

Integration of UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP) with UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs)

Past Meetings in 2010

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| UNCCD and UNFCCC Secs: | 09.03.2010 |
| UNCCD, UNFCCC, GTZ: | 12.05.2010 |
| UNFCCC Focal points, | 09.06.2010 |
| UNCCD, UNFCCC, GTZ, LEG, LDC: | |



Under the 10-year strategic programme for UNCCD and the climate change policy framework derived from the Bali Action Plan and the Copenhagen Accord, there are concrete opportunities for UNFCCC and UNCCD for the implementation of the Conventions to jointly address synergy action that can be implemented at the local level within their respective mandates in affected countries, especially the least developed countries (LDCs) by establishing appropriate institutional arrangements and communication protocols with respect to the NAPAs and the NAPs. The hypothesis underpinning a synergistic implementation of the Conventions is that a collaborative approach contributes more effectively towards achieving the desired results, whereas working separately, sometimes in competition with each other and/or duplicating efforts translates into wasting resources and less than optimal results.

Rationale of piloting joint NAPAs/NAPs implementation in LDCs

The impact of climate change on drylands and the existing potential of drylands to adapt to climate change are two sides of the same coin. On the one hand the foreseen changes of climate change increase the vulnerability of drylands to desertification land degradation and drought. On the other hand drylands also hold an outstanding potential as a reservoir of very resilient plants and species and traditional coping management strategies of the Small-scale and resource-poor farmers, pastoralists and harvesters of natural products in drylands.

Consequently planning for adaptation to climate change should not only take into account the increased vulnerability of drylands caused by climate change but also furthermore recognize the potential of drylands coping mechanisms. In this context sustainable land management has to be understood as both a.) a measure to adapt to climate change and b.) a measure to address DLDD.

Many LDCs are not only most vulnerable to climate change but also are affected by DLDD since they are situated in semi-arid regions. In this case the necessity to support the potential to adapt to climate change through SLM becomes even more urgent, in order to enable the most vulnerable LDCs to tap the full potential. This suggests great added value for the UNFCCC and the UNCCD to promote projects in LDCs that address both climate change and land degradation, as specified in NAPAs and NAPs.



Objective and Strategy of piloting joint NAPAs/NAPs implementation in LDCs

Objective

The twin role of SLM to address climate change and desertification likewise is reflected in the fact that activities related to SLM are contained in implementation and planning tools of both Conventions and are contained in the NAPA as well as in the NAP. On top of this, SLM activities very often are marked as a priority project activities in the NAPA because of this twin role of SLM.

The objective of this project is to capitalize on the added value for the UNFCCC and the UNCCD, which can be harnessed by jointly promoting coordination of the institutions implementing UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs) and the institutions implementing the UNCCD NAPs.

Strategy

It is envisaged to achieve this objective through a pilot approach in which a selected set of LDC countries featuring activities on SLM in both NAP and NAPA receive coordinated services that are comprehensive and consistent across sectors and contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the two conventions.

Selection of Pilot Countries

In this regard UNFCCC and UNCCD secretariats have undertaken a cooperative review of the NAPAs and NAPs of the LDCs to identify the most prominent overlapping priority projects and have agreed to undertake joint action on 8 pilot LDC countries, and to draw lessons from this process that could be replicable to other countries and cooperation partners. The list of pilot countries identified (Bhutan, Burundi, Guinea, Haiti, Lesotho, Malawi, Senegal and Tanzania) will be further refined taken into consideration the level of engagement at the national level and upcoming opportunities provided by other interested partners.

It is envisaged that pilot countries will be identified with the support of the Least developed countries expert Group (LEG) as well as with the cooperation partners already contributing to SLM practices in such countries. National and local engagement is crucial, capitalizing on the opportunities provided by this initiative and with the participation of other partners, including the mentioned GEF funds.

Modality for implementation

The project will be implemented in two phases:

Phase 1:

- Outreach and promotion of LD/SLM proposals contained in the NAPAs & NAPs of the selected pilot countries;
- Communication, partnership building, including advice from the Least development Expert Groups on Climate Change (LEG) and cooperation partners (resource mobilization);
- Technical advice and field visits to selected pilot countries;

Phase 2:

- Assessment and reporting of outcomes, including options for NAP alignment to the 10-Year strategy
- Replication in other LDC countries

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