

Using NAPs for NDC Implementation

NAP is well-established and has many advantages that could be valuable for the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement

Where are we in terms of adaptation?

The Paris Climate Agreement came into force in November 2016 when it had been ratified by the necessary number of member states. Since then governments face the challenge of translating their (intended) national climate commitments reported prior to COP21 into concrete measures. In terms of adaptation, they can draw on a process that already exists, providing valuable experience and being well suited for this challenge as well: the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process.

What is NAP all about?

Member states of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established the NAP process in 2010. It aims at supporting developing countries in integrating adaptation aspects into their developing planning and public budgeting processes. Doing so allows for sustainable growth despite potential negative impacts, losses or damages due to climate change.

NAPs are planning processes on the national level, involving all departments and sectors. This is necessary because adaptation is not only a „green“ or environmental topic but a cross-cutting issue with a particular focus on the agriculture, health and water sector. According to the technical guidelines of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), NAPs have to be participative and transparent: They are to integrate all relevant stakeholders and design decision-making processes to be open and accountable. Currently 87 countries are engaged in NAP processes (as of October 2017) ([Tool for Assessing Adaptation in the NDCs](#)).

Why is NAP important?

The NAP process is a key planning process that allows governments to identify and prioritize needed action in all sectors (“informed and evidence-based decision making”). In addition, it facilitates the implementation of preventive measures. And thirdly, the NAP process allows governments to plan public investments and allocate funds according to the respective climate risks they are facing:

- NAP processes help to develop coherent national policies for all sectors, coordinate all political levels and bring together the most important stakeholders. Instead of implementing single adaptation measures, NAPs follow a comprehensive approach. That way, governmental entities are able to consider and manage multiple risk factors across sectors and scales (for instance demographic change or urbanization can be considered additionally).
- Costs that might arise from climate impacts can be reduced or even avoided completely through proactive planning and preventive public measures. For example, by considering sea level rise and higher flood risks in a certain region and thus refraining from construction activities in that area may significantly reduce impacts incurred.
- A comprehensive approach also enables different budgeting considerations: integrating adaptation risks and measures into public budget lines allows to mobilise additional private-sector and international finance.

How are NAPs and NDCs linked?

The Paris Agreement further strengthened the relevance of adaptation and made the respective planning, implementation and reporting on adaptation actions mandatory to all members of Conference of Parties (COP).

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Whether they make use of NAPs for structuring their adaptation efforts, however, is left up to the individual countries. In the run-up to Paris 163 countries had submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs, since ratification they are called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)), listing their country-specific contributions to combat climate change. 74 percent of the Parties who submitted an NDC voluntarily also included adaptation commitments ([Tool for Assessing Adaptation in the NDCs](#)). After the Paris Agreement, member states now face the challenge of transforming their NDCs into national planning processes and policies. It is exactly at this point where the NAP process can be of great value because it is a well-established process with valuable experiences and lessons learned (see list below). The NAP provides a good level base on which the NDC implementation can build. Moreover, it is a good showcase as to which is the best way for adaptation to be integrated into political decisions and budgets. In that it is well-suited to mainstream NDCs. That also holds true for mitigation commitments.

- Within the NAP process, key steps for sequencing the process have already been defined; they could facilitate the implementation of NDCs.
- The NAP process has produced lessons learned on the institutional framework that is required in order to integrate climate issues into policy-making and budgeting.
- Through the NAP process, experiences have been gained on how to organise stakeholder dialogues, important for any kind of climate implementation process.
- GIZ and other development agencies have developed capacity-building tools for NAP processes: e.g. for taking stock of climate risks, for identifying adaptation planning and financing needs, for developing

financing strategies and for the monitoring of adaptation results.

- The NDC process and its political momentum can be an opportunity to enhance climate resilient policy-making and financing. By aligning NDC and NAP objectives and merging measures to be taken, their dynamic is amplified because it qualifies for joint funding opportunities.

How does GIZ support the NAP?

Support of NAP processes can take various forms, such as technical advice, knowledge brokerage, financial support and regional or virtual exchanges: Since 2011 GIZ supports partner countries in formulating and implementing NAPs through technical advice and capacity building. For this purpose, GIZ developed tools (e.g. SNAP Tool, NAP Align) and training materials. At the same time GIZ collaborates closely with other donors and UN organisations to support partner countries in their NAP process.

Germany is one of the founding members of the NAP Global Network and there is close cooperation with the NAP Global Support Programme. Moreover, GIZ supports the BMZ and BMUB in their newly launched NDC Partnership that aims to assist countries in reaching their NDCs. Within that partnership donors and international organisations join forces to provide and coordinate support needed in partner countries in order to quickly and effectively implement their climate and development commitments.

GIZ promotes an institutional link of the NDC Partnership and the NAP Global Network. Such link would ensure that the mentioned co-benefits and complementarities be used and that both processes are sustainably aligned.

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