

Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014 - 2024

UNFCCC work in support of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) (2021)

Building resilience

The Vienna Programme of Action promotes inclusive economic growth and sustainable development to reduce poverty, build resilience, bridge economic and social gaps and ultimately help transform those countries into land-linked countries. Unfortunately, climate change remains to be a challenge to achieving this goal and now compounded by the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as an intergovernmental body continues to place high importance in providing support to developing countries in order to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. It continues to place great importance and priority to least developed countries, which are majority landlocked developing states too, in addressing the impacts of climate change.

In implementing Article 4.9 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties (COP), the dedicated programmes on LDC support were consolidated as early as 2001; this includes the LDC Work Programme (updated in 2018), the creation of the LDC Expert Group (LEG), and the LDC Fund, and the establishment of the National Adaptation Programmes of Action. In 2010, the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) was established to assist developing countries in identifying medium to long term adaptation needs and developing programmes to address those needs. To this date, the NAPs enjoys the privilege of being the only instrument of the Convention with a clear funding support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), as mandated by the COP.

Based on the report published by the UNFCCC LEG in 2021, 126 of 154 developing countries had undertaken at least one measure on embarking in the process to formulate and implement NAPs following the UNFCCC NAP Technical Guidelines.¹ Out of these 126, 30 are landlocked developing states,² and out of which, 23 are accessing funding support of USD 3 million for the formulation of NAPs from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) readiness support programme.³ Of the 24 proposals coming from these LLDCs, 14 have received approval⁴ and nine have received disbursement.⁵

¹ FCCC/2021/SBI/INF.7.

² Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe

³ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Burundi, Chad, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

⁴ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Chad, Eswatini, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mongolia, Niger, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe

⁵ Armenia, Bhutan, Chad, Eswatini, Malawi, Mongolia, Niger, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

There are now 34 NAPs on NAP Central, 13 of which are from LDCs⁶ and six are from LLDCs.⁷ On the same reporting period, 55 developing countries are being supported by the GCF for formulating their NAPs while others are being supported in various activities by bilateral partners and other agencies.⁸ Several constituted bodies and other UN agencies and organizations continue to provide support to LDCs on NAPs under the NAP technical working group. The LEG provides technical guidance, advice and support, where appropriate to LDCs. Under the Open NAP initiative, the LEG is currently supporting 18 countries⁹ that are at the early stages of the formulation of NAPs to accelerate actions and produce their first NAP by 2021.

We reiterate the following recommendations on the implementation of the VPOA:

- LLDCs should accelerate their efforts to produce and submit their National Adaptation Plans to the UNFCCC in order to be ready to fully implement the Paris Agreement and avail themselves to the financing to be mobilized post 2020 at a floor of USD 100 billion per year.
- LLDCs need to enhance their efforts to build capacity and readiness to participate in the GCF by utilizing available support from the GCF.
- Organizations and agencies supporting the LLDCs in the formulation and implementation of NAPs are encouraged to enhance their efforts to ensure production of the plans as soon as possible.
- LLDCs need to identify and prepare bankable projects to secure financial resources from the GCF and other Convention funds for their climate change adaptation and mitigation needs.

⁶ NAPs are available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/national-adaptation-plans.aspx>.

⁷ Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Nepal, Paraguay and South Sudan.

⁸ FCCC/2020/SBI/INF.13.

⁹ FCCC/SBI/2019/16, para. 21.