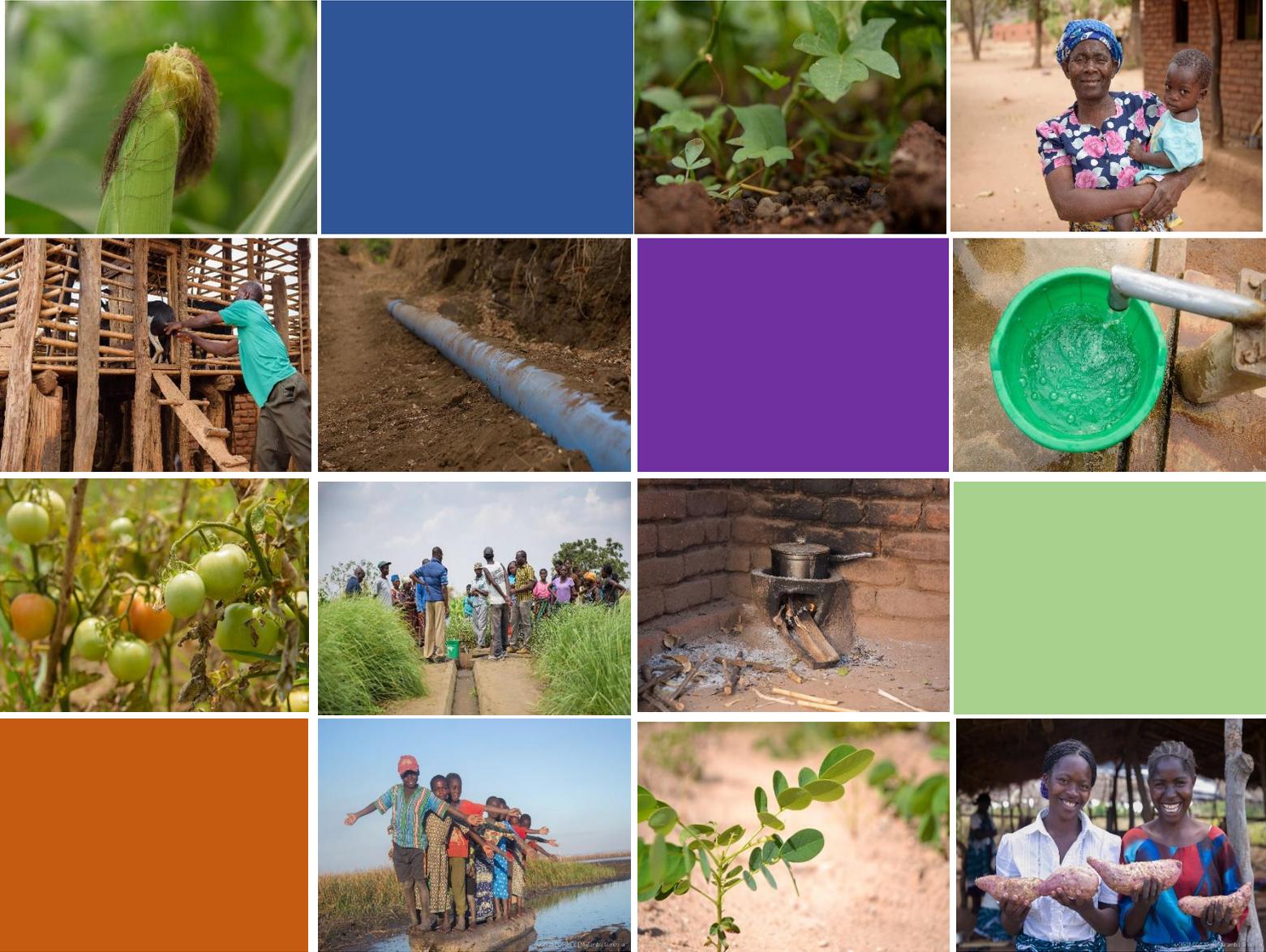


NAP PROCESS BRIEF



Introduction

Adapting to climate change is becoming a routine and necessary component of planning at all levels. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established the national adaptation plan (NAP) process as a way to facilitate adaptation planning in least developed countries (LDCs) and other developing countries.

