

# Enhancing coherent action on adaptation 2012-2015

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**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

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# FOREWORD

Adaptation to climate change is a challenge faced by all countries. Enhanced action on adaptation is urgently required to enable and support the implementation of adaptation actions. As demand for adaptation has grown, so has the number of instruments, bodies, work programmes and support mechanisms resulting in a fragmented adaptation landscape.

Established in 2010, the Adaptation Committee is continuously promoting enhanced adaptation action in a coherent manner both within and outside of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is the only Committee under the Convention and the UN at large that comprehensively addresses adaptation, including by raising the profile of, enhancing collaboration on, and catalysing, adaptation at all levels. Since its inaugural meeting in September 2012, the Adaptation Committee has defined its place under the Convention and explored and fostered coherence and synergies between relevant stakeholders from different regions, sectors and levels, in order to mobilize support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for planning and implementing adaptation action.

This report is the third in a series of annual reports prepared by the Adaptation Committee to provide information on adaptation to Parties and the broader adaptation community. The first report, the 2013 thematic report “The State of Adaptation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,” provided a snapshot of how adaptation has evolved since the Convention was founded in 1992. The 2014 thematic report “Institutional Arrangements for National Adaptation Planning and Implementation” focussed on the critical role institutional arrangements play, in particular as countries are embarking on the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs).

With this publication the Adaptation Committee aims to highlight its achievements to date and its plans for the future: be it in advancing adaptation action, in enhancing the coherent provision of financial, technological and capacity-building means to implement adaptation action, or reaching out to stakeholders from inside and outside the adaptation community, from government, the private sector, research or civil society.

The Adaptation Committee stands ready to take on new and emerging tasks to bring about new insights, experiences, and lessons learned with the overall goal of enhancing coherent action on adaptation.



Juan Hoffmaister  
Co-Chair  
of the Adaptation Committee



Don Lemmen  
Co-Chair  
of the Adaptation Committee



The illustrations in this publication are taken from the Adaptation Committee's 2014 documentary "Adapting to a changing climate". The sequence of 10 illustrations reflects a situation where repeated flooding led a farmer to switch from raising chickens to raising ducks as an adaptive solution.

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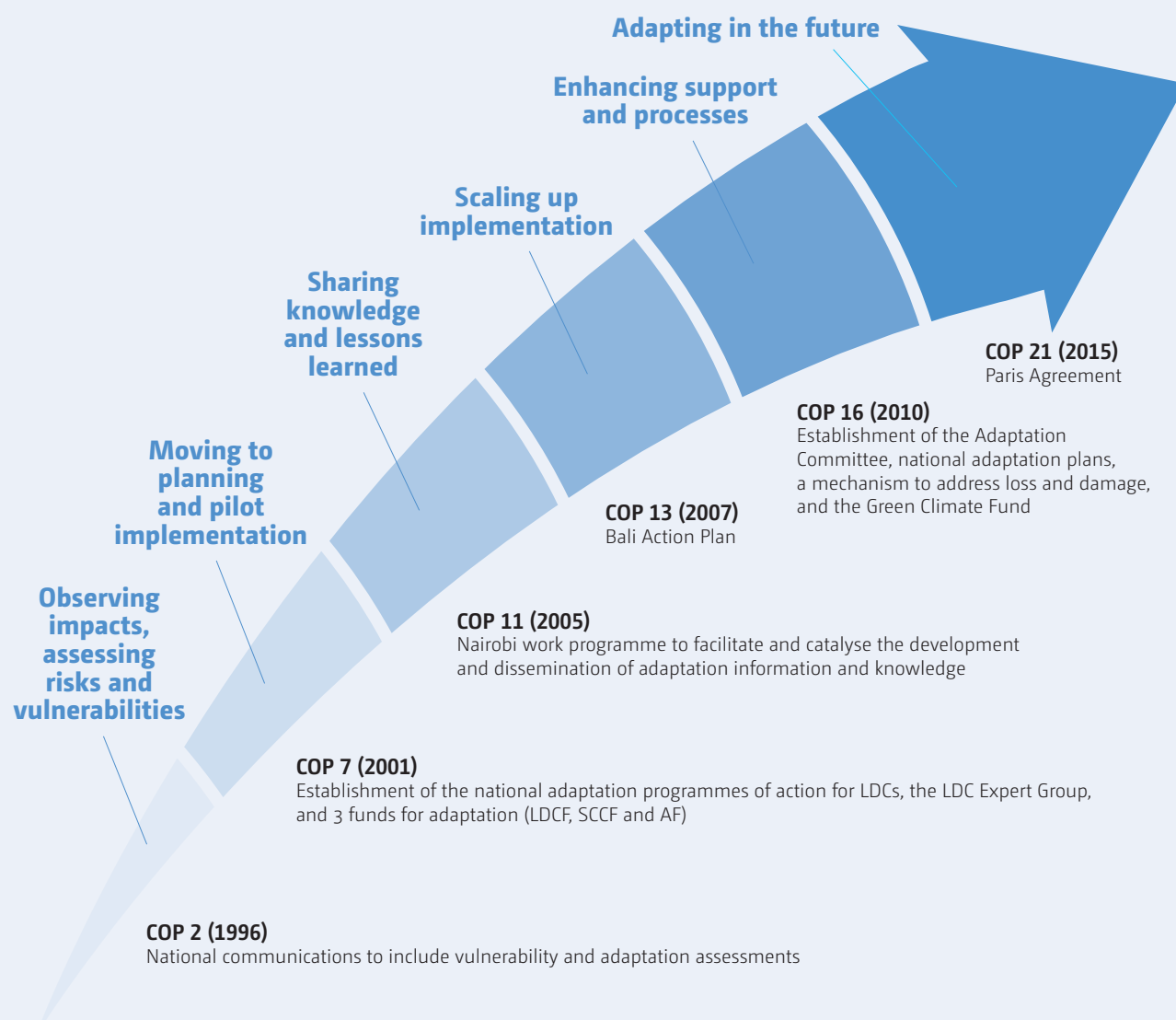
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# I. INTRODUCTION

The climate is changing at a rate unprecedented in recent human history and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Adaptation is needed to combat the adverse impacts of climate change that are happening now, to increase resilience to future impacts and to enable climate-resilient development.

Recognizing, and in many cases experiencing first-hand, the adverse impacts of climate change, Parties to the UNFCCC have over the years attached greater significance to the adaptation agenda, leading to the establishment of a number of instruments, bodies, work programmes and support mechanisms for adaptation under the Convention (see figure 1). While support for adaptation has increased, it has also become more fragmented.

Figure 1. Adaptation milestones under the Convention



In order to bring coherence to the disconnected adaptation landscape under the Convention, the Conference of the Parties (COP) established the Adaptation Committee in 2010 as the overall advisory body on adaptation to the COP. Since its first meeting in September 2012, the Adaptation Committee has promoted the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner, including through:

- A. Providing technical support and guidance to the Parties;
- B. Sharing relevant information, knowledge, experience and good practices;
- C. Promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks;
- D. Providing information and recommendations, drawing on adaptation good practices, for consideration by the COP when providing guidance on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions, including finance, technology and capacity-building;
- E. Considering information communicated by Parties on their monitoring and review of adaptation actions, support provided and received.



This report showcases the activities and results achieved by the Adaptation Committee in the implementation of its 2013–2015 work plan<sup>1</sup> (see figure 2), which was organized into three interrelated work streams:

1. Technical support and guidance to the Parties on adaptation action;
2. Technical support and guidance to the Parties on means of implementation;
3. Awareness-raising, outreach and sharing of information.

