

Overview of GIZ's support to the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process

Introduction

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process was established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to reduce vulnerability and to mainstream adaptation into development planning. At the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Durban (COP 17) in December 2011, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) was requested to prepare Technical Guidelines for the NAP process. Furthermore, bilateral and multilateral agencies were invited to support the NAP process and to establish support programmes for developing countries.

Support can take various forms, such as technical advice, knowledge brokerage, financial support and regional or virtual exchanges. In providing support it is important to recognise the flexible and country-driven nature of the NAP process: depending on their individual needs, countries choose steps and activities from the Technical Guidelines as appropriate, determine their order, and add new aspects and steps to the process. Following this trajectory, a number of NAP support activities have been established that assist countries in identifying their individual NAP framework, for instance the NAP-Global Support Programme ([NAP-GSP](#)), and support projects from bilateral donors.

GIZ's NAP support

The Technical Guidelines prepared by the LEG were published in late 2012. They provide guidance for a coherent medium- and longer-term adaptation planning. Elements A to D describe the process, from conceiving a NAP to monitoring its implementation (see figure). To ensure effective implementation, GIZ offers further support to operationalise steps and activities suggested in the guidelines. Drawing on our long-standing experience in mainstreaming adaptation into development, we have developed supplementary materials for selected aspects of the LEG Technical Guidelines.

GIZ engages in:

- conceptual work and development of NAP support methods;
- bilateral support for partner countries (e.g. through technical advisory missions and knowledge brokerage);
- participation in multilateral forums and global discussions on NAP (e.g. NAP Expo at UNFCCC meetings, LEG regional workshops or NAP-GSP regional trainings).

GIZ applies a mix of existing and newly developed tools and management approaches to facilitate the NAP process (see figure for an overview and more detailed explanations below). They can be further extended to meet the needs of partner countries.

Background: the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process

Climate change and its impacts are long-term phenomena. In order to tackle the related challenges effectively, strategies for adaptation to climate change need to include medium- and long-term approaches. Against this background, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process was established in 2010 under the Cancún Adaptation Framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to support all developing countries, especially least developed countries (LDCs), in meeting their medium- and long-term adaptation needs and to complement the existing short-term national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs).

The main objectives of the NAP process are to reduce vulnerability by building adaptive capacity and resilience, and to facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation into relevant policies and programmes, in particular into development planning.

The COP agreed that the NAP process should be continuous, progressive, iterative and follow a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach.