Objectives of the Nap Process

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC acknowledged that national adaptation planning can enable countries to assess their vulnerabilities, mainstream climate change risks, and address adaptation. The COP also acknowledged that, because of their lower level of development, climate change risks magnify development challenges for LDCs. It recognized the need to address adaptation planning in the broader context of sustainable development planning.

The objectives of the national adaptation plan process are:

- (a) To reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, by building adaptive capacity and resilience; and
- (b) To facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation, in a coherent manner, into relevant new and existing policies, programmes and activities, in particular development planning processes and strategies, within all relevant sectors and at different levels, as appropriate.

Guiding Principles

The COP agreed that enhanced action on adaptation should:

- Be undertaken in accordance with the Convention;
- Follow a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into Consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems;
- Be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional and indigenous knowledge, and by gender-sensitive approaches, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate;
- Not be prescriptive, nor result in the duplication of efforts undertaken in-country, but facilitate country-owned, country-driven action.

Key Features of the Nap Process

The NAP process:

Is not prescriptive. The guidelines for the process assist LDCs to undertake the steps and activities that can ensure effective adaptation. Based on their different levels of progress with adaptation thus far, countries are able to select which steps and activities to undertake in order to move forward; *Seeks to enhance the coherence of adaptation and development planning within countries, rather than duplicating efforts undertaken in a given country;*

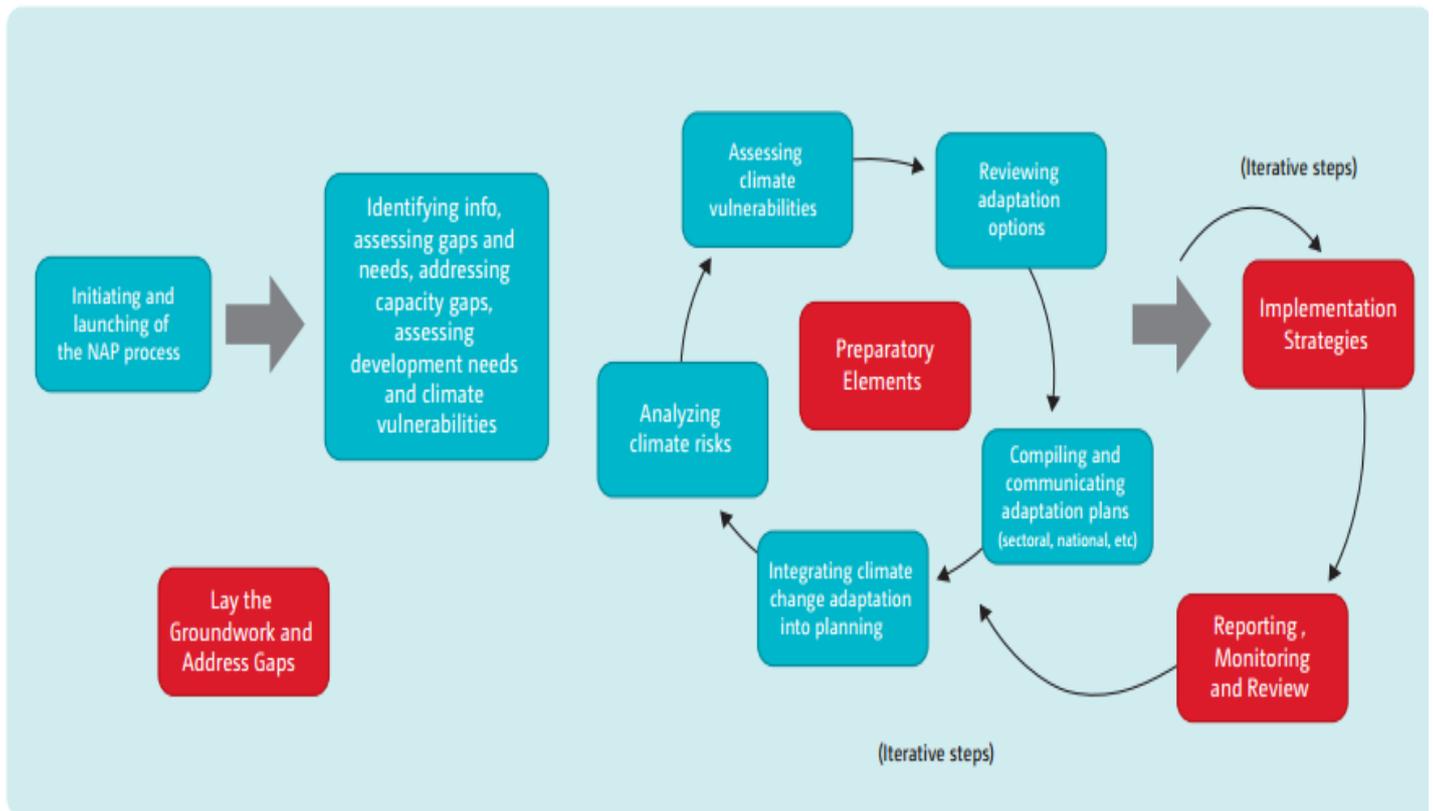
Facilitates country-owned, country-driven action. LDCs have full ownership of the NAP process within their countries. The NAP process seeks to harness and build upon national-level capacity, with support from various partners, as appropriate; *Designed in a way that countries can monitor and review it on a regular basis, and update their NAPs in an iterative manner.* This is important, given that better quality climate data and projections, as well as other information useful for the planning process, will increasingly become available, and the impacts of climate change in the medium and long-term will be better understood

