



SUBMISSION BY DENMARK AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Copenhagen, 13 February 2012

Subject: Support to the national adaptation plan process in the least developed countries

The EU welcomes the decision taken in Durban launching the process to enable least developed country Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans. The EU also welcomes the opportunity to share information on its support to the national adaptation planning process in the least developed countries in response to the COP invitation contained in decision at COP17.

Background

The EU believes that adaptation planning should be strongly country-led and welcomes the emphasis in the Durban decision that such plans should not be prescriptive, nor result in the duplication of efforts undertaken already in countries, but should rather facilitate country-owned, country-driven action. The EU notes that countries, and in particular Least Developed Countries (LDCs), have already started processes to identify, plan and respond to the risk of climate change. While some of these processes are conceived with a specific climate change focus, they are often already integrated in the context of policies, plans, programmes and strategies in sectors, such as agriculture, water, infrastructure development and energy. EU support to adaptation planning is thus provided in a variety of forms and through a variety of channels, multilateral and bilateral and in the context of different sectoral activities.

EU support to national adaptation planning processes

The EU has been continuously supportive of adaptation planning processes in countries. This ranges from support to enable countries to assess and evaluate the vulnerabilities to climate change, identification of appropriate responses and the integration of climate change concerns into relevant policy areas, to the formulation of NAPAs in LDC. The support targets efforts to build institutional capacities, strengthen data, information and observation systems, strengthen research and development capacities, enhance policy and regulatory frameworks as well as for the implementation of demonstration activities in relevant sectors, vulnerable to climate change. These activities do not necessarily have adaptation planning as their main objective, though have direct and indirect benefits for enhancing the capacity to prepare, plan and adapt to the impacts of climate change.



The EU provides technical and financial support bilaterally as well as through multilateral channels, e.g. through contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Experts Group (LEG), the Climate Investment Funds and channels in other multilateral processes outside the UNFCCC. Among the other processes and international institutions whose work is relevant to planning for adaptation, and through which the EU provides support are the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Consultative Group of International Agriculture research (CGIAR) network, the Global Fund, the World Health Organization and the World Food Programme. In providing the support, the EU employs a wide range of modalities such as project, programme and budget support. The EU continues to provide support to all LDCs as well as to other developing countries.

Examples of activities supported by the EU and its Member States

The following examples at global, regional and national level highlight support provided to many elements relevant to the NAP process, such as strengthening the knowledge base about climate change impacts, improving regulatory frameworks, developing institutional and technical capacities and the assessment, evaluation and implementation of adaptation priorities in and across relevant sectors. The examples below are only a few selected cases intended to showcase the nature of the support provided and the modalities applied.

Recognizing the importance of a **sound knowledge base** for adaptation action and decision-making, examples of relevant initiatives supported include:

- The **Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)** supports decision-makers in designing and delivering climate compatible development by helping them translate global and local research and information on climate change into policies and programmes on the ground. The aim is to have access to this knowledge and information guaranteed for developing countries, including LDCs, and to increase research and participatory capacity demonstrably. The Netherlands and the United Kingdom are supporting this programme.
- In the context of AFRIMET (Conference of Directors of The West African Meteorological and Hydrological services), Spain supports the **West Africa Agriculture Meteorology Project** which enables rural communities in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal) to make better use of weather and climate information to increase productivity of their cropping systems.
- The **flood information project (the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Hydrological Cycle Observing System)** is a joint project among six countries in the region (Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and China). The goal is to build a regional flood observation and information system, to strengthen local flood management preparedness and to improve the dissemination of information so that it would also benefit local inhabitants suffering from floods. The project is carried out by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) together with the World Meteorological Organization, and supported by Finland.