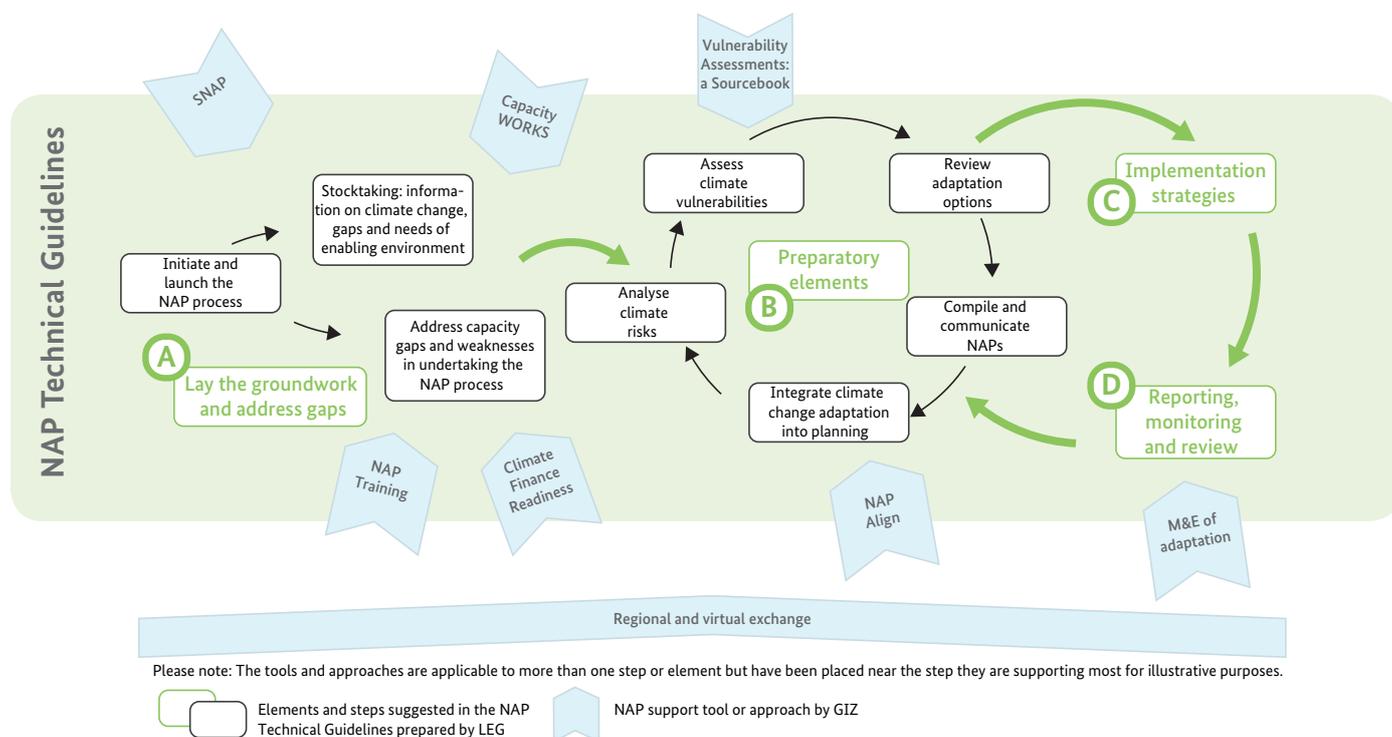


Figure: Overview of GIZ approaches and tools to facilitate the NAP process.

Using GIZ approaches and tools for advancing the NAP process

Adaptation planning is carried out in a complex setting of vulnerabilities, affected sectors, existing planning processes, competing topics, different actors, financing possibilities and the wide range of approaches, methods and tools to accommodate new

challenges. In view of this, there are no blueprints for the range of available tools in the NAP process. A few examples of how GIZ support was applied are listed below:

Cambodia: Developing a NAP road map using Capacity WORKS

In February 2014, a joint NAP-GSP/GIZ mission team explored Cambodia's options for a NAP process together with the Ministry of Environment and other key actors. The following Capacity WORKS tools were used: Stakeholder Mapping, SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) of existing climate change adaptation processes and Process Landscape. Results include the identification of added value of the NAP process for Cambodia, a draft NAP roadmap and the definition of six strategic intervention areas.

Capacity WORKS for NAP

Structures in partner countries and within the donor landscape are becoming more and more complex. GIZ has developed Capacity WORKS as a management model for cooperation in settings with multiple actors. It uses different tools to analyse complex situations and is based on five factors: strategy, cooperation, steering, processes and learning. Capacity WORKS is based on dialogue with partners, which helps to establish a close connection. The complete toolbox is available in different languages, and so are trainers.

Further information on Capacity WORKS can be found [here](#).

Togo: Aligning the NAP process to development planning using NAP Align

In April 2014, the Togolese Ministry of Environment with support from GIZ conducted an analysis of the national planning and budgeting system in order to align the NAP process with existing procedures. The results show that climate change adaptation is already taken into account in the national development strategy (SCAPE) and sectoral plans. With important policy priorities already in place, the following areas of work need to be addressed in the future: amplifying national and sectoral planning and establishing a long-term vision, recognising limits in the financial system and prioritising specific activities, and intensifying internal political and executive support for the NAP process.

Aligning NAP processes to development and budget planning (NAP Align)

NAP Align provides practical recommendations on how to integrate adaptation to climate change into a country's planning and budgeting system. The analysis is conducted through interviews with key stakeholders at the early stages of the NAP process, using questionnaires that are adjusted to the specific country context. The tool thus helps to align new NAP processes with existing national development and budget planning procedures.

Further information on the recommendations for NAP alignment can be found [here](#).

Tunisia: Stocktaking of existing adaptation capacities

In September 2013, the Tunisian Ministry of Environment invited to a multi-stakeholder workshop to assess existing and intended capacities for the NAP process in Tunisia by applying the SNAP tool. Results suggest that Tunisia's strengths lie in the availability of climate information and the long-term vision and mandate: the National Climate Change Strategy (SNCC) and three sectoral adaptation strategies are elaborate. However, planning capacities are weak in terms of intersectoral cooperation, and SNCC is still awaiting political approval. As next steps to improve the planning capacities, the participants identified: 1) creating a 'task force' within each institution/ministry as well as an intersectoral steering group at national level, and 2) lobbying for SNCC approval by increasing public pressure and sensitising relevant ministries.

