



# Thailand: NAP Process Country Case Study

This Country Case Study was developed as part of a series on the national adaptation planning (NAP) process in selected countries. The purpose of the series is to provide an update on the current NAP process, showing first lessons learned and giving an outlook on the next steps to be taken in the iterative NAP process, considering how it contributes to reaching the countries' adaptation goals. The case studies shall furthermore serve the purpose of peer learning to countries that are planning or just starting the NAP process.

## Climate risks in Thailand

Located in flood-prone Southeast Asia, Thailand is highly vulnerable to the myriad impacts of climate change. Its 2420 km of coastline make Thailand exposed to coastal flooding. Moreover, national climate projections indicate that in areas with already high precipitation heavier rainfalls will occur, as it is already the case on the southern peninsula. Meanwhile, in the arid inland north-eastern region precipitation is projected to decline even further. The results are extreme flooding and drought. In the past, Thailand has already suffered from such extreme events: In 2011, the country experienced severe flooding after record rainfall, an event that cost as much as 40 billion USD to the national economy and led to an estimated 2.5% drop in global industrial production.<sup>1</sup> The impacts on the agricultural sector were particularly severe, especially to subsistent farmers. As 66% of Thailand's population live in rural areas, these climate change impacts in the agricultural sector are of critical significance. For these reasons, adaptation is a top pri-

ority in Thailand's efforts to address climate change, with the **Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy**, bestowed by His Late Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, acting as its framework.<sup>2</sup>

## Governance structure for adaptation to climate change



The **Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)** within the **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE)** functions as

the core institution responsible for climate change. Its **Climate Change Management Coordination Division (CCMC)** acts as a focal point to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**, as well as to the Adaptation Fund, being responsible for the overall coordination with international climate donors. An **Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMWG)** was furthermore established by ONEP to steer the overall planning for adaptation at the national level.

<sup>1</sup> Japans Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. [White Paper on International Economy and Trade 2012](#). Published December 2012. Accessed March 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning. [Intended Nationally Determined Contribution and Relevant Information](#). Published September 2016. Accessed March 2019.

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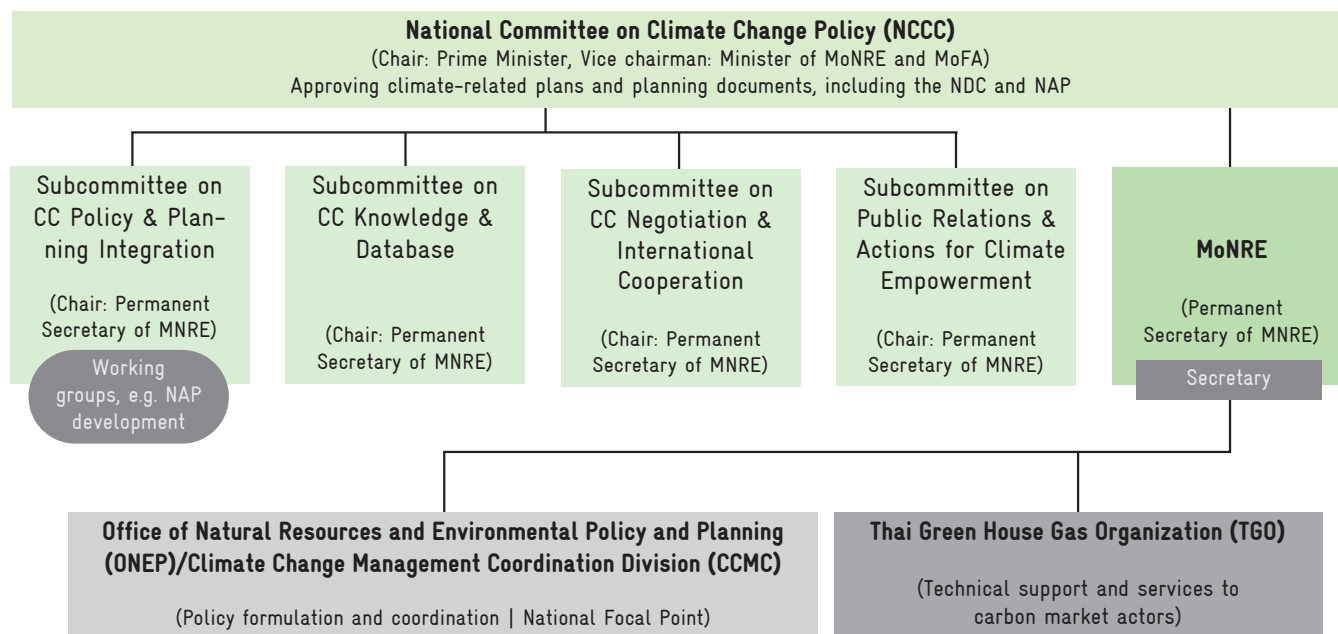
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## Structure of the National Body on Climate Change