In the area of **strengthening regulatory frameworks** to enable and incentivize adaptation priorities, examples of actions supported are:

- The UNDP-UNEP **Poverty Environment Initiative** is a global UN-led programme that supports country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into national development planning. The programme is increasingly supporting mainstreaming of climate change concerns into national development policies and planning processes as a central component. Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the European Commission are key contributors to this programme.
- The Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development in **Mauretania coordinates the countries efforts to update its National Adaptation Programme of Action** in the context of reforming its overall environmental governance and incorporating priorities into the broader development planning. Bilateral and multilateral sources, as well as funding streams inside and outside the Convention are being mobilized to support the adaptation planning process, its implementation and monitoring. Germany, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Food Programme support the process.
- **Local environmental governance in Burkina Faso:** Strengthening the capacities of local governments and communities to effectively address development challenges linked to climate change will be key for effective national adaptation planning. Austria in cooperation with UNDP is supporting the Government of Burkina Faso, among others, to integrate sustainable natural resource management and climate change in local development plans and to enable the monitoring of the implementation of environmental policies on decentralized levels. It further assists to establish a national climate fund that facilitates access to finance for local communities.

To **build institutional and technical capacities** needed for implementation and planning of adaptation at all levels, some examples of initiatives by the EU are:

- The **Cambodia Climate Change Alliance** aims to develop capacity within government to coordinate and address the challenges of climate change and implement priority actions. It is implemented by the UNDP in collaboration with the Cambodian government and receives support from Sweden, the EU and Denmark. The programme supports a number of priority actions identified in the NAPA.
- The **Southeast Asia Network of Climate Change Focal Points**, financially supported by Finland and implemented by UNEP, builds capacities of climate change focal points and their collaborators in relevant national ministries and agencies in order to (i) contribute to the UNFCCC negotiations, and (ii) support their country's integrated responses to climate change challenges with an emphasis on priority sectors of their choice. Climate change offices may e.g. decide to support the further development of climate change vulnerability assessment skills and greater expertise on integrating adaptation to climate change into sectoral and national development planning and request that specific support be delivered by the project to national institutions in charge of agriculture, spatial planning, water resources etc.



- In the **Preparedness for Climate Change Project**, supported by the Netherlands, the Climate Centre of the Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) family worked with Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Fiji, India, Mali, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Sudan, Suriname, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Yemen. The Climate Centre supports the RC/RC Movement to understand and address the humanitarian consequences of climate change and extreme weather events. It offers the opportunity for countries to incorporate climate change into their policies. This is achieved through a flexible four-step process with the objective to learn and raise awareness about country-specific climate change risks, analyse those risks in the context of local vulnerabilities and capacities, and develop strategies to prepare and minimize them.
- **A cooperation programme with South Pacific SIDS aimed at planning adaption measures and meeting the development priorities of the local governments** is carried out by Italy. The programme has a strong participatory approach. It is designed to strengthen national capacities for the establishment of national policies and strategies with a special focus on the renewable energy sector and to ensure sustainability through the development and deployment of specialized human resources at both the national and community levels.
- **Regional training sessions in Mali and Uganda** is being carried out by the Belgian Development Cooperation, with a focus on integrating climate change adaptation into development cooperation. Participating countries include Mali, Senegal, Benin, Niger, Morocco, Uganda, Mozambique, Rwanda and South-Africa, as well as local NGO's. Trainings have been explicitly designed to create synergies with capacity building work done by other development cooperation agencies.
- **The programme "Support to resilient national climate change policies and strategies"** focuses on three African countries including one LDC: Niger, Gabon, Kenya and potentially Tunisia. France aims to support the institutional and technical process for elaboration of national strategies for low carbon and climate change resilient development in the countries. Among other things the program intends to elaborate methodologies for developing adaptation strategies; to articulate for each country the strategy to elaborate action plans against climate change; to foster the elaboration of national sectoral action plans aiming at mitigating GHG emissions, and increasing the institutional capacities on these issues.

Examples of projects, programmes, and funds to **support implementation of prioritized adaptation measures** include the following:

- The **Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR)** aims at piloting and demonstrating ways in which climate risk and resilience may be integrated into core development planning and implementation. It provides large scale investments to support a countrywide paradigm shift towards climate-resilient development. Among the EU member states, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Germany and Spain are supporting this programme. The program has had projects in 9 pilot countries and 2 regional programmes in small island developing states. Among the pilot countries are Zambia, Mozambique and Cambodia.



