

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Climate Change in Least Developed Countries

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are some of the most vulnerable to climate change. They are least able to recover from climate stresses and their economic growth is highly dependent on climate-sensitive sectors. Climate change threatens to undo decades of progress towards reducing poverty and puts the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at risk.

UNDP has been active in the fight against climate change since the early 1990s, providing targeted and flexible support in response to country-specific climate change challenges. UNDP assists LDCs with capacity development and adaptation strategies, and delivers technical support to help countries reduce emissions, enhance resilience and support MDG attainment.

Capacity Development

Capacity development is a fundamental component of all UNDP climate change programmes and initiatives for developing countries. In LDCs, UNDP focuses on developing each country's resilience to and capacity to adapt to climate change by integrating that capacity into domestic policies and investment decision-making practices.

As LDCs prepare their *National Communications* for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), national teams identify a number of challenging technical issues and constraints. In consultation with countries on ways to effectively address these challenges, the **National Communications Support Programme** (NCSP) has organized training activities to target different areas. For example, a workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand to assist national teams to address technical gaps (including those related to methodologies, data, interpretation and presentation of assessment results) in the preparation of their vulnerability and adaptation

assessments. Sixteen countries from the Asia-Pacific region participated, half of which were LDCs. Similarly, training activities have been organized for the African region on developing climate scenarios for impact assessments (Niamey, Niger) and conducting mitigation analysis to address greenhouse gas emissions in the context of national development priorities (Cotonou, Benin), and attended by more than 20 African countries. <http://ncsp.undp.org>.

The **National Capacity Self-Assessments Programme** (NCSA), a collaboration between UNDP, UNEP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is a mechanism for undertaking comprehensive assessments of country capacities and associated needs to fulfill the requirements of the Rio Conventions. In **Lao PDR**, the NCSA report is helping to provide a basis for the exchange of views and experiences, and mobilize financial and technical support from donors to follow-up on identified outputs and recommendations.

<http://ncsa.undp.org/>.

The US\$6.9 million project **Capacity Development for Policy Makers to Address Climate Change** helps 20 developing countries - including Bangladesh, Gambia, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Togo - to assess investment and financial flows (I&FF) needed to address climate change. In **Liberia**, together with the Regional Centre of Excellence, [ENDA](http://www.undpcc.org), UNDP successfully trained national experts and government representatives on conducting I&FF assessments for three key sectors: energy, forestry and agriculture. The results were then shared in a national inter-ministerial dialogue on climate change with representatives from a range of ministries as well as national and international agencies. www.undpcc.org

UNDP has demonstrated its commitment to capacity building for climate change especially in LDCs by dedicating US\$5.6 million from its core funds to the **Strategic Initiative on Climate Change in LDCs**. This initiative provides support to 23 LDCs globally in three key areas: assistance to

the international climate negotiations; capacity building to access and implement climate finance; and effectively integrating climate change into a country's national plans, policies and strategies to ensure development is both low-emission and climate-resilient.

Adaptation and Mitigation

Delivering over US\$100 million in grant financing and leveraging over US\$200 million in co-finance, UNDP supports 35 LDCs to implement the largest share of adaptation initiatives financed by the UNFCCC's **Least Developed Countries Fund** (LDCF), a fund that is managed by the GEF. With funding from the LDCF, UNDP has supported LDCs to formulate their National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), and provides dedicated technical assistance to countries to design and implement priority NAPA interventions. For example, **Bangladesh** is currently addressing its most urgent NAPA priority through a [project](#) which aims to enhance the resilience of coastal communities and protective ecosystems through community-led adaptation interventions.

The UNFCCC's **Special Climate Change Fund** (SCCF), also managed by the GEF, and the GEF Trust Fund's **Strategic Priority on Adaptation** (SPA) provide respectively US\$51 million and US\$17 million to UNDP supported, country-led projects in over 50 countries. For example, [the SCCF-funded project in Mozambique](#) seeks to enhance food security and the capacity to adapt to climate change in agricultural and pastoral systems. The [SPA-funded project in Albania](#) aims to address key risks and vulnerabilities in the coastal areas of Drini Mati River Deltas of the Northern Adriatic by developing capacity to adapt to climate change.

Japan has provided US\$92.1 million for the **Africa Adaptation Programme** (AAP), UNDP's flagship adaptation programme in Africa. Ten of AAP's 20 countries are LDCs, and AAP is building capacities to respond to climate change factors undermining progress towards long-term sustainable development. Initiatives include the creation of national mechanisms to mobilize and allocate funds for climate change adaptation and improving the capacity of meteorology institutes to observe and analyze climate trends and impacts on development.

www.undp-adaptation.org/africaprogramme

Through the US\$4.5 million **Community-Based Adaptation Programme**, UNDP and its partners are working with the small farmers and pastoralists of **Niger's** drylands to help them reduce erosion around fragile water sources and to establish seed banks to improve production despite an increasingly variable ecosystem. The programme is supporting community-driven projects across 10 pilot countries between 2008 and 2012.

www.undp-adaptation.org/project/cba

Climate Change and Development – Adapting by Reducing Vulnerability (CC-DARE) is a three-year joint initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNDP, funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and is a practical example of UN cooperation. It provides financial and technical support to 15 Sub-Saharan countries to build the technical, analytical, and institutional capacity needed for integrating climate change risks and opportunities into national development planning and decision-making. In **Benin**, a capacity development project is targeting pupils and teachers by integrating climate change and environment issues in secondary school curricula.

www.ccdare.org

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