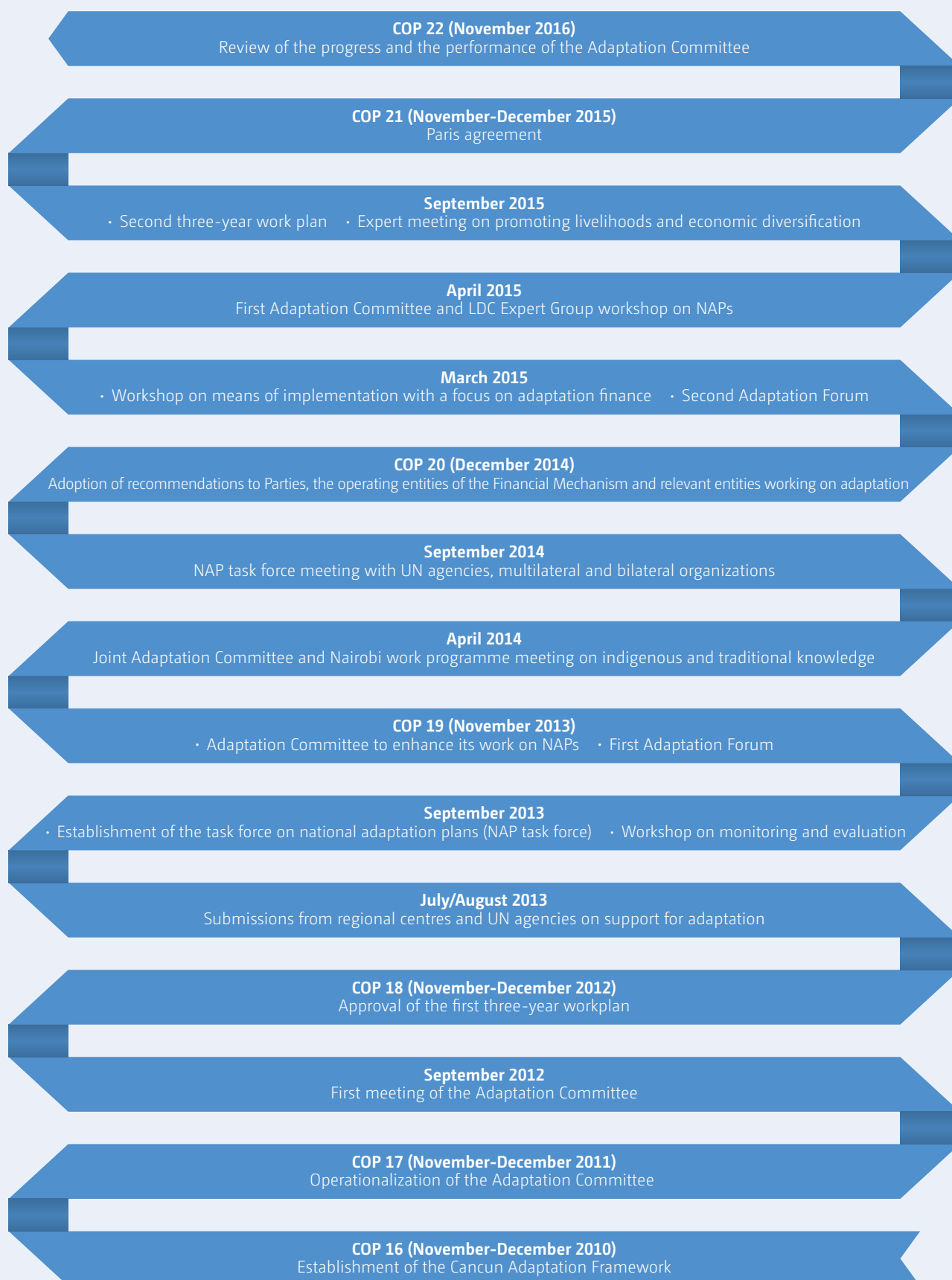
The report also provides an outlook to planned activities for 2016–2018. The new work plan not only builds on the results from the first work plan but also reflects the need to remain flexible and responsive to views and needs of Parties and relevant stakeholders.

The goal of the Adaptation Committee – enhancing coherent adaptation action – has been challenging due to the diversity of issues to be addressed and the resources available. Its 16 members, coming from all regions, including least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) have been working tirelessly, not only during its regular meetings, workshops and events but also intersessionally, by being engaged in thematic working groups or by sharing the Adaptation Committee’s insights and expertise with other stakeholders inside and outside the Convention.

This overview report elaborates the achievements and plans of the Adaptation Committee as they relate to the provision of technical support and guidance to the Parties on adaptation action and means of implementation (section II), and highlights the Committee’s current and future efforts in reaching out, raising awareness and sharing information (section III). The report concludes with the Committee’s vision for sustaining and enhancing the momentum for coherent adaptation action (section IV).



Figure 2. Milestones of the Adaptation Committee



## II. *SETTING THE WHEELS IN MOTION:* PROVIDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE TO THE PARTIES ON ADAPTATION ACTION AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Many countries, regions and communities are already undertaking adaptation actions; most do so as part of a comprehensive and iterative process, consisting of:

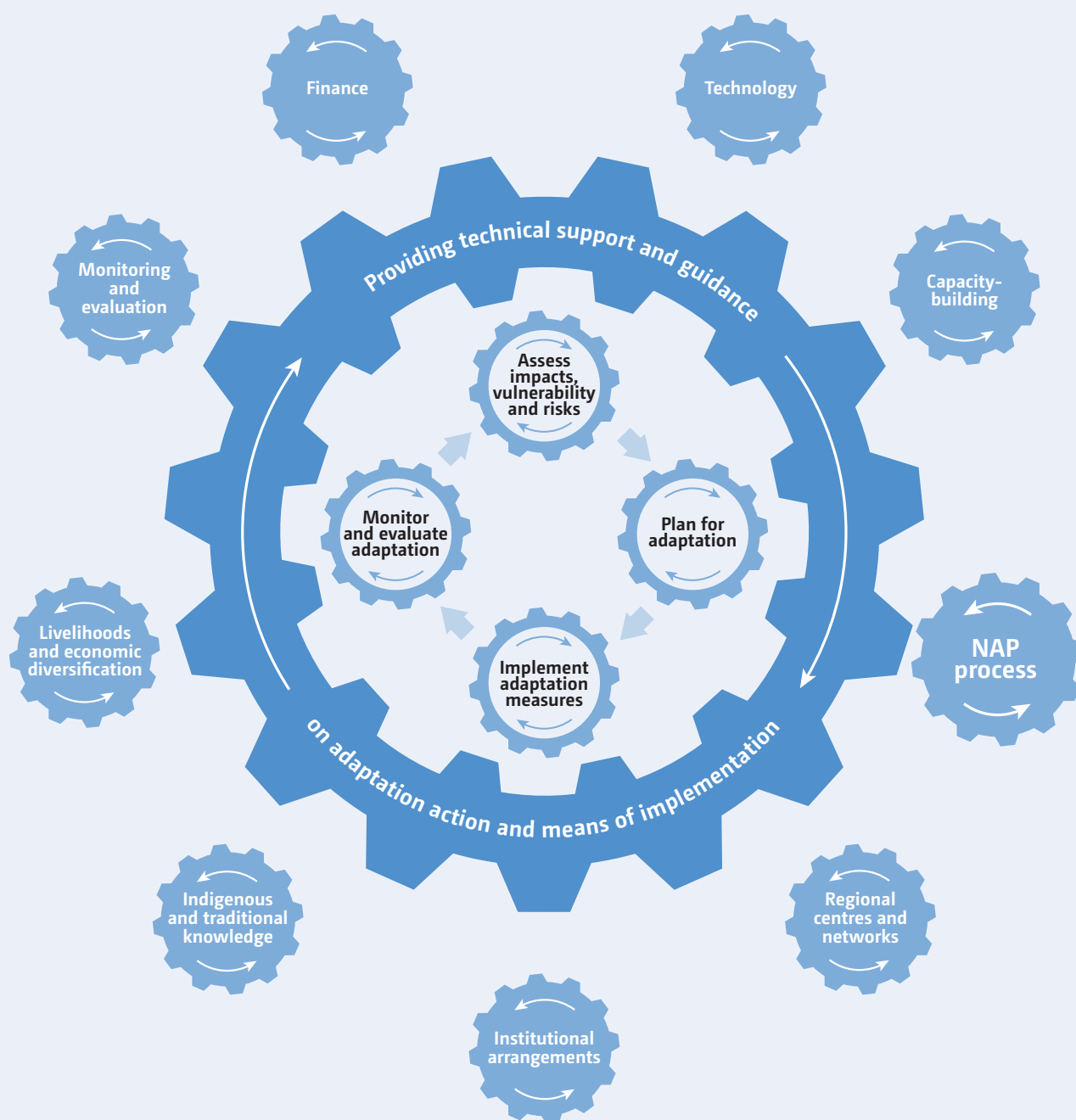
1. **Assessing impacts, vulnerability and risks.** Assessing the extent to which climate change is impacting/ will impact natural systems, for example by altering water availability thus affecting agriculture and food security; and human societies, for example by increasing temperature thus encouraging the spread of certain climate-sensitive diseases. Also assessing the capacity of natural systems and societies to adapt to climate change impacts against the backdrop of development pathways.
2. **Planning for adaptation.** This involves identifying and appraising adaptation options. Comprehensive planning should help avoid the duplication of activities, prevent maladaptation, and enhance sustainable development.
3. **Implementing adaptation measures.** Implementation takes place at various levels, including national, regional and local, and through different means, including projects, programmes, policies or strategies. It may be a stand-alone process or be fully integrated (mainstreamed) into sectoral policies and sustainable development plans.
4. **Monitoring and evaluating (M&E) adaptation measures.** The M&E of adaptation measures can be undertaken throughout the adaptation process and the knowledge and information gained can be fed back into the process.

Over the years, technical support and guidance on these components have been provided by several different bodies and programmes that have a relatively narrow scope and focus. For example, the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation (Nairobi work programme) only considers scientific and technical aspects of adaptation, including increasing knowledge and stakeholder engagement at different levels, while the LDC Expert Group (LEG) supports primarily LDCs, including by building technical and institutional capacities.

In addition to enhanced knowledge and strengthened technical and institutional capacities, financial and technological support is vital to enable developing countries to adapt to climate change. The Convention and its Kyoto Protocol provide financial resources through a number of funds, including the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) managed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Adaptation Fund and most recently the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The provision of financial resources is overseen by the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF). Technological support is facilitated by the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and provided by the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN).

Against this backdrop, the Adaptation Committee has provided technical support and guidance to the Parties on both adaptation action and on financial, technological and capacity-building means for implementing adaptation action through a number of activities (see figure 3).

Figure 3. The role of the Adaptation Committee in supporting the adaptation process



“The responsibility for adaptation action resides with the country level. However, the Adaptation Committee can be a positive influence to magnify the momentum and inject a sense of urgency on adaptation action.”

Mr. Fook Seng Kwok, Ambassador and Chief Negotiator for Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, AC7, Bonn, Germany

## Assessing, planning and implementing adaptation

The focus in this area has been on providing technical support and guidance for **national adaptation planning and implementation**, in particular for the process to formulate and implement NAPs (see box 1 and figure 4). The Adaptation Committee, in collaboration with the LEG, has facilitated this process with the Committee considering strategic political issues and the LEG considering technical operational issues. For example, following guidance from the COP, the LEG developed technical guidelines for the NAPs and has been undertaking regional training workshops.

