

## Best Practices in Mainstreaming Climate Change

# The Smart National Adaptation Planning Tool

The process of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) was established in 2010 as part of the Cancún Adaptation Framework, complementary to the existing short-term instrument of NAPAs (National Adaptation Programmes of Action). NAPs are designed to support all developing countries, and especially Least Developed Countries, in satisfying their medium- and long-term adaptation needs.

NAPs are meant to reduce vulnerabilities, build adaptive capacity and mainstream adaptation to climate change into all sector-specific and general development planning. The Least Developed Countries Expert Group under the UNFCCC has published the 'NAP Technical Guidelines', which specify the process from conceiving a NAP to monitoring its implementation.

## Support for National Adaptation Planning

At the Conference of Parties in Durban (COP 17) in December 2011, bilateral and multilateral agencies were invited to support the NAP process. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ has developed a tool for Smart National Adaptation Planning (SNAP).

The SNAP tool provides a snapshot of the planning capacities available in a given country and helps identify the country's point of departure with regard to the National Adaptation Planning (NAP) process. The core element of SNAP is an assessment of needs and capacities that stimulates a strategic perspective on the overall NAP process. The tool is implemented in one- or

two-day workshops and ensures the participatory involvement of stakeholders. It helps put into practice the 'NAP Technical Guidelines'.

Applying the SNAP tool helps identify a common point of departure, from which stakeholders can proceed with formulating a roadmap for NAP in their country. Based on the SNAP assessment, additional support measures can be identified with help from GIZ. Practical examples of an assessment in the fictitious country of Adaptistan are presented below.

Every country has a different starting point for National Adaptation Planning and no uniform approach can be applied. The SNAP tool takes a flexible, non-prescriptive approach to the NAP process. Countries are encouraged to adopt an individualised planning process with steps that are tailored to each country's specific needs. Particular emphasis is given to countries' ownership, orientation towards results and avoidance of creating parallel structures.

## Success factors

The SNAP tool assesses seven success factors of adaptation in a country. These factors were defined on the basis of the 'NAP Technical Guidelines' as well as GIZ's experience in adaptation to climate change worldwide. For each success factor outlined in Table 1, the SNAP tool provides several test questions to appraise the national adaptation performance in detail.

**Table 1 Success factors for national adaptation planning**

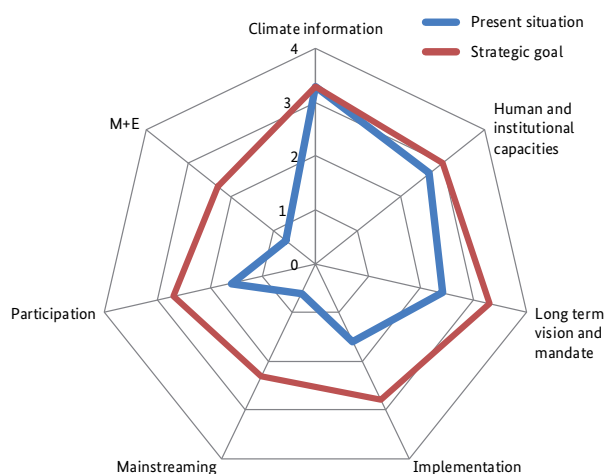
Success factor	Description
Climate information	Data about climate impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation options that provide the basis for solid decision making about responses to climate change
Human and institutional capacities	The ability of stakeholders and institutions to coordinate adaptation processes as well as to use and manage climate information
Long term vision and mandate	Adaptation planning requires a common understanding on long term objectives for national development under climate change as well as a mandate to align key process with this vision.
Implementation	The state of implementation describes the quality, quantity and strategic orientation of measures that are put on the ground to enhance resilience or reduce vulnerability to changes in climate.
Mainstreaming	The process of integrating adaptation into development processes at all planning levels, including national, sectorial and communal policy documents and programmes
Participation	Adaptation is a multi-stakeholder process that requires involving representatives from private entities, different sectorial public administrations, as well as the civil society and NGO. Involving women's representatives is especially important since women are often disproportionately affected by climate change.
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	The measurement and assessment of adaptation performance in order to manage outcomes and outputs more effectively. Systems for M&E of adaptation help to identify good practices and single out less effective approaches, contributing to evidence based decision making as well as improved accountability.



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## Practical example of the SNAP assessment: the country of Adaptistan

How to set up a NAP process? To illustrate this, let us imagine the fictitious country of Adaptistan that is starting its National Adaptation Planning. A workshop brings together stakeholders from different sectoral ministries, as well as NGOs and other experts, to initiate the National Adaptation Planning process for their country. The seven spokes of the radar chart represent the NAP success factors (Table 1). Stakeholders are asked to assess the present situation of Adaptistan (Figure 1, blue line) as well as to set strategic NAP goals for the country (red line).



**Figure 1. Radar chart: Output of the SNAP tool for the fictitious country of Adaptistan**

Looking at the present situation, it becomes clear that Adaptistan's strengths lie in climate information, human and institutional capacities as well as the country's long term vision for adaptation. Conversely, implementation, mainstreaming, participation, as well as monitoring and evaluation (M&E) are still weakly addressed. The review of the strategic goals shows that especially improving M&E and mainstreaming are high priorities for reaching Adaptistan's NAP goals. Additional guidance for the country's NAP strategy is provided by detailed test questions that operationalise the seven success factors, as well as by qualitative information from the workshop.

## Results

At the end of a SNAP workshop, the participants should have reached a common understanding of what the NAP process means for the country; first steps for formulating a NAP roadmap have been made. In order to monitor the overall NAP process in the country, GIZ recommends using the SNAP tool continuously, to review the present situation on an annual or bi-annual basis.

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