



## How do Parties address adaptation?

### The adaptation cycle under the UN climate change regime includes the following general components:

Assess impacts, vulnerability and risks.

- An initial assessment is needed of the extent to which climate change is affecting or will affect natural systems (e.g. by altering water availability, thus negatively affecting agriculture and food security) and human societies (e.g. by increasing temperature, thus encouraging the spread of climate-sensitive diseases).

Plan for adaptation.

- Identification of adaptation activities and their appraisal, including through assessing costs and benefits, is undertaken in order to choose appropriately between the options available. Comprehensive planning should ensure avoiding the duplication of activities, preventing maladaptation and enhancing sustainable development.

Implement 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 or mainstreamed with sectoral policies and sustainable development plans.

Monitor and evaluate adaptation.

- These steps can be undertaken throughout the adaptation process, and the knowledge and information gained can be fed back into the process to ensure learning and that future adaptation efforts are successful. While monitoring seeks to keep a record of progress made in implementation, evaluation seeks to determine the effectiveness of the adaptation effort.

Within the UN climate change regime, Parties carry out adaptation related activities in a number of workstreams, through work programmes and in specialized groups and committees. These include:

- In 2001, at [COP 7](#) in Marrakesh, Parties acknowledged the specific needs of least developed countries (LDCs), in that they are least capable of dealing with the adverse effects of climate change, and adopted a dedicated package of decisions to support them. The LDC work programme includes, among other things, national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs). Through their NAPAs, the LDCs identify priority activities that respond to their urgent and immediate adaptation needs. The Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) was established to support the programme's implementation. The LDCs are also supported by a Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) that provides technical support and advice.
- **Adaptation Committee:**
  - The COP established the Adaptation Committee (AC) at [COP 16](#) (2010) to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention. The functions of the AC include: providing technical support and guidance to the Parties; sharing relevant information, knowledge, experience and good practices; promoting synergy and strengthening engagement; providing information and recommendations for consideration by the COP; and considering information communicated by Parties on their monitoring and review of adaptation **actions**.
- **National Adaptation Plans:**
  - The COP established the [national adaptation plan](#) (NAP) process at [COP 16](#) (2010) to enable Parties to formulate and implement NAPs as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs. It is a continuous, progressive and iterative process which follows a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach. In order to enhance availability of adaptation support, the COP in 2015 requested the Green Climate Fund to expedite support for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans.

- **Least Developed Countries Expert Group:**

- The [Least Developed Countries Expert Group](#) (LEG) was established by the COP in [2001](#). The LEG is requested by the COP to provide technical support and advice to the least developed countries (LDCs) on the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and the LDC work programme, and to provide technical guidance and support to the national adaptation plan (NAP) process.

- **Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change:**

- The Nairobi work programme (NWP) was established at [COP 11](#) (2005), under the [SBSTA](#), to facilitate and catalyze the development and dissemination of information and knowledge that would inform and support adaptation policies and practices. Through its diverse range of modalities, the NWP provides unique opportunities for linking relevant institutions, processes, resources and expertise outside the Convention to respond to adaptation knowledge needs arising from the implementation of the various workstreams under the Convention and identified by Parties.

- **Technical Examination Process on Adaptation:**

- The technical examination process on adaptation (TEP-A) was established at [COP 21](#) (2015) as part of the enhanced action prior to 2020. The TEP-A will take place during 2016-2020, featuring technical expert meetings, technical papers and other events, and its objective is to identify concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities, and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions.

International cooperation on adaptation also includes, of course, financial, technology, and capacity-building support for adaptation. The relevant arrangements of the UN climate change regime in this regard are explained in the sections on climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building.