Guidelines for the Nap Process

Initial guidelines for the formulation of NAPs by LDC Parties are divided into four main elements as follows:

- A. Laying the groundwork and addressing gaps;
- B. Preparatory elements;
- C. Implementation strategies;
- D. Reporting, monitoring and review

Figure 1. The figure above is an example of how the national adaptation plan process could progress for a country (adopted from: *least developed countries national adaptation plans, a brief overview*)



STEPS UNDER EACH OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE FORMULATION OF NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS, WHICH MAY BE UNDERTAKEN AS APPROPRIATE

Elemental A. Lay the groundwork and address gaps

1. Initiating and launching of the nap process
2. Stocktaking: identifying available information on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation and assessing gaps and needs of the enabling environment for the nap process
3. Addressing capacity gaps and weaknesses in undertaking the nap process
4. Comprehensively and iteratively assessing development needs and climate vulnerabilities

Elemental B. Preparatory Elements

1. Analysing current climate and future climate change scenarios
2. Assessing climate vulnerabilities and identifying adaptation options at the sector, subnational, national and other appropriate levels
3. Reviewing and appraising adaptation options
4. Compiling and communicating national adaptation plans
5. Integrating climate change adaptation into national and subnational development and sectoral planning

Element C. Implementation Strategies

1. Prioritizing climate change adaptation in national planning
2. Developing a (long-term) national adaptation implementation strategy
3. Enhancing capacity for planning and implementation of adaptation
4. Promoting coordination and synergy at the regional level and with other multilateral environmental agreements