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### Box 1. National adaptation plans

In light of current and future impacts of climate change, the COP in 2010 established a process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs.

The objectives of the NAPs 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 into relevant new and existing policies, programmes and activities within all relevant sectors and at different levels.

The Adaptation Committee has been collaborating with the LEG and other organizations and networks in supporting developing countries in embarking on the process to formulate and implement NAPs. For this purpose it has established a specific NAP task force and invited participation by the LEG, the TEC, the SCF and the GCF Board.

The Adaptation Committee reviewed the NAP technical guidelines and found them applicable to all developing countries. The Committee has contributed to capacity-building and outreach efforts, including by initiating the further translation of the NAP technical guidelines into additional UN languages, participating in NAP trainings or sharing expertise at the NAP Expos.

Meetings and interactions between the NAP task force, representatives of developing countries, United Nations agencies, relevant multilateral and bilateral organizations and non-governmental organizations have addressed experiences, gaps and needs in support being received for the NAPs.

The Adaptation Committee recommended to Parties and entities dealing with adaptation and finance to:

- Promote leadership of the process to formulate and implement NAPs at the national level;
- Improve coordination, collaboration and coherence among various national ministries and bilateral and multilateral agencies and institutions; and
- Enhance learning as stakeholders increasingly engage in the NAPs, particularly around aspects such as the role of institutional arrangements and monitoring and evaluation.

Following recommendations by the Committee, the NAP Global Support Programme (NAP GSP)<sup>2</sup>, which is implemented by UNDP and UNEP and seeks to strengthen countries' institutional and technical capacities, was expanded to provide support to all interested developing countries. The Adaptation Committee will assist the NAP GSP in a technical advisory role to enhance coherent support for NAPs.

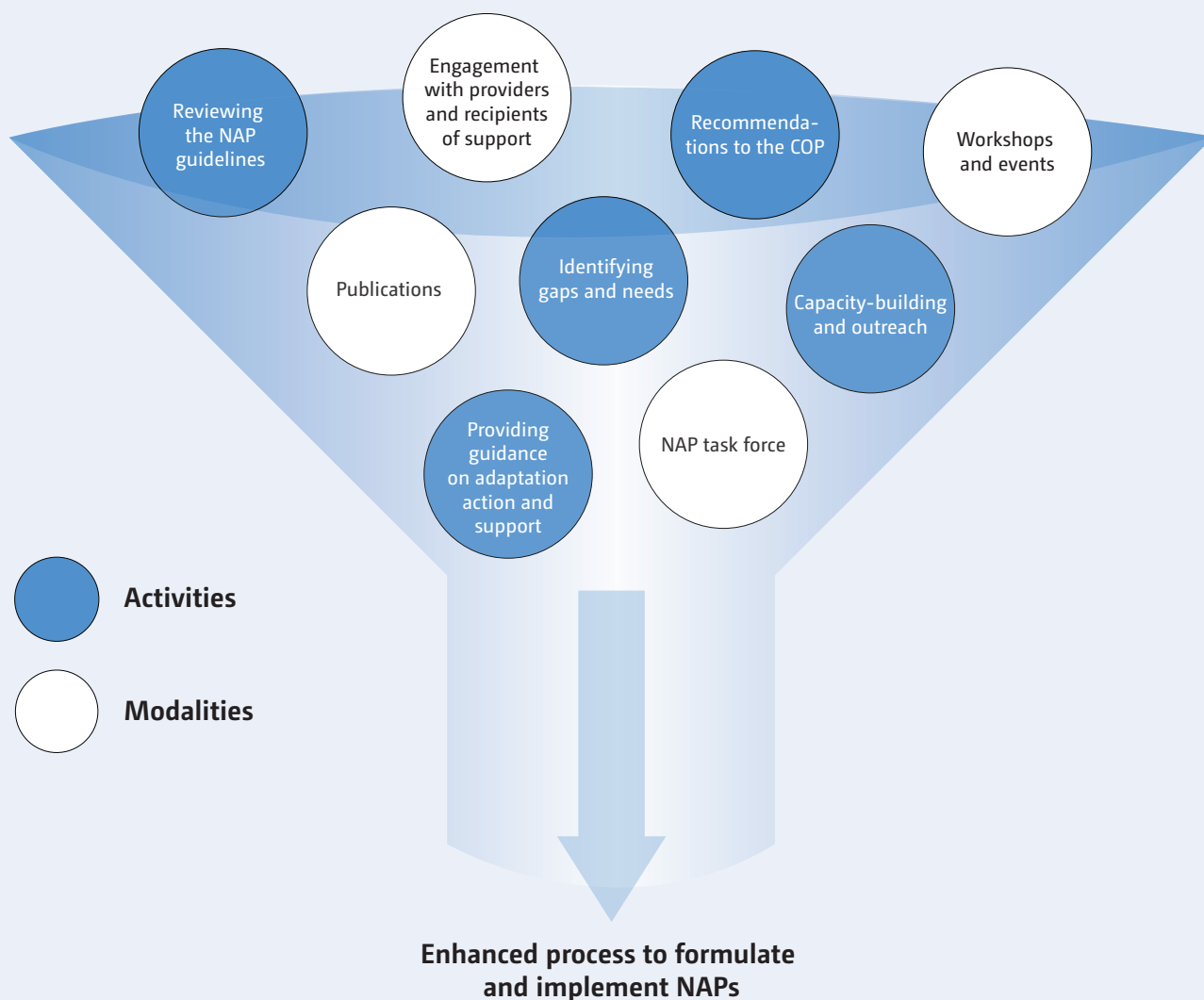
Consistent with the Committee's recommendations, a number of policymakers and practitioners established a NAP Global Network<sup>3</sup> to enhance bilateral support for NAPs and adaptation action in developing countries. The Network seeks to:

- Improve coordination among bilateral development partners;
- Develop a shared understanding of the NAPs and how they can be best supported;
- Facilitate peer learning and exchange among practitioners; and
- Support enhanced leadership on adaptation at the national level to enable better in-country coordination of domestic and international actors in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

To raise awareness of available support the Adaptation Committee published a report highlighting support being provided, including in the areas of finance, technologies, capacity-building, science and climate services, information and knowledge sharing.<sup>4</sup>

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Figure 4. The role of the Adaptation Committee in supporting the process to formulate and implement NAPs



In addition, the Adaptation Committee has considered specific aspects of adaptation planning and implementation to support the Parties in their adaptation efforts, including:

- Identifying and sharing good practices and lessons learned on adaptation planning;
- How to better integrate local, indigenous and traditional knowledge within existing practices to increase the overall effectiveness of adaptation; and
- How to promote livelihoods and economic diversification to build resilience in the context of planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation.

Highlighting and sharing **good practices and lessons learned on adaptation planning processes**, including on linking national and local adaptation planning, has been undertaken in collaboration with the Nairobi work programme and the LEG. Good practices on processes and structures for linking national and local adaptation planning processes emerging from

case studies submitted by Parties and partner organizations of the Nairobi work programme include strengthening national and local institutional frameworks, integrating adaptation considerations into sectoral and development planning processes of local governments and coordinating local level projects with national and sub-national plans. Identified factors determining the successful linkage include strengthening of institutional capacity; recognizing and leveraging existing networks and partnerships, including from civil society; and promoting the co-production of knowledge with a view to harmonizing top-down and bottom-up knowledge approaches and enabling cross-sectoral integrated approach to adaptation.<sup>5</sup>

Based on the conclusions from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that “**indigenous, local, and traditional knowledge systems and practices**, including indigenous peoples’ holistic view of community and environment, are a major resource for adapting to climate change”, the Adaptation Committee, together with the Nairobi work programme, considered lessons learned and best practices for integrating such knowledge into adaptation planning and implementation.

The Adaptation Committee recommended that Parties underline the importance of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices, in a manner commensurate with modern science, for the effective planning and implementation of adaptation, including by encouraging the integration of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge into the NAPs. Such integration can be supported through:

- Research, education and awareness, in order to document, disseminate and develop tools and programmes to institutionalize local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices into national processes and policies;
- Finance/economic instruments, including through earmarking and budget allocations by national governments and donors;
- Enhancing accountability and enforcing implementation of existing laws, rules and procedures dealing with local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices thus ensuring recognition of the rights of local communities and holders of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices throughout the adaptation process.

The Adaptation Fund, the GEF and the GCF have been encouraged to enhance their consideration of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices and their integration into adaptation planning and practices, as well as procedures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

The secretariat will compile good practices, tools and available data collection initiatives related to the use and application of indigenous, local, and traditional knowledge systems and practices for adaptation, submitted by Nairobi work programme partners, by May 2016.

In an effort to **promote livelihoods and economic diversification to build resilience in the context of planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation**, the Adaptation Committee has for the first time brought together the community dealing with top-down macro-economic diversification with the one dealing with bottom-up livelihoods diversification.

An exchange between the communities led the Adaptation Committee to conclude that livelihood and economic diversification need to be considered in parallel in order to address linkages and seek coherence between local, community, regional and national levels. Economic and livelihoods diversification should be addressed comprehensively as part of an overall adaptation policy, given that diversification, when poorly designed, can increase inequities and lead to maladaptation, for example when assets are being depleted. It is also important to keep in mind that livelihoods and economic diversification are tools and approaches for building resilience, rather than objectives in their own right.



