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# Mainstreaming climate change adaptation into development

## UNDP's National Adaptation Plans Portfolio

UNDP's policy and institutional support on climate change adaptation planning and policy is delivered through the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes in developing countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The NAPs are carried out in an integrated approach linking to NDCs and contribute to UNDP's Climate Promise. At the core of NAPs is a commitment to through mainstreaming climate risk at all levels of development- local, national, regional and global.

UNDP is supporting countries reach the objectives of Article 7 on adaptation in the Paris Agreement in relation to adaptation planning. The NAPs process was originally established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework. It enables Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) as a means of addressing medium- and long-term adaptation needs.

**Portfolio overview**  
 The foundations of UNDP support on NAPs was laid through the GEF funded UNDP-UNEP NAP Global Support Programme, which was implemented from 2013 until 2021. As of 2022, UNDP provides multi-year in-country support to 50 countries across all regions to developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).



### Partners





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## The Programmes

### UNDP interventions on Climate Change Adaptation

Adaptation planning and mainstreaming support is not delivered in isolation. They are integrally aligned to UNDP’s global, regional and country initiatives on climate, disaster risk reduction and SDGs.

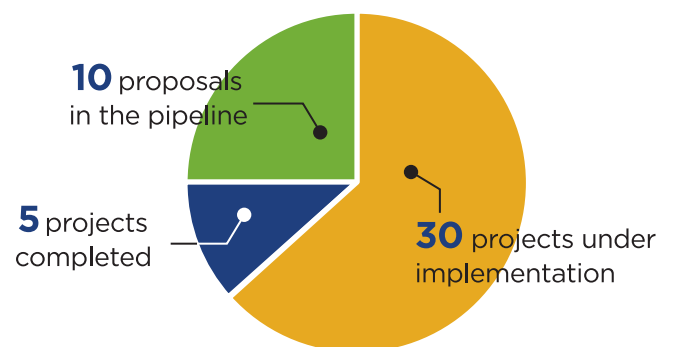
UNDP climate change adaptation work is focused on seven thematic areas to support vulnerable communities in building resilience to climate change including:

- Mainstreaming adaptation
- Building resilient livelihoods
- Food security and agriculture
- Ecosystem-based adaptation
- Urban resilience
- Water and coastal resilience
- Climate information & Early Warning Systems

### Country-level formulation of National Adaptation Plan processes (NAP-GCF)

Since 2017, UNDP has been engaged with developing countries in multi-year technical assistance projects across Asia, Africa, Latin America and Central Europe on advancing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) with funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Programme. Adaptation planning and policy support under these projects is integrally aligned to UNDP’s Climate Promise and support to NDC enhancement and implementation. These initiatives are delivered in close cooperation with UNDP’s global, regional and country initiatives on climate, disaster risk reduction and SDG relevant portfolios.

35 projects total





## Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (SCALA)

UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO) are co-leading a 5-year programme which began in 2020, *Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through NDC and NAPs (SCALA)*, funded by the German Government through the International Climate Initiative (IKI). SCALA responds to the urgent need for increased climate action in the agriculture and land use sectors by supporting translate their NDC/NAP priorities into actionable solutions.

**12 partner countries** across Africa, Asia and Latin America supported through SCALA



**12 additional countries** will be supported through the SCALA Private Sector Engagement Facility

### Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI)

The Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) was launched by the African Heads of States at COP21 in Paris and is supported by UNDP and the European Union. The initiative is designed for Africa driven by Africa. The work of the AAI informs the African Heads of States, the African Group of Negotiators, policymakers to accelerate climate adaptation in the region as outlined in the African Union’s Agenda 2063. The AAI supports continental Africa on collaboration on climate adaptation through pan-African and regional dialogues, knowledge on risk transfer and the launch of (forthcoming) State of Adaptation in Africa Report.



Photo credit: UNDP Ghana



## Partnerships

### Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)

UNDP has been a longstanding partner regularly providing the LEG with country updates and, participating in the NAP Technical Working Group, NAP Expo, LEG training workshops and other activities of the LEG in support of the LDCs. In 2021 and early 2022, UNDP worked with 5 LDCs to finalize their first National Adaptation Plans for submission to the UNFCCC, including [Timor Leste](#), [Central African Republic](#), [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), [South Sudan](#), [Chad](#) and [Sierra Leone](#).

### LDC Universities Consortium

UNDP has facilitated dialogues with governments and universities for better access of climate financing at the local level and support countries in mainstreaming local institutions in their national adaptation planning.

### Adaptation Action Coalition (AAC)

UNDP is a steering committee member for the [Adaptation Action Coalition](#) launched in 2021 by the UK COP Presidency in partnership with Bangladesh, Egypt, Malawi, the Netherlands and Saint Lucia.