Elemental D. Reporting Monitoring and Review

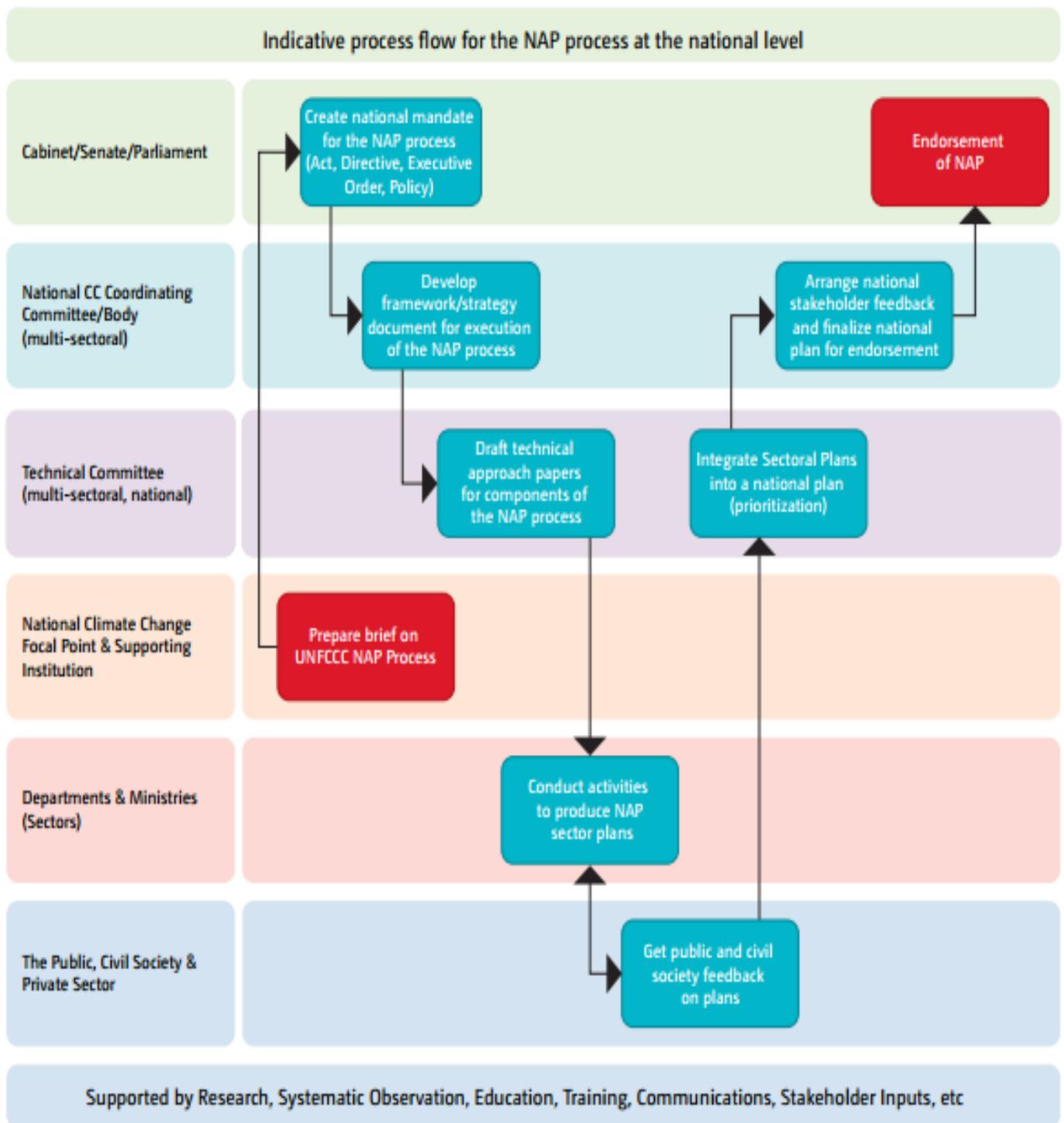
1. Monitoring the NAP process
2. Reviewing the NAP process to assess progress, effectiveness and gaps
3. Iteratively updating the national adaptation plans
4. Outreach on the NAP process and reporting on progress and effectiveness

Enablers of the NAP Process in Malawi

The following legal frameworks create a platform for the NAP process:

- Malawi Growth and Development Strategy Climate Change management is one of the priorities
- National Climate Change Policy,
- National Climate Change Investment Plan,
- National Climate Change Communication Strategy,
- NAPA
- National Climate Change Programme

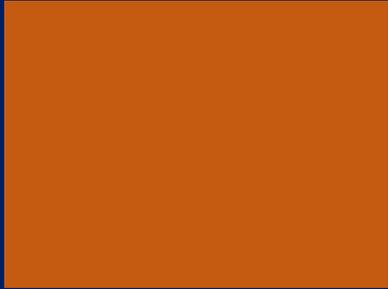
Figure 2. Figure above shows the possible flow of responsibilities for a national adaptation plan process until the endorsement stage. The possible interaction with external agencies, such as GEF agencies, that may assist countries in the nap process, is not shown in this figure: (adopted from: *least developed countries national adaptation plans, a brief overview*)



Priority Sectors and Areas for the NAP

The identification of priority sectors for the NAP stems from the NAPA. Malawi's NAPA concentrated on adaptation interventions that were urgent and immediate for vulnerable sectors and communities. The NAPA clearly identified 8 vulnerable sectors, namely: agriculture, energy, forestry, fisheries, wildlife, water, human health, and gender. Another sector that is emerging is infrastructure. All these sectors will require very specific approach in order to identify the knowledge base and gaps, so that appropriate strategies could be developed to ensure an effective and efficient NAP process.

- Agriculture (crops, livestock, fisheries),
- Water Resources,
- Population
- Human Settlements,
- Human Health,
- Disaster Risk Management,
- Transport,
- Infrastructure and Physical planning,
- Forestry,
- Wildlife,
- Gender



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