The Adaptation Committee recommended that Parties take into account climate risk screening of national development strategies and policies aimed at enhancing livelihoods and economic diversification. Such risk screening can be facilitated by strong governance, including effective national coordination mechanisms, and by engaging all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to ensure buy-in and ownership of planning and diversification strategies. The Adaptation Committee will decide on activities to forward the outcomes of this exchange in early 2016.

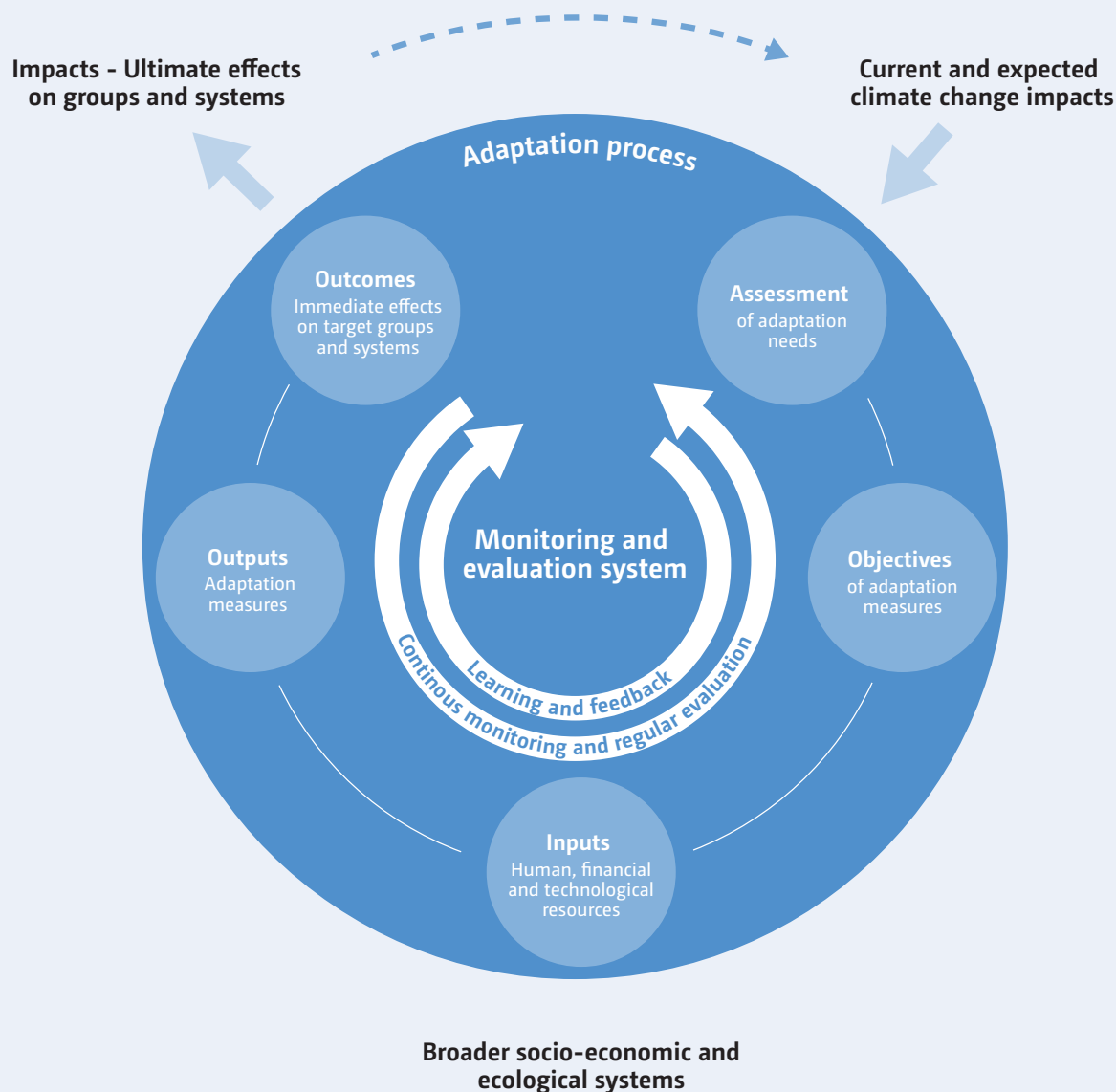
Finally, given that the focus under the Convention has been on short to medium term adaptation so far, and recognising the importance of the broader context of adaptation, the Adaptation Committee decided to consider emerging topics on **long-term adaptation planning** in 2016. Using a variety of country case studies, the Adaptation Committee will consider:

- Different time horizons underlying planning and implementation;
- Institutional arrangements, including stakeholder engagement;
- Alignment with national economic and sectoral development visions, strategies and plans;
- Linkages across scales and times; and
- Barriers and limits to adaptation and monitoring, review and revisions to long-term adaptation planning.

### Monitoring and evaluating adaptation measures

One important aspect of the adaptation process is the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of adaptation measures (see figure 5), which has not been adequately dealt with under the Convention. In order to build on, and contribute to, existing efforts on this topic, the Adaptation Committee has been engaging with leaders in the M&E of adaptation with expertise in implementing adaptation at different levels, including the national, programme and project levels, from governments, regional organizations, development banks, bilateral technical cooperation agencies, research institutions and civil society.

Figure 5. Monitoring and evaluating adaptation



The Committee addressed the most pertinent M&E questions in its work, including how to build a common understanding of success in achieving climate resilience; how to create a framework that links individual assessments with those at national-level to broaden the focus from the means of achieving outcomes (individual measures) to the desired end result (countries becoming less vulnerable); and how to design the reporting and dissemination of the results of M&E to not only inform the respective adaptation process but also the wider community of adaptation planners and practitioners. Consequently, the Adaptation Committee recommended to Parties and entities dealing with finance and adaptation to take into account that:

- M&E frameworks need to be appropriate, relevant to needs and tailored to country circumstances. A common set of global indicators is not useful, owing to the context-specific nature of adaptation;

- National-level assessments can play a different role in measuring adaptive capacity from subnational or project-based assessments. National-level assessments could, for example, measure the degree of coordination and integration of adaptation in national priorities;
- A positive learning environment, which encourages formal and informal learning, including peer-to-peer learning, and which encourages learning from negative as well as positive experiences, is important;
- Planning and allocation of resources, both technical and financial, are key for effective monitoring and evaluation systems.

With regard to the GCF's Results Management Framework, the Adaptation Committee advised that indicators be kept simple and flexible to provide countries with sufficient leeway to define their indicators in line with their national circumstances and to design qualitative and quantitative indicators that capture their progress in integrating adaptation into their development and sectoral planning, policies and actions.

Developing an inventory of ongoing M&E work and undertaking additional work on M&E systems and impact evaluations is planned for 2016. Afterwards, the Adaptation Committee plans to undertake further comparative work on indicators and explore ways to enhance the M&E of support provided and received for adaptation.

### Facilitating means of implementation: finance, technology and capacity-building

Finance, technology and capacity-building are vital for developing countries to undertake adaptation action. Throughout its work, the Adaptation Committee has strived to facilitate their enhanced provision, in particular **finance** (see box 2), including through engaging in dialogue and collaborating with other bodies.

Regarding the provision of technical support and guidance on **technologies for adaptation**, the Adaptation Committee has been collaborating closely with the TEC and the CTCN resulting in the preparation of two policy briefs on technology for adaptation in the agriculture and water sectors. For the future, the Adaptation Committee suggests to provide guidance to countries on how to align their technology needs assessments with the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

In terms of **capacity-building**, the Adaptation Committee has actively participated in the Durban Forum on Capacity-building, which brings together annually stakeholders involved in building the capacity of developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change to share experiences and good practices.



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**Box 2. Finance for adaptation, including for NAPs**

Article 11 of the Convention defines a financial mechanism to provide financial resources from developed countries to support actions by developing countries in addressing climate change. Over the years, a number of funds were created under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol to provide finance for adaptation for developing countries; including the LDCF and the SCCF managed by the GEF, the Adaptation Fund and most recently the GCF.

In addition, finance for adaptation is provided through other multilateral and bilateral channels which currently constitute the majority of adaptation finance, including for example the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience of the World Bank or the European Union's Global Climate Change Alliance.

Activities of the Adaptation Committee, including an analysis of country submissions, dialogues and workshops, clearly demonstrated that challenges to financing adaptation persist, including related to:

- The overall availability of finance as well as info on available finance;
- Access to different funds;
- Ensuring continuous long-term funding, including through programmatic approaches;
- Establishing appropriate domestic institutional frameworks that identify financial needs, absorb and disburse domestic and international finance, and allow for tracking of funds as well as monitoring and evaluating adaptation effectiveness.

In light of these challenges the Adaptation Committee recommends that developed country Parties mobilize financial support for the NAPs through contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in addition to bilateral support. It also recommends that the GCF consider how it can support the development of adaptation proposals, drawing on lessons learned from the GEF's Project Preparation Grant approach and to take into account the Cancun Adaptation Framework, in its programmatic priorities.

The Adaptation Committee plans to continue its engagement with entities of the Financial Mechanism and other multilateral and bilateral providers of adaptation finance to enhance access of developing countries. In addition, the Adaptation Committee seeks to support the development of national climate change adaptation financing frameworks by collecting lessons learned and good practices from national implementing entities of funds, programmes and initiatives, including as they relate to enabling environments, institutional arrangements and long-term financial strategies.

