

# The Stocktaking for National Adaptation Planning (SNAP) Tool

## Kick-Starting National Adaptation Planning

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ has developed the Stocktaking for National Adaptation Planning (SNAP) tool. The tool provides a snapshot of the planning capacities that are currently available and intended in a country. It thus helps to identify the country's point of departure for initiating the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process. The core element of the SNAP tool is an assessment of the country's needs and capacities, which allows for a strategic perspective on the overall NAP process. The tool is implemented through one- or two-day workshops and ensures the participatory involvement of stakeholders. It helps to put into practice the NAP Technical Guidelines developed by the

Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The SNAP tool fits within Element A of the NAP Guidelines as it 'lay[s] the groundwork and address[es] gaps' (see figure 1). Primarily involved in stocktaking, the tool helps to initiate a process that leads to the formulation, communication, implementation and monitoring of NAP.

Applying the SNAP tool helps to identify a common point of departure, from which stakeholders can begin formulating a roadmap for the NAP process in their country. GIZ can help in identifying additional support measures based on the SNAP assessment.

### Background: NAP Technical Guidelines

The NAP Technical Guidelines have been drawn up by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) to assist countries in developing NAPs in a coherent and strategic manner.

The NAP Technical Guidelines propose a process that comprises four elements (see red boxes in figure 1):

- **Element A** lays the groundwork for the NAP process, including an analysis of the current **capacity gaps**;
- **Element B** includes a number of **preparatory elements**, among them an assessment of climate risks and a review of adaptation options;
- **Element C** represents the actual **implementation of the NAP process**; and
- **Element D** helps draw up a **monitoring and evaluation regime**.

### Elements of the LEG Technical Guidelines for the NAP process

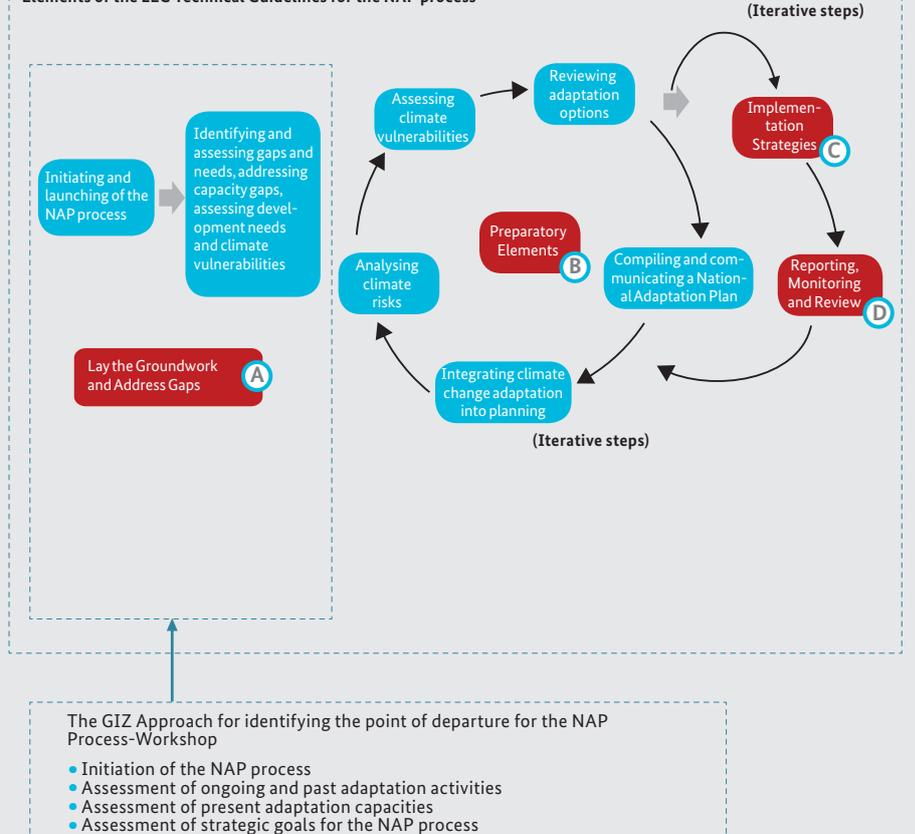


Figure 1. The SNAP tool supports Element A of the NAP Guidelines



Adaptation planning at national level is essentially about mainstreaming adaptation into all relevant general and sector-specific development planning processes. The SNAP tool helps to analyse needs for adaptation, rate existing capacities, and take stock of past and ongoing activities. Based on this assessment, strategic goals are identified to guide the NAP process over the next three to five years.

Every country has a different starting point for the NAP process, meaning that no uniform approach can be applied. This is why GIZ 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 ensuring individual countries' ownership, orienting efforts towards results and avoiding the establishment of parallel structures.

### Success factors for adaptation planning at national level

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

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

Success factor	Description
Climate information	Data about climate impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation options that provide the basis for solid decision-making on responses to climate change
Human and institutional capacities	The ability of stakeholders and institutions to coordinate adaptation processes as well as use and manage climate information
Long term vision and mandate	Common understanding on long-term objectives for national development taking climate change into account, as well as a mandate to align key processes with this vision
Implementation	The quality, quantity and strategic orientation of measures implemented on the ground to enhance resilience and/or reduce vulnerability to changes in climate
Mainstreaming	The process of integrating adaptation into development processes at all planning levels, including national, sectoral and communal policy documents and programmes
Participation	The involvement of representatives from private entities, different sectoral public administrations, as well as civil society and NGOs. Involving women's representatives is especially important since women are often disproportionately affected by climate change.
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	Monitoring climate change impacts, financial resources, and adaptation performance, as well as monitoring and evaluating adaptation results provides valuable information for adaptation planning and decision-making. M&E systems for adaptation ensure effective resource allocation, improve accountability, strengthen steering adaptation plans and activities and foster learning on adaptation.