Stocktaking for National Adaptation Planning (SNAP)

The SNAP tool takes a snapshot of the planning capacities in a country. On the basis of seven 'success factors', the country's present adaptation capacities and its strategic NAP goals are assessed in a multi-stakeholder workshop. Based on the results, a roadmap for the NAP process can be developed. The tool not only helps to identify the country's point of departure for initiating the NAP process and to raise awareness among stakeholders from different sectors, but it can also be used to regularly monitor progress made within the NAP process.

Further information on the SNAP Tool can be found [here](#).

Bolivia: Tracking adaptation success using Vulnerability Assessments

In 2013, GIZ conducted a vulnerability assessment within the context of the agricultural development project PROAGRO in Bolivia using the approach from the Vulnerability Sourcebook. The project promotes an improved irrigation management model for more efficient water use in agriculture. Based on quantitative and qualitative data, the vulnerability assessment analysed to which extent climate vulnerability of smallholder farmers was reduced by improving the community's irrigation system.

Vulnerability Assessments: a Sourcebook

The Sourcebook provides guidance for a standardised approach to vulnerability assessments in different climatic, regional and sectoral contexts. It also proposes how to use vulnerability assessments for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of adaptation. Vulnerability assessments support the allocation of resources and decision-making for adaptation and development planning.

Further information on the Vulnerability Sourcebook can be found [here](#).

Morocco: Promoting NAP through climate finance readiness support

Morocco's future national adaptation plan shall be the basis for decision-making on adaptation finance from domestic as well as international sources. However, the development of this plan has only started. To raise awareness for adaptation needs and to encourage all stakeholders to participate in NAP development, the Ministry of Environment has asked GIZ to finance a study on the costs of inactivity. GIZ will also support the Government of Morocco in initiating the NAP process.

Climate Finance Readiness

Climate finance readiness means the capacity of developing countries and emerging economies to access and use international climate finance as effectively as possible. GIZ's approach to support climate finance readiness consists of five modules that are crucial in dealing with climate finance. Strategic planning and institutional development are at the core of the approach: programmatic approaches such as NAPs form the basis for accessing and using international climate finance and thus complement other climate finance readiness efforts.

Further information can be found [here](#).

Philippines: Development of a national M&E system

The National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) of the Philippines outlines the roadmap for adaptation and mitigation from 2011 to 2028. With GIZ support, the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines developed a results-based M&E system aiming at evaluating the efficiency, effectiveness and outcomes of the NCCAP. The indicator-based M&E system builds on existing as well as new data and monitoring systems at national and sub-national levels. One of the main challenges in the process is to harmonise existing M&E systems and data.

M&E of adaptation

GIZ provides technical support and conceptual guidance for M&E of adaptation at different levels. At the national and sub-national level, GIZ supports the development of M&E systems and the integration of adaptation indicators into existing monitoring systems. GIZ is continuously developing new approaches, e.g. an economic approach to quantifying and comparing adaptation benefits in terms of saved health and saved wealth, or a standardised approach for vulnerability assessments that helps measure changes in the level of vulnerability over a period of time. For capacity development on M&E, a training course was recently developed and applied in several countries.

Further information on GIZ's approaches to M&E of adaptation and examples of application can be found [here](#).



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NAP training at country level

GIZ is currently developing a NAP training at country level in cooperation with the NAP Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) and its partner agencies UNDP and UNITAR. The target groups are decision-makers, experts and other stakeholders involved in the NAP process. The training aims to provide a general understanding of the conceptual approach of NAP and the NAP Technical Guidelines, to raise awareness of challenges and opportunities in the NAP process, to identify institutional and financial needs for conducting a successful NAP process, and to familiarise participants with existing NAP support tools and methods. The training will strengthen the overall sensitisation to and focus on the NAP process and provide specific knowledge on necessary framework conditions and selected key tasks. The practice-oriented training is based on the Harvard Case methodology that works with country examples.

Regional and virtual exchange on NAP

NAP is still a relatively new field of politics and management. To facilitate learning across countries and regions, GIZ started a virtual webinar discussion series in May 2014. The webinars are open to an international audience and can be accessed at www.AdaptationCommunity.net.

Selected reading and information sources

- Read more about GIZ's NAP support at www.AdaptationCommunity.net ▶ [Knowledge](#) ▶ [Mainstreaming & NAP](#)
- [Technical guidelines for the National Adaptation Plan process \(LDC Expert Group 2012\)](#)
- [The National Adaptation Plan Process: A brief overview \(LDC Expert Group 2012\)](#)
- [NAP Central Website](#)
- [UNFCCC NAP portal](#)

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