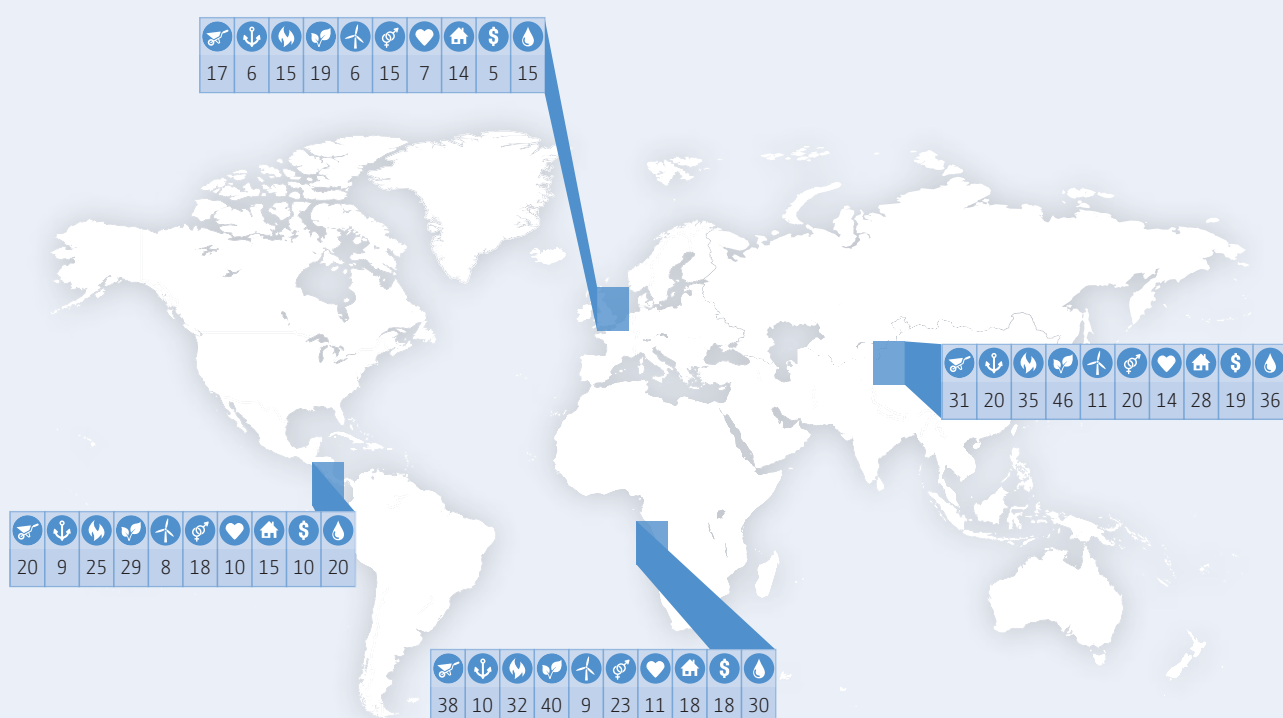
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## Enhancing technical support for developing countries

Besides facilitating the provision of means of implementation, the Adaptation Committee has aimed at strengthening the roles of regional institutions and United Nations agencies in supporting enhanced adaptation action in developing countries. As a start, the Committee invited regional institutions and United Nations agencies to communicate their current support for adaptation in developing countries, including in relation to capacity-building and the strengthening of national institutions. Based on responses, the Adaptation Committee compiled a list of regional centres and networks as well as international organizations working regionally, which are providing technical support to developing countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean (see figures 6 and 7).<sup>6</sup> The list is being updated regularly and interested regional organizations are invited to share information regarding their support for inclusion in the list. This will result in a more comprehensive compilation for developing countries to turn to when looking for technical support.

