

Water Security and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)



Climate change threatens water resources and puts the world's development goals at risk. The post-2015 sustainable development framework should prioritise a goal on water security for all.

“ Countries with robust water management systems, institutions, and water infrastructure are better able to cope with climate change impacts. ”

Key messages

- **A Sustainable Development Goal on water**, with associated targets on disaster risk reduction, has the potential to contribute to the objectives of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and promote coherence on water related adaptation.
- **Capacity development in the NAPs process is required** to support smart decision making and build robust and flexible institutions that can respond to sudden changes and shocks. Capacity requirements include strengthening water resources monitoring and data collection, modelling, risk mapping and assessment, policy development, investment preparation, and performance measurement.
- **Decisions on adaptation priorities must be supported by appropriate information, data, and knowledge.** Building and using the knowledge base on water and climate change is essential for informed decision making.
- **Financing for implementation of NAPs** – adapting to climate change will require mobilisation of financial resources through blending of funds from public, private and multilateral sources. Action is required to improve efficiencies of already available public funding.
- **Prioritising no and low regret options** – there is a high degree of uncertainty over climate change impacts, but managing natural resources in a sustainable way – avoiding over exploitation – will improve the resilience of natural systems under any future climate scenarios.
- **Building partnerships and engaging stakeholders** – working across sectors to integrate the management of water resources and ensuring stakeholder participation in the NAP process supports more resilient development and avoids conflicts and inequalities over water.

GWP's Response to the Call for NAPs

Call for National Adaptation Plans

At its seventeenth session, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) acknowledged that national adaptation planning can enable developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), to assess their vulnerabilities, mainstream climate change risks, and address adaptation. The COP established the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process to facilitate adaptation planning in LDCs and other developing countries.¹

The objectives of the NAP process are to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience; and to facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation, in a coherent manner, into relevant policies, programmes, activities, and development planning processes and strategies within all relevant sectors and at different levels, as appropriate.²

The NAP Process

The UNFCCC LDC Expert Group (LEG) has issued technical guidelines to support countries in the NAP process. These guidelines consist of:

1. Laying the groundwork and addressing gaps – Identifying weaknesses and gaps in enabling environments, and addressing themes necessary to support comprehensive adaptation plans, programmes and policies.
2. Preparatory elements – Identifying specific needs, options, and priorities on a country basis. Promotion of participatory and gender sensitive approaches.
3. Implementing strategies – Prioritization according to development needs and climate change vulnerability and risk; strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks; training and coordination; public dissemination; other relevant multilateral frameworks and international programmes and initiatives.
4. Reporting, monitoring, and review.



Our Response

GWP's Global Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) supports countries in the NAP process and in particular supports countries to integrate water security and climate resilience in development planning and decision making processes. The WACDEP is running from 2011 to 2016 and targets 60 countries from Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe, and Latin America, and is aligned with the objectives of the UNFCCC NAP process.

To link global climate policy with on-the-ground action, GWP, through the WACDEP, collaborates with the UNDP-UNEP Global Support Programme on NAPs (NAP-GSP). NAP-GSP is helping LDCs to advance NAPs, bringing greater focus and coordination to country-led efforts in disaster management and disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation. The support is based on three main pillars:

1. Institutional support;
2. Technical support; and
3. Knowledge brokering.

The Water Supplement to NAPs Technical Guidelines

To advance knowledge on water related adaptation, GWP is developing a Water Supplement to the technical guidelines on NAPs developed by the UNFCCC LDC Expert Group (LEG). The Supplement is building on the existing technical guidelines for the NAP process.

¹ NAPs – A brief overview http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/nap_booklet.pdf

² Decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 1

GWP's Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP)

- *The Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) in Africa* focuses on putting investments in place for water security and climate resilience. WACDEP is jointly implemented with the African Union and African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW).
- *The regional water and climate resilience programmes in Asia, Latin America, Caribbean, and Europe* are modelled on WACDEP in Africa, but developed in a regional context, such as the Water and Climate Resilience Programme (WACREP) in South Asia and WACDEP in the Caribbean.
- *The Deltas Climate Resilience Programme* for enhancing climate resilience of delta regions. "Enabling Delta Life" is a joint project with the Delta Alliance, supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation.
- *WMO/GWP Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)* focuses on promoting better scientific understanding and inputs for drought management.
- *The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM)* is also a joint initiative with WMO. It promotes the concept of Integrated Flood Management (IFM) with the aim of efficiently using floodplains and minimizing loss of life from flooding.