The **National Committee on Climate Change (NCCC)**, conversely, is responsible for approving climate-related plans and planning documents as well as sectoral climate strategies. This includes the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Committee members are high-level representatives from different ministries. The Prime Minister’s office presides over the committee and the Deputy Prime Minister chairs the meetings, which take place on a regular basis. The NCCC enjoys high-level political support and has the mandate to set up topic- or sector-related working groups when necessary, with the objective to steer the technical discussion among line ministries responsible for the country’s key adaptation sectors and national climate experts. Working groups cover, for instance, NAP development or projects dealing with climate information.

### Adaptation Policy Framework

Thailand’s NDC includes both mitigation and adaptation goals. The adaptation component reflects the content of the **Climate Change Master Plan (CCMP)**, although, without referring to specific actions. The CCMP was approved by the Cabinet in 2015 and incorporates

mitigation as well as adaptation strategies to climate change for the period 2015–2050. As a 5-year rolling plan, the CCMP is currently being revised for 2020. The plan identifies 18 sectoral priorities, out of which the following six are focused on adaptation:

1. flood, drought and water management,
2. agriculture and food security,
3. tourism,
4. public health,
5. natural resource management, and
6. human settlement and security.

To elaborate on adaptation planning and efforts, ONEP has developed the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2018–2037, which was approved by the NCCC in November 2018. The NAP consists of overall national and sector specific risk assessment as well as sector specific adaptation measures. The NAP time-frame is aligned with the 20-year National Strategy with a cycle of 5-year revisions, which is again aligned with a 5-year National Economic Social Development Plan.

## NAP Process

NDC	PA ratified	Yes, 21.09.2016
	NDC submitted	Yes, 20.09.2016
	Adaptation component in NDC	Yes
	Reference to NAP	No; however, the NAP goals will be incorporated in the NDC update 2020
NAP	NAP process initiated in	2015
	Timeframe for implementation	2018–2030, with a revision every 5 years
	Responsible institution	Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE)
	Current status of NAP process	NAP document officially approved by the NCCC in Nov. 2018
	Financing	In progress
	Scope of NAP document	Sector-specific adaptation strategies of each ministry
	Reference to NDC	To be elaborated



ONEP initiated the NAP process in 2015 by conducting a first vulnerability assessment (VA) on potential risks related to climate change. In order to surpass shortcomings and to move towards a more risk-

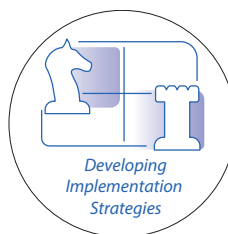
based approach (according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's definition of vulnerability outlined in its 5th Assessment Report), a gap analysis followed this first VA. This gap analysis complemented the first VA by developing normative impact chains for climate risks in the different sectors. Such impact chains at the national and sub-national level will inform the subsequent NAP process stages and procedures. They will also serve as a basis for the quantification of risks in the respective sectors, and thus the design of sector-specific adaptation actions as well as for the mobilisation of financial resources. Thailand's NAP document was officially approved and launched in November 2018. GIZ has supported the process since 2015.

### Box 1 Strategies in the NAP document

1. Water Management
2. Agriculture and Food Security
3. Tourism Management
4. Public Health Management
5. Natural Resources Management
6. Settlements and Human Security
7. Management to Build Capacity in Climate Change Adaptation

The NAP document, similar to the CCMP, focusses on six sectors, each providing a sectoral strategy, as shown in box 1. The last strategy includes capacity building as an inter-sectoral strategy.