Figure 6. Number of support providers by sector



### Sectors



Agriculture



Coastal areas



Disaster risk reduction



Ecosystems and biodiversity



Energy



Gender



Health



Human settlements and infrastructure

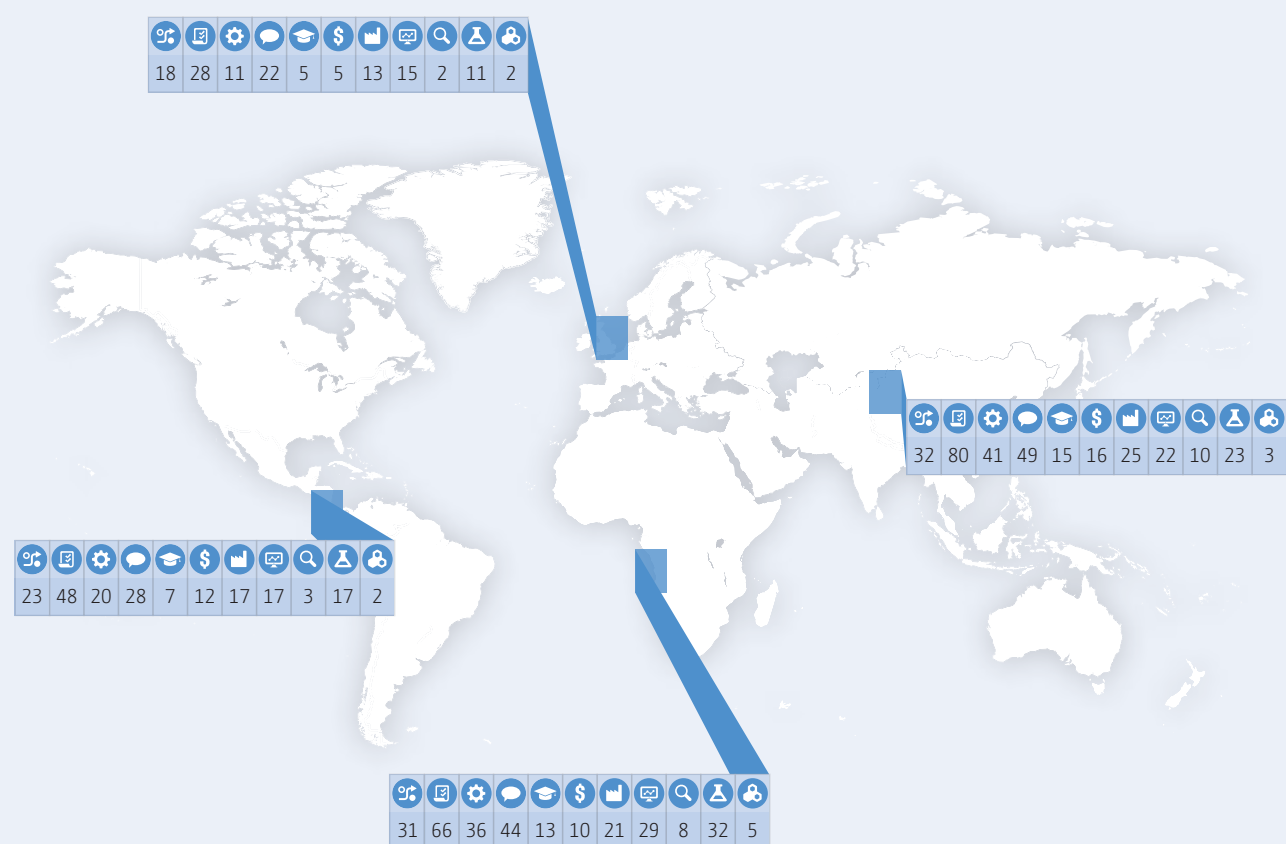


Socio-economic activities



Water resources

Figure 7. Number of support providers by theme



## Themes



Adaptation and vulnerability assessments



Adaptation policy, planning and implementation



Capacity-building



Communication and awareness-raising



Education and training



Financial support



Institutional arrangements



Monitoring and evaluation



Systematic observation and scenarios



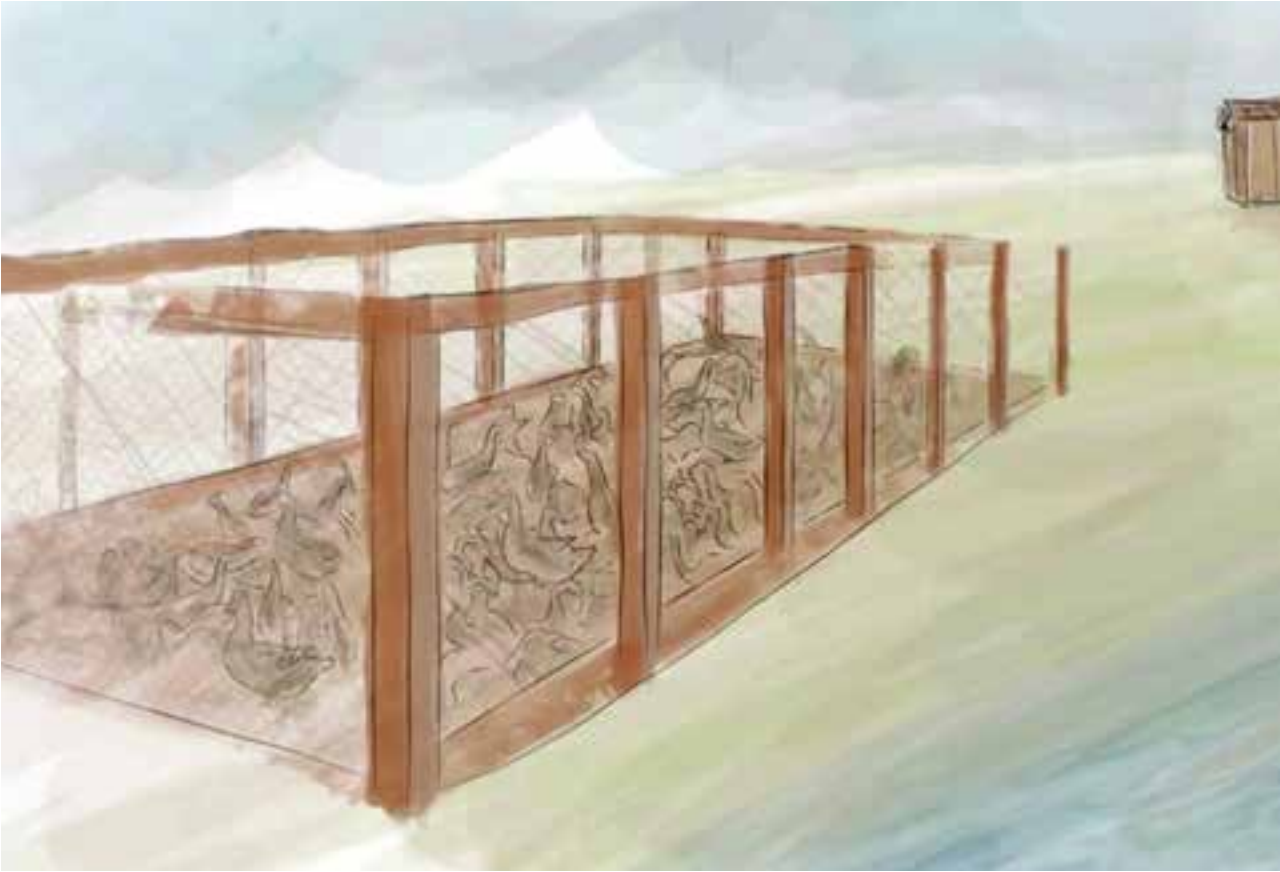
Science and research



Technology

While technical support has increased in recent years, gaps and needs remain, including support for enhancing capacities at the individual level or for aligning adaptation with development plans and strategies at the institutional level.

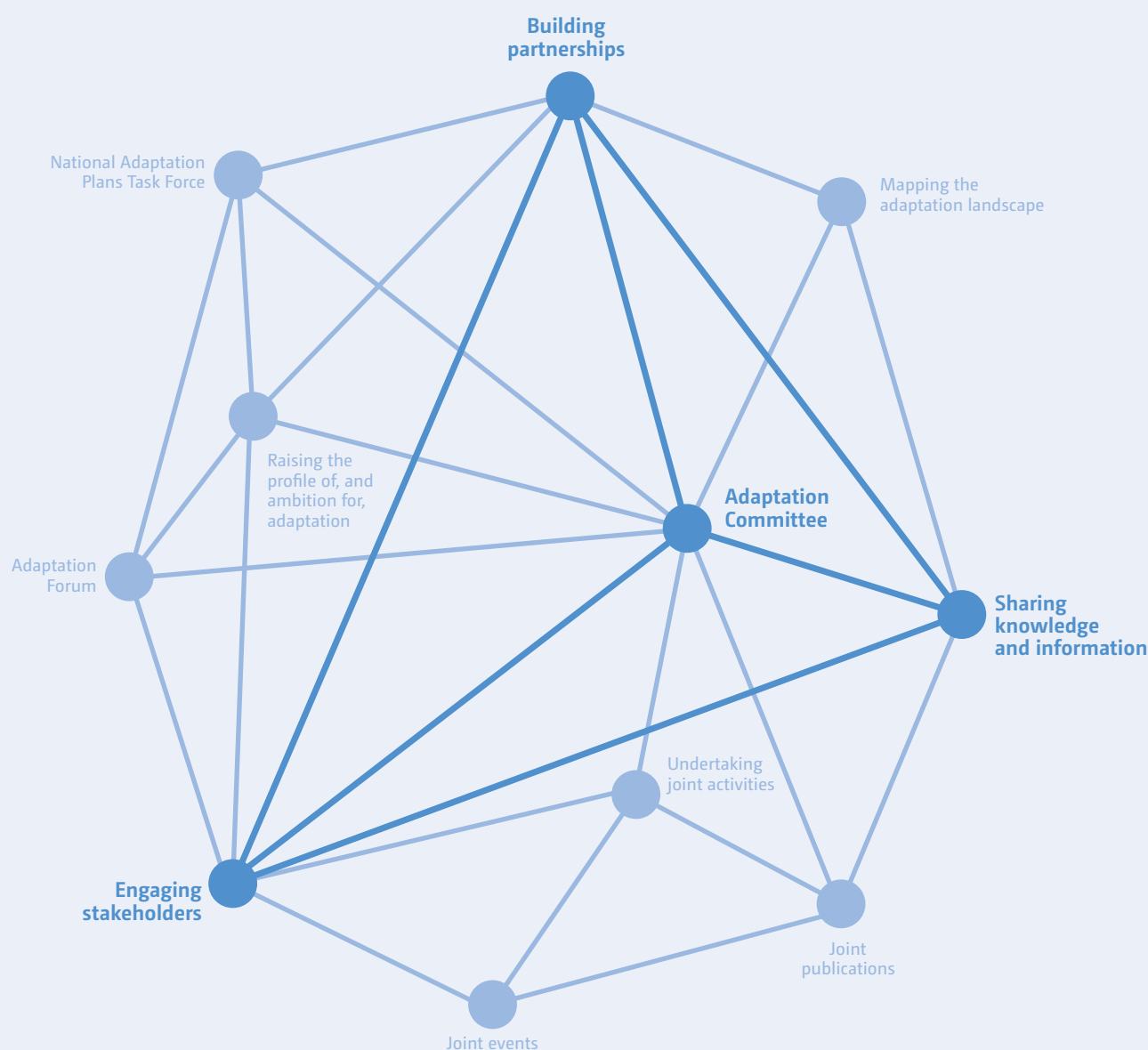
Given the Adaptation Committee's role of catalysing action by others rather than directly carrying out activities itself, the Committee will continue to regularly survey technical support provided, identify gaps and needs, and develop modalities that facilitate addressing those gaps and needs. To facilitate the closure of gaps, the Adaptation Committee will develop terms of reference for a partnership platform with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks, ensuring regional balance, and subsequently launch it with the aim of scaling-up technical support to developing countries.



### III. *CONNECTING THE DOTS:* PROMOTING COHERENCE AND COLLABORATION

In light of the fragmented adaptation landscape under the Convention, promoting coherence and collaboration, including through reaching out to stakeholders, raising awareness and sharing information, is paramount to the work of the Adaptation Committee (see figure 8).

Figure 8. Connecting the dots: the role of the Adaptation Committee in promoting coherence and collaboration





“Synergies with other bodies should continue to be developed and strengthened. There is still enormous potential to liaise with other organizations that are doing valuable work on adaptation of climate change.”

**Mr. Alejandro Rivera Becerra, Director of Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, AC7, Bonn, Germany**

## Mapping the adaptation landscape

At the start of its work, the Adaptation Committee endeavoured to thoroughly take stock of ongoing adaptation action under the Convention, by mapping mandates, work plans and/or decisions with adaptation relevance in order to identify areas of duplication as well as synergies, and to consider potential activities. The mapping is updated following each round of negotiations under the Convention to allow the Adaptation Committee to fine-tune its work accordingly and respond to the needs of Parties.

## Building partnerships and undertaking joint activities



“We underscore the importance of collaboration between the Adaptation Committee and other constituted Bodies under the Convention. In particular, we strongly emphasise the need for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanisms to work together with the Adaptation Committee in fulfilling our adaptation priorities.”

**G77 and China, Lima, Peru, December 2014**

The Adaptation Committee has established relationships with other bodies, work programmes and support mechanisms dealing with adaptation under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, including the LEG, SCF, TEC and CTCN, the GEF and its Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, the Adaptation Fund, the GCF and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention. It has also established synergies with other entities such as UNDP, UNEP and the wider NAP GSP as well as the Global Adaptation Network (GAN).

This endeavour has started with a variety of initial activities, including cross-participation in meetings and working groups; various ways to keep each other abreast of recent developments; and the identification of areas for coordination. These initial activities led to specific collaborations, including a Forum on Adaptation Finance together with the SCF and work on technologies for adaptation together with the TEC, which led to the development of technology briefs on adaptation.

Throughout its work, the Adaptation Committee has been relying on the multifaceted range of specialized knowledge provided by the over 300 partners of the Nairobi work programme. Partners have contributed through participation in a range of meetings and by responding to calls for information. The Adaptation Committee expects to continue working closely with Nairobi work programme partners in the future.

Given the importance of financial support for developing countries, the Adaptation Committee has increasingly acted as an intermediary liaising with entities under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol providing such support, including the GEF, the Adaptation Fund and the GCF, and developing countries. The Committee has facilitated dialogues and undertaken targeted outreach to address challenges identified by developing countries, including those related to the overall availability of, and access to, finance.

As a result of its partnership efforts, the Adaptation Committee has been invited to provide its insights and expertise as input to a wide range of activities, including events and publications produced by other key players in the adaptation arena. In the future, the Adaptation Committee plans to enhance its strategic and ‘upon request’ collaboration, in particular to engage further with partners outside the Convention.

### Engaging stakeholders

Recognizing that successful implementation of adaptation actions depends on the wide engagement of stakeholders, Parties have invited relevant multilateral, international, regional and national organizations, the public and private sectors, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to undertake and support adaptation in a coherent and integrated manner.