The AAC drives global advocacy on adaptation and prioritizes work streams on locally led action, health, water and infrastructure.

### Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA)

The [ARA](#) is a global, collaborative effort to increase investment and opportunities for action research to develop and inform effective adaptation solutions. UNDP is a member of the Adaptation Research Alliance with a specific focus on strengthening adaptation metrics as well as knowledge and research for adaptation planning.

### Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) Community of Practice

UNDP is a member of the [LLA Community of Practice](#), a group led by the WRI and partners with over 80 members. UNDP is a signatory to the locally led adaptation action principles. UNDP’s goal is to build climate neutrality by 2050, supporting locally driven climate-resilient pathways, and uniting efforts across nature, climate, and energy to protect our people and our planet from the life-threatening impacts of the climate crisis.



Photo credit: UNDP Sri Lanka





Photo credit: UNDP Iraq

## Areas of work


### Building the evidence base

Baseline information for adaptation planning is rarely consolidated. UNDP works with countries to conduct a stocktaking of their current policies and plans. This helps the country identify entry points to deliver climate adaptation and tailor activities to close existing gaps. Following the stocktaking exercise, UNDP supports countries in deeper thematic studies and risk and vulnerability assessments as these are important steps to identify country-specific adaptation options.

 **35** countries are undertaking risk and vulnerability assessments.


### Mainstreaming gender

Gender issues are not uniformly dealt with in climate change policy and planning. Gender inequity is a powerful barrier to climate action because it prohibits participation in making changes and adapting to climate change. This is why UNDP supports countries in integrating gender considerations into financing strategies and supports budgeting for gender and increases participation by engaging women's groups in the NAP process.

 **46** countries have incorporated gender mainstreaming activities into their National Adaptation Plan process.


### Facilitating private sector engagement

Engaging private sector in climate adaptation is a well-known challenge which many countries are trying to tackle. For instance, SCALA supports countries in fostering dialogues between Governments and private sector actors, identifying opportunities and barriers and co-designing solutions. Additionally, the programme launched a Private Sector Engagement Facility that is open to providing additional support to 12 additional countries in this area.

 **24** countries to explore this new thematic area.

### Enhancing the M&E systems for adaptation

Adaptation metrics are foundational for measuring progress on adaptation, yet remain project focused. National systems for M&E need greater investment. UNDP is helping countries enhance, digitize and build new or existing national Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems as a method to track progress, outcomes and action on adaptation when implementing their National Adaptation Plan.

 **Over 25** countries are building stronger M&E systems to overcome barriers such as a lack of reliable data and inconsistent methodologies/metrics on how to monitor and report on mitigation and adaptation.

## Strengthening institutional mechanisms and capacities

UNDP works with institutions, such as ministries, local authorities and national organizations to develop targeted capacity building programmes and to strengthen coordination across these entities on climate change adaptation. Aside from these institutions, another important partner is universities. Involving universities in National Adaptation Plans allows projects to secure long-term knowledge, capacity development, human resources and enhance awareness of the next generation.

 **50 countries** are rolling out capacity building programmes.

 **12 countries** engaging with universities as partners.

## Mainstreaming into national, sectoral and local plans and budgets

Integrating climate risk into government budgets and development of financing strategies for adaptation is work in progress, globally. UNDP helps countries with risk informing planning and budgeting systems. Ensuring that countries can finance or secure funding to deploy their climate adaptation work and projects is key for medium to long-term adaptation.

 **30 countries** are developing a financial strategy to encourage the investments needed to deliver climate adaptation at scale as one of their project outcomes.




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## Knowledge exchange and management

A wealth of knowledge brokering, regional exchanges and training products have been developed as part of UNDP's country support, which includes country profiles, toolkits, training modules, virtual exchanges and learning forums.

 **16 countries** in the have a digital database online.

 **9 countries** are currently developing or planning to develop a knowledge database to inform their adaptation planning efforts.

## Sectoral integration in National Adaptation Plans

Adaptation planning is a multi-sector process. During the formulation process of the NAP document, countries identify priority sectors that most urgently need to adapt to climate change impacts.

 **12 SCALA partner countries** are focusing their efforts on the agriculture and land use sector.

 **35 countries** are formulating and implementing their National Adaptation Plans, 41 countries identified the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector as priority among many other sectors.

 <b>28</b> Agriculture	 <b>5</b> Health
 <b>4</b> Land use	 <b>4</b> Livestock

 <b>28</b> Water	 <b>19</b> Health
 <b>15</b> Coastal zones	 <b>9</b> Tourism
 <b>7</b> Transport	 <b>7</b> Energy
 <b>6</b> Infrastructure	 <b>4</b> Biodiversity