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

How should a NAP process be set up? To illustrate this, let us imagine the fictitious country of Adaptania which is starting its NAP process. Stakeholders from different sectoral ministries, NGOs and other experts are brought together in a workshop in order to initiate the NAP process for their country. The seven spokes of the radar chart (see figure 2) represent the success factors for the NAP process described in table 1. The stakeholders are asked to assess the present situation of Adaptania (blue line) as well as to set strategic goals for the NAP process for the country (red line). The assessment is conducted by discussing the test questions in groups or in plenary sessions. Then the stakeholders provide their individual evaluations with explanations in the questionnaire.

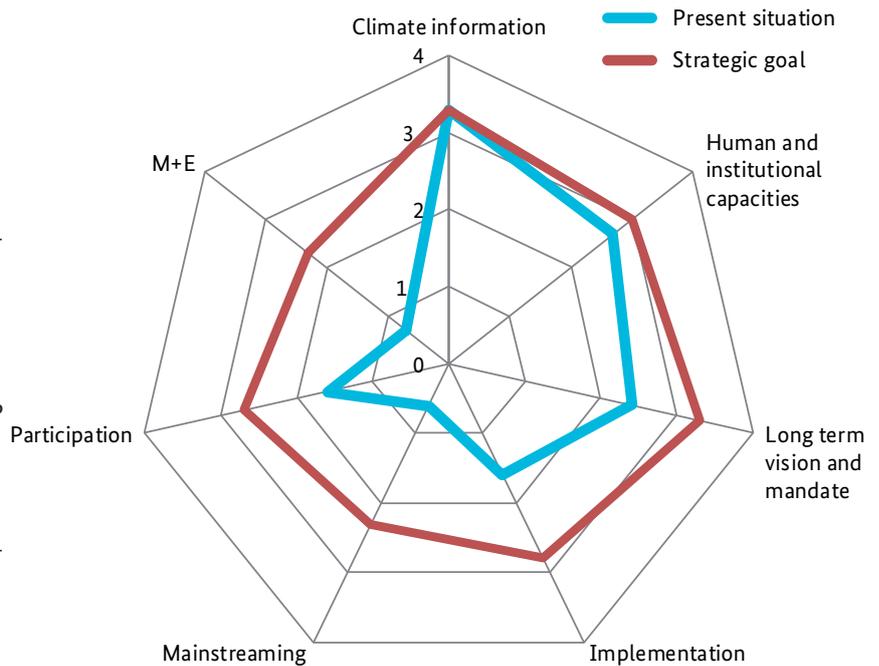


Figure 2. Radar chart: Output of the SNAP tool for the fictitious country Adaptania

### Background: The National Adaptation Planning Process

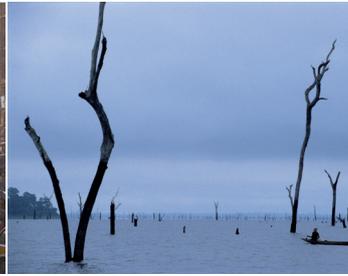
Climate change and its impacts are long-term phenomena. In order to be effective, strategies for adaptation to climate change need to include a medium- and long-term approach. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process was established in 2010 as part of the Cancun Adaptation Framework to complement the existing short-term national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs). The NAP process is designed to support all developing countries, especially the least developed countries (LDCs), in satisfying their medium- and long-term adaptation needs.

NAPs are meant to reduce vulnerability, build adaptive capacity and mainstream adaptation to climate change into all sector-specific and general development planning. The NAP process can become a powerful policy instrument for facilitating the paradigm shift towards climate resilient development.

At the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Durban (COP 17) in December 2011, bilateral and multilateral agencies were invited to support the NAP process and establish support programmes. This support can take the shape of, inter alia, technical guidelines, workshops, expert meetings and regional exchange.

The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) has published the NAP Technical Guidelines, which specify the process from conceiving a NAP document to monitoring its implementation. GIZ supports the initial phase of this process with the Stocktaking for National Adaptation Planning (SNAP) tool for carrying out capacity and needs assessments.





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Looking at the present situation, it becomes clear that Adaptania's strengths lie in climate information, human and institutional capacities, and its long-term vision and mandate for adaptation. Conversely, Adaptania is relatively weak in implementation, mainstreaming, participation, and M&E. These results provide valuable insight for formulating concrete steps and activities for a NAP roadmap. Additional guidance for Adaptania's NAP is derived from the qualitative information resulting from the exchange during the workshop and the analysis of the answers to the test questions.

## Expected results

At the end of the SNAP tool workshop, the participants should have reached a common understanding of their point of departure for the NAP process, and of what the NAP process means for the country from a strategic perspective. Initial steps for formulating a NAP roadmap should have been taken. These may include prioritising which factors should be approached primarily, or initial ideas on specific activities and steps for the roadmap. In order to monitor the overall NAP process in the country, GIZ recommends using the SNAP tool on an annual or bi-annual basis to continuously review the situation.

In a nutshell, the SNAP tool actively addresses the request in the NAP Technical Guidelines to identify and assess serious gaps and important needs for effective adaptation. It therefore provides a valuable basis for sound adaptation planning at national level.

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