In this spirit, the Adaptation Committee ensures that its activities are implemented in an open, transparent and inclusive manner. For example, the Adaptation Committee has promoted active observer participation in its meetings. Observers have been invited to provide general statements at the opening and closing of the meetings, to provide concrete suggestions throughout the discussions on specific agenda items and to actively participate in the work of breakout groups. In addition, webcasting has been made available to enable live and on-demand coverage of the plenary discussions at the Adaptation Committee meetings held in Bonn. Webcasting allows stakeholders to follow the work of the Adaptation Committee while at the same time reducing their carbon footprint.



“The AC is already “ace” in that respect [transparency], by allowing observers active participation in their procedures. More UNFCCC bodies should follow suit.”

Climate Action Network, March 2015

In line with the COP’s recommendation of seeking input from intergovernmental, international, regional, national and subnational organizations, centres and networks, the private sector and civil society in undertaking its work, the Adaptation Committee has invited leading experts drawn from those organizations, centres and networks to participate in its meetings and assist the Adaptation Committee in providing technical support and guidance on adaptation action and means of implementation.

In order to increase the engagement of the private sector, including for leveraging finance, the Adaptation Committee plans to first identify key actors and then convene a meeting to foster greater contribution of the private sector in the process to formulate and implement NAPs. In addition, the Adaptation Committee will prepare an overview of approaches and of the current state of knowledge of climate change risks to supply chains.

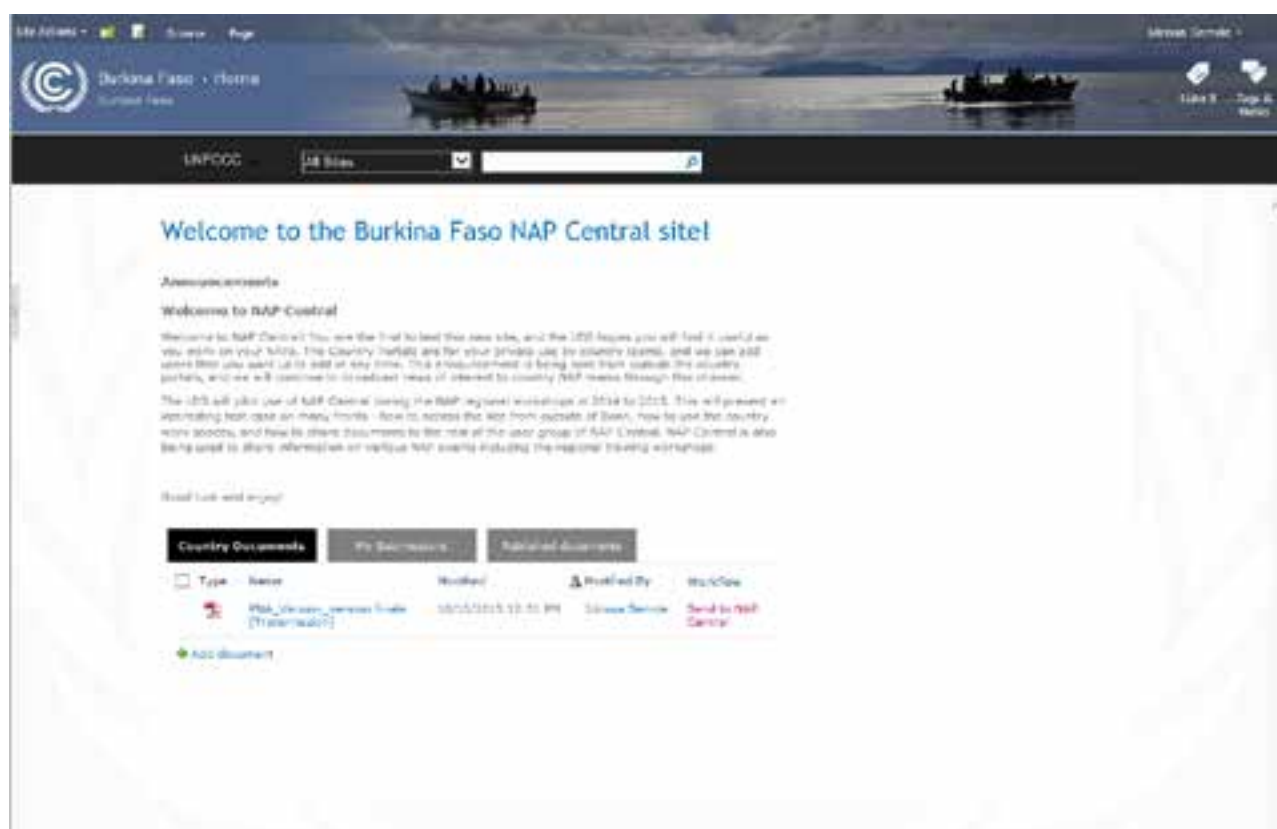
## Sharing knowledge and information

Throughout its work, the Adaptation Committee has shared knowledge and information with various stakeholders either in a face-to-face setting, for example during special events or technical workshops and meetings, online through its website or through social media and in print.

Information on activities, findings, outputs and recommendations of the Adaptation Committee, including its publications, is distributed through the Nairobi work programme, which serves as a knowledge hub on adaptation under the Convention.

Another important knowledge platform for information related to the NAPs is **NAP Central**, which has been developed by the LEG with inputs from the Adaptation Committee. The main target audience is NAP teams in developing countries, with a particular focus on the LDCs. It features three categories of sites:

1. Country portals: these provide countries the opportunity to manage their NAP materials, including archiving documents. They also serve as submission portals through which countries can share outputs and outcomes of their NAPs;
2. Collaborative sites: user groups include the LEG, the Adaptation Committee and any other relevant organizations;
3. Public pages: these comprise the NAP technical guidelines and relevant resources on the process to formulate and implement NAPs, information on support, event pages, country dashboards, navigators and case studies.



A Country Portal, such as the one shown for Burkina Faso, is a component of NAP Central created for each developing country. Countries can upload and manage their documents while undertaking the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans. The Country Portals are only accessible to the country, however, the country can send any of their uploaded documents to the public pages of NAP Central by a simple click, and they can use this function to share their NAPs.

To present specific themes to a broader audience, the Adaptation Committee periodically prepares thematic and overview reports. Its first thematic report “*The State of Adaptation under the UNFCCC*” provided a snapshot of how adaptation has evolved since the Convention was founded in 1992. Its second report “Institutional Arrangements for National Adaptation Planning and Implementation” focussed on the critical role institutional arrangements play in adaptation, in particular as countries are embarking on the process to formulate and implement NAPs.



### Raising the profile of, and ambition for, adaptation

Following a request from the COP, the Adaptation Committee has been organizing adaptation fora to maintain a high profile for adaptation under the Convention, to raise awareness and ambition with regard to adaptation actions and to facilitate enhanced coherence of adaptation actions.

The first Adaptation Forum were organized at the margins of COP 19 in Warsaw, Poland, only eight days after the Philippines were hit by the devastating Typhoon Haiyan, which served at the event as a reminder of the impacts that can be expected from climate change. During the Forum a panel of leaders and visionaries shared their ideas for a global climate-resilient future. The Forum led to the production of a video documentary (see box 3).

The second Adaptation Forum, held in Panama in March 2015, had a more regional focus and was organized in conjunction with the first forum of UNEP’s Global Adaptation Network. The Forum sought to build partnerships and identify areas for cooperation with the aim of supporting improved regional institutional arrangements for adaptation.

The third Adaptation Forum will be held in conjunction with the 2016 Adaptation Futures conference, taking place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands in May 2016.

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#### Box 3. Adaptation Committee documentary “Adapting to a changing climate”

The documentary “Adapting to a changing climate” highlights the growing recognition of the need for adaptation to climate change around the world. It is available in nine languages, including the six UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish) as well as Bengali, Hindi and Portuguese. The 20-minute documentary introduces viewers to the topic of climate change adaptation by weaving inspiring stories of adaptation action together with interviews with Adaptation Committee members.

In June 2015 the video won a gold award at the prestigious Deauville Green Awards in France. The documentary was among 300 competing films from 30 countries around the world, all focusing on current environment and sustainable development activities. The documentary can be accessed via the UNFCCC’s website ([unfccc.int/8889](http://unfccc.int/8889)), Facebook and YouTube and was viewed more than 33,500 times all over the world by October 2015. The Facebook post was one of the most successful ever on the UNFCCC Facebook account – reaching more than 175,000 people.

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## IV. SUSTAINING AND ENHANCING THE MOMENTUM: NOW, UP TO AND BEYOND 2020



“We have achieved significant progress on adaptation [...] over the last year and in Lima we will continue to support efforts on the ground to build capacity and implement adaptation measures. The work of the Adaptation Committee made a significant contribution in this direction”

**EU and its Member States, Lima, Peru, December 2014**

In just three years, the Adaptation Committee has significantly promoted the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention, by undertaking its own activities and catalysing activities by others.

As part of its work plan for 2016–2018, the Adaptation Committee aims at delivering ambitious, strategic, inspiring and results-driven work resulting in the Parties having the technical support and guidance, as well as the financial, technological and capacity-building means needed to undertake adaptation actions, including as it relates to the NAPs.



“We welcome the work of the Adaptation Committee and their recommendations [...] we value the work of the Adaptation Committee since promoting coherence on adaptation activities globally is vital to our Group.”