### Alignment to other national policies and mainstreaming



Even The NAP document and the NDC are developed by the same ONEP division. The NAP document will be used to communicate the implementation progress of the adaptation component of the NDC. Current-

ly, ONEP is elaborating the first NDC update to be submitted in 2020, which will feature the NAP goals.

Each sector has a different starting point for addressing adaptation to climate change. This became apparent during the development of the impact chain process. While some ministries already worked on developing sector-specific climate strategies before the start of the NAP process, others only initiated their strategy in the wake of the NAP process. The **Ministry of Public Health** has recently finalised its **National Strategy on Adaptation in the Health Sector (HNAP)**, which has already been approved by relevant bodies within the Ministry of Public Health. The **Department of Public Works and Town and Country Planning** has pushed adaptation forward, e.g. through urban resilience projects. The **Ministry of Finance (MoF)** and MoNRE are developing an **Integrated Budget Allocation Framework** to integrate 'climate' into budget decision-making as a separate criterion. This would apply to annual budgets as well as sectoral budgets outside MoNRE and would provide public funds for climate change adaptation.

### Results of the NAP process and country-specific lessons learned

- **Enable high-level political ownership.** The Prime Minister's support to the NAP process pushed the motivation and commitment of the ministries.

- **Good data bases are important for developing concrete targets and indicators.** Lack of data provides a challenge for breaking down projections to the regional and sectoral scale and for conducting economic analyses. Initial risk assessments have been mainly qualitative and based on pre-existing data and projections. A sound data basis is equally important for developing a monitoring system and defining indicators for clear adaptation targets.
- **Peer exchange with other countries strengthens institutional capacities.** Face-to-face exchanges and encounters with national stakeholders from other countries, for instance via cooperation with the **NAP Global Network (NAP GN)**, improved the capacity of MoNRE and ONEP. The NAP GN provides a good opportunity to present the Thai NAP process, for example during a Targeted Topic Forum, and to deepen understanding on specific aspects (e.g. NAP M&E or adaptation finance) in a more informal setting. Moreover, ideas from other countries get the chance to enrich the process 'back home'.
- **Integrate financing of adaptation actions in the NAP process from the beginning.** Providing finance for implementation activities has been a central challenge for MoNRE. Through the ongoing discussions on an Integrated Budget Allocation Framework, MoF and MoNRE have started to strengthen their collaboration on adaptation to climate change. This includes the participation of MoF in NAP and sector adaptation workshops and training sessions held by ONEP, in order to gain a deeper understanding of climate change adaptation.
- **The NAP process can consolidate adaptation planning of different sectors.** Sectors are at different stages with respect to adaptation planning. The NAP process has helped to initiate adaptation planning in some sectors, such as health, tourism and agriculture and consolidate them in other sectors that were already at a different stage in their planning process, such as in the water sector.

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## Way forward

**NAP-Process:** Thailand is currently undertaking steps of Element B for the implementation of the NAP along the LEG Technical Guidelines. The IMWG is trying to integrate climate change adaptation into national and subnational development and sectoral planning. Contents of the drafted NAP are currently being incorporated and mainstreamed into ministerial strategies and local development plans.

**Alignment with NDC:** Another important task is to align the implementation of the NAP closely with the NDC to create synergies and avoid duplications. The NAP establishes a national framework for adaptation and at the same time may act as an operationalisation of the adaptation component of the NDC, enabling reporting and exchange on adaptation in the context of the UN-FCCC. Acknowledging this potential, ONEP is currently working on the incorporation of the NAP goals during the first update of the NDC to be submitted in 2020.

**Monitoring:** The process for establishing M&E procedures for adaptation are still at an early stage. The involved entities, however, are increasingly engaged in this process. A NAP M&E framework is currently being elaborated and efforts are taken to align it with parallel processes on M&E for adaptation that are ongoing in the relevant line ministries. A Financing system for M&E still needs to be elaborated.

**Financing:** Thailand has developed two GCF adaptation project proposals: one on enhancing climate resilience in Thailand's water management and sustainable agriculture, and another on building climate resilient coastal communities and ecosystems in Asia, both of which are currently being considered by the GCF.

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