development and integrating adaptation into development planning and its process.

Climate Change Adaptation

Article 4.9 of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) states that developed countries 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. To implement this Article, the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the UNFCCC held in Marrakesh, Morocco in 2001 adopted LDC work program, recognizing the need for support to develop plans to address the adverse impacts of climate change. Under this work program, the CoP decided that LDCs should be assisted in preparing and implementing National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs) that focuses on most urgent and immediate adaptation needs and concerns to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. The CoP also established the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) to support LDCs for the preparation and implementation of NAPAs. Initially, GEF as an operational entity to the LDCF decided to provide LDCs with two hundred thousand US dollars each from the fund to prepare NAPA. The CoP7 also established LDC Expert Group

(LEG) to support LDCs in preparation and implementation of NAPAs. As of November 2013 all 49 LDCs have prepared their NAPA and many of the LDCs have started implementation of some of the NAPA prioritized programs or projects.

Of the nine combined profile projects prioritized in Nepal's NAPA, the Government of Nepal is now implementing Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Flood project with support from LDCF, and has secured finances from LDCF for Ecosystem based Adaptation (EBA) project and reducing vulnerability and increasing adaptive capacity in agriculture sector . Likewise, 70 Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA) have been prepared and are under implementation with support from the UK Department of International Development and European Union. The Government is also preparing additional 30 LAPA for scaling up implementation of most urgent and immediate adaptation options. The appropriateness and effectiveness of the adaptation actions will be known after the programs are implemented as envisioned by the National Framework on LAPA.

Framing the National Adaptation Plan:

Despite the global consensus on the need to reduce GHGs emission, failure to act accordingly has accelerated climate change-induced extreme events. Realizing it, the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC held in Cancun, Mexico in 2010 decided to start National Adaptation Planning Process in LDCs (including developing countries) to identify medium and long-term adaptation needs, prioritize adaptation actions and integrate into development plans. LDCs are expected to prepare NAP based on the experience of NAPA preparation and implementation. CoP 17, held in Durban, South Africa in 2011 decided the initial guidelines for NAP formulation process. LEG will support the LDCs in this process and the LDCs are expected to start NAP process after they receive funding from the LDCF. Several LDCs have already joined NAP-GSP and UNDP and UNEP will initially engaged in developing human resources in the

LDCs for NAP formulation process.

NAP will help both developing and least developed countries to identify and evaluate climate change vulnerability, address risk and mainstream adaptation options in the development planning process. As climate change has added challenges to the development efforts, it is necessary to integrate adaptation and sustainable development approaches into the planning process. NAP process aims to reduce vulnerability by increasing adaptive capacity and resilience of a system and integrate climate change adaptation into existing or forthcoming policies, programs and projects. Based on the applicability, climate change adaptation should be integrated into all sectors and different levels of development planning process and strategy.

Initial Guidelines to formulate NAPs

Initial guidelines for the formulation of NAPs by LDCs contain four main elements as: (i) laying the groundwork and addressing gaps; (ii) preparatory elements; (iii) implementing strategies; and (iv) reporting, monitoring and review. Initial guidelines urge to assess weaknesses and capacity gaps, also assess development needs and climate vulnerabilities, and address them as necessary to support the formulation of comprehensive adaptation plans, programmes and policies. To proceed with the NAP process, following activities should be carried out;

- Identification of specific needs related to capacity and vulnerability;
- Direct the process with respect to the needs of the country and priority
- Adopt iterative process of identification and prioritization of midterm and long term adaptation actions and integrate them in national and regional plan
- Organize stakeholder consultations, communications, awareness raising activities and capacity building activities

In a nutshell, it is necessary to stock-take development sector specific climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation needs, identify and review adaptation options, compile and communicate NAP, and integrate into national and sub-national development and sectoral planning.

After integrating adaptation actions in the national, sub-national and sectoral plans, a strategy should be developed for the effective implementation of those plans. The strategy should contain capacity building components such as institutional strengthening and regulatory structures. Furthermore, the initial guideline emphasizes on reporting, monitoring and review to address limitations in the implementation of adaptation actions, monitoring initiatives and reporting progress and effectiveness and gaps through national communications.

NAP process is expected to aid to the continuity of implementing adaptation actions. National needs and circumstances, gender sensitiveness, participation of vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystem should be taken into consideration while formulating NAP.

Further Initiatives on NAPs:

As per the decision of the Conference of the Parties, 5/CP.17, the parties and relevant organizations were invited to submit the information on their experiences with the application of the guidelines for the national adaptation plan process.

Some parties and observer organizations have submitted their experience with the application of the guidelines for the national adaptation plan process. Nepal on behalf of the LDCs has submitted its experience with the application of the guidelines for the national adaptation plan process prioritizing on the financial flow for the preparation of the NAPs as of the decision of COP 18 regarding the guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF).

At present, GEF has funded UNDP and UNEP to launch a USD 2 million Global Support Programme (GSP) to assist LDCs in NAP formulation process. Several LDCs have already joined NAP-GSP and UNDP and UNEP will initially engaged in developing human resources in the LDCs for NAP formulation process.

Table 1: Difference between NAPA and NAP

Elements	NAPA	NAP
Objective	Identify and implement immediate and urgent adaptation needs, priority projects.	Identify, prioritize and integrate Mid/Long-term adaptation needs in development planning
Decision in UNFCCC process	Marrakesh Accord - COP 7 (Decision 5/CP7) in Year 2001	Cancun Adaptation Framework-COP 16 (Decision 1/CP16) - Year 2010 Guidelines and Modalities detailed on Decision 5/CP 17 – Durban, 2011 Financial Modalities 5/CP 18 – Doha, 2012
Target Countries	LDCs	LDC and other interested developing countries (<i>Adaptation Committee work plan</i>)
Funding Support	Primarily from LDCF for preparation & Implementation	Preparation – LDCF (5/CP18) for LDCs Implementation –Green Climate Fund (Pre & Post 2020), Fast Start Finance
Present Status	Prepared by 47 LDCs and in different stages of implementation	Initiation of discussions on how to proceed on NAP framing process.

Further reading materials:

Least Developed Countries expert Group. 2012. The national adaptation plan process - a brief overview. FCCC/GeN/283e, UNFCCC: Bonn, Germany. Available http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/publication_ldc_napp_2013.pdf

Least Developed Countries expert Group. 2012. Best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the least developed countries, volume 2. FCCC/GeN/278 e, UNFCCC: Bonn, Germany. Available at http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/ldc_publication_bll_2012.pdf

UNFCCC. 2011. Identification and implementation of medium- and long-term adaptation activities in least developed countries. Technical paper FCCC/TP/2011/7, Least Developed Countries expert Group, UNFCCC: Bonn, Germany. Available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/tp/07.pdf>

Cancun Adaptation Framework <https://unfccc.int/adaptation/items/5852.php>



Clean Energy Nepal (CEN) is an independent non-profit organization based in Kathmandu. CEN Conducts research, advocacy, education campaigns and promotes implementation of policies and programs on issues related to sustainable energy use and environmental conservation.

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