**G77 and China, Lima, Peru, December 2014**

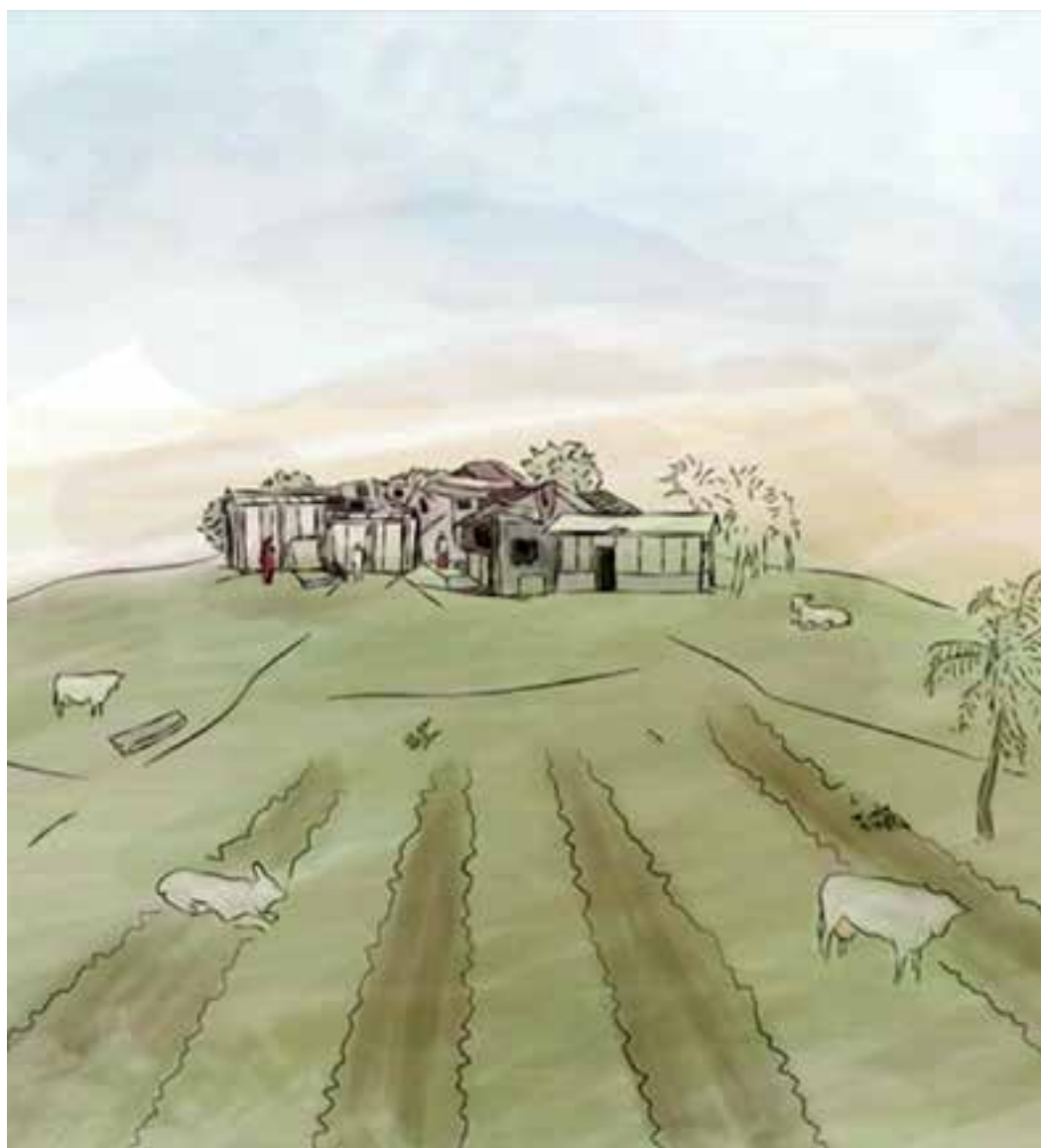
Given its balance in membership and its diversity in expertise, the Adaptation Committee has already established itself as the principal body under the Convention providing authoritative advice and guidance on adaptation, including through:

- Coordinating and enhancing coherence on the broad range of adaptation action, including by monitoring and providing inputs to activities undertaken by other bodies or work programmes under the Convention;
- Becoming an authoritative source of policy-relevant information, including through the work on areas and themes that have not enjoyed prominence under the Convention, for example livelihoods and economic diversification or long-term adaptation planning;
- Serving as an intermediary between Parties and the negotiating bodies. By making recommendations to the COP and its subsidiary bodies, the Adaptation Committee assists Parties in not only dealing with technical but also with political aspects of adaptation action and support;
- Acting as an interface between the intergovernmental process and expertise and action outside the Convention, thus serving as a convener of relevant stakeholders. The Adaptation Committee offers a two-way communication channel: expertise, gaps and needs are brought into the Convention process while guidance and information is provided from the process to facilitate action outside.

The Adaptation Committee has gained the trust of the COP through its balanced recommendations that have triggered subsequent actions, such as the establishment of the NAP GSP for developing countries that are not LDCs.

Building on the early successes of the Adaptation Committee, many countries are calling for it to take on an active role in the implementation of relevant provisions from the Paris agreement, which is expected to shape adaptation under the Convention beyond 2020. For example, countries are suggesting that the Committee further strengthen its linkages with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism; continue its work to enhance coherence and synergy with other existing institutions; continue to evaluate information on support for adaptation and enhance knowledge and the understanding of adaptation planning and implementation.

Strengthening the role of the Adaptation Committee post-Paris will coincide with the COP's review of the progress and performance of the Committee at its twenty-second session, i.e. at the end of 2016. Promoting coherent action on adaptation will continue to be important and, in light of current and future climate change impacts, momentum on adaptation needs to be not only sustained but also enhanced.



## MEMBERS OF THE ADAPTATION COMMITTEE (2012-2015)



| Name  | Country                  |
|---|--------------------------|
| Ms. Christina Chan<br><i>Vice-Chair (2012-2013) and Co-Chair (2014)</i>   | United States of America |
| Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow   | Poland                   |
| Mr. Luke Daunivalu  | Fiji                     |
| Mr. Damdin Davgadorj<br><i>Mr. Quamrul Chowdhury (2012-2013)</i>  | Mongolia<br>Bangladesh   |
| Mr. Andro Drecun  | Montenegro               |
| Mr. Juan Pablo Hoffmaister<br><i>Co-Chair (2014-2015)</i>   | Bolivia                  |
| Mr. Fredrick Kossam   | Malawi                   |
| Mr. Don Lemmen<br><i>Co-Chair (2015)</i><br><i>Mr. Naoya Tsukamoto (2012-13), Mr. Eisaku Toda (2013-14),<br/>Mr. Akio Takemoto (2014)</i> | Canada<br>Japan          |
| Mr. Clifford Mahlung  | Jamaica                  |
| Mr. Naser Moghaddasi  | Iran                     |
| Ms. Margaret Mukahanana-Sangarwe<br><i>Chair (2012-2013)</i>  | Zimbabwe                 |
| Ms. Renske Peters<br><i>Ms. Annemieke Nijhof (2012-2013)</i>  | The Netherlands          |
| Mr. Klaus Radunsky  | Austria                  |
| Mr. Ali Shareef<br><i>Mr. Amjad Abdulla (2012-2014)</i>   | Maldives                 |
| Ms. Sumaya Ahmed Zakieldean   | Sudan                    |
| Vacant, to be filled at COP 21<br><i>Mr. Zoubir Zemouri (2012-2015)</i>   | Algeria                  |

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>AF</b>      | Adaptation Fund                                       |
| <b>COP</b>     | Conference of the Parties                             |
| <b>CTCN</b>    | Climate Technology Centre and Network                 |
| <b>GAN</b>     | Global Adaptation Network                             |
| <b>GCF</b>     | Green Climate Fund                                    |
| <b>GEF</b>     | Global Environment Facility                           |
| <b>IPCC</b>    | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change             |
| <b>LDCF</b>    | Least Developed Countries Fund                        |
| <b>LDCs</b>    | Least developed countries                             |
| <b>LEG</b>     | Least Developed Countries Expert Group                |
| <b>M&amp;E</b> | Monitoring and evaluation                             |
| <b>NAPs</b>    | National Adaptation Plans                             |
| <b>NAP GSP</b> | National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme     |
| <b>SCCF</b>    | Special Climate Change Fund                           |
| <b>SCF</b>     | Standing Committee on Finance                         |
| <b>SIDS</b>    | Small island developing States                        |
| <b>TEC</b>     | Technology Executive Committee                        |
| <b>UN</b>      | United Nations  |
| <b>UNDP</b>    | United Nations Development Programme                  |
| <b>UNEP</b>    | United Nations Environment Programme                  |
| <b>UNFCCC</b>  | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |

## ENDNOTES

- 1 Information on the Adaptation Committee, including its work plan, activities, publications and results achieved can be found at <[unfccc.int/6053](http://unfccc.int/6053)>.
- 2 Information on the NAP GSP can be found at <[www.undp-alm.org/projects/naps-ldcs](http://www.undp-alm.org/projects/naps-ldcs)>.
- 3 Information on the NAP Global Network can be found at <[www.napglobalnetwork.org](http://www.napglobalnetwork.org)>.
- 4 The publication "Navigating the landscape of support for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans - 2015 Overview for developing countries" is available at <[unfccc.int/6997.php#AC](http://unfccc.int/6997.php#AC)>.
- 5 The examples are taken from a synthesis document of 170 case studies (FCCC/SBSTA/2015/4), which not only provides information on good practices and lessons learned on adaptation planning processes with respect to linkages but also in terms of addressing ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and human health.
- 6 The list can be found at <[unfccc.int/8848](http://unfccc.int/8848)>.



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change