- The **Adaptation Fund (AF)** finances concrete projects and programmes whose principal aim is to adapt and increase climate resilience with particular focus on vulnerable communities. The AF places particular emphasis on country-driven processes and provides countries with the option to choose the direct access modality through a National Implementing Entity (NIE). Key contributors are Spain, Sweden, Germany and the United Kingdom.
- In Bangladesh, the **Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF)** is a multi-donor trust fund established by the Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank together with Sweden, Denmark, the United Kingdom and the EU. The aim is to contribute to the implementation of Bangladesh's ten-year Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan within the following six pillars: (1) food security, social security and health, (2) disaster management, (3) infrastructure, (4) research and knowledge management, (5) reducing greenhouse gas emissions and a conversion to low-carbon development, (6) capacity development.
- **The West African Development Bank (BOAD)** offers low-interests loans to the governments of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal for climate change adaptation activities related to agriculture, natural resources management and flood protection. The loans are made available through grants provided by Germany. With this mechanism, the original grant is leveraged by a factor of six. In **Mali**, Germany supports integrating adaptation into local level development, and is about to scale up its support for implementing national adaptation priorities.
- The **Productive Safety Nets Programme (PSNP)** is one of the Government of Ethiopia's flagship programmes for reducing hunger and poverty and building the resilience of vulnerable communities to shocks, particularly those associated with climate change. The PSNP delivers cash and food transfers to rural Ethiopians through Public Works or for free as direct support. The PSNP design aims to effectively respond to shocks by: (i) adaptive measures through the approach of participatory and integrated watershed management, and (ii) the capacity to scale up in response to shocks, guided by local level risk management plans and risk financing at local and regional level. Ireland is one of the contributors to this Programme.
- The **Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP)** to help rural communities in Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique and Niger adapt to the impacts of climate change is supported through CARE by the British, Danish, Finnish and Austrian governments. The programme helps communities express their needs and priorities, to exchange experiences and provides support to make changes, such as introducing new varieties of drought-resilient crops and setting up systems for storing food and protecting livestock during extreme weather. The programme will directly benefit around 12,000 vulnerable men and women. The Niger National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development say "Community Based Adaptation by ALP will feed into Niger's National Adaptation Plan of Action and the successes of the ALP can also be disseminated from Dakoro to other parts of Niger."



Most initiatives, including the examples above, **contribute to several elements relevant to national adaptation planning**. Some more examples of projects, programmes and funds supporting a range of elements, depending on country priorities, include:

- The **Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)** supports a work programme to assist LDCs to carry out, inter alia, the preparation and implementation of NAPAs. Seventeen EU member states contribute to this fund (as of September 30, 2011): Germany, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Forty-seven LDCs were supported to develop NAPAs. Forty-six countries have officially submitted projects implementing priorities identified in NAPAs to the LDCF, in addition to mobilizing other sources of support.
- The **Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA)** was initiated by the European Commission (EC). The GCCA focuses on LDCs and Small Island Developing States globally. Adaptation, especially in climate sensitive sectors, is among its five priority areas. The modalities of the support varies from one country to another seeking the highest feasible level of alignment with national priorities and procedures and harmonisation with other funding sources, including piloting direct access support modalities, for example: Solomon Islands (general budget support), Bangladesh (contribution to national Trust Fund also supported from other sources), Mozambique, Cambodia (policy programme support pooled with other donors and national resources). The EC, Ireland, Sweden, Estonia, Cyprus and the Czech Republic are contributing.

Conclusion

The EU recognises that the adaptation planning process involves a range of activities over time. The complexity of climate change, combined with the fact that impacts are manifested in different sectors and in different temporal perspectives, means that efforts to support countries should contribute to enhancing capacities in a comprehensive manner. As such the EU has focused its support on all stages of the planning process, ranging from the assessment and evaluation of impacts and identification of responses to climate change to strengthening relevant institutions and regulatory frameworks and ensuring effective implementation of action. The EU recognises that multiple avenues exist to provide support to enable adaptation planning and the integration of climate change in all relevant sectors. Consequently, the EU in collaboration with its partners has strived to utilise all relevant channels in meeting this challenge.