



# NAP Global Network

Coordinating  
Climate-Resilient  
Development

*Introduction: High-Level Political  
Support for NAP Processes*

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# Why Focus on High-Level Political Support?

- Insufficient political support for the NAP process seen as a barrier to implementation & scaling-up adaptation
- Frequently-cited but under-examined
- **Classic examples / indications:**
  - **Uneven support from ministries responsible for different aspects of addressing adaptation**
  - **Support on paper but not much action**

We understand it's an issue, but not necessarily what to do about it



# What is high-level political support?

## Expressed commitment

- Verbal declarations of support for adaptation

Expressed commitment on its own  
= Rhetorical commitment.

**Need more than this**  
for successful national adaptation  
planning & implementation...



# What is high-level political support?

## Political commitment – three dimensions:



**What does  
political  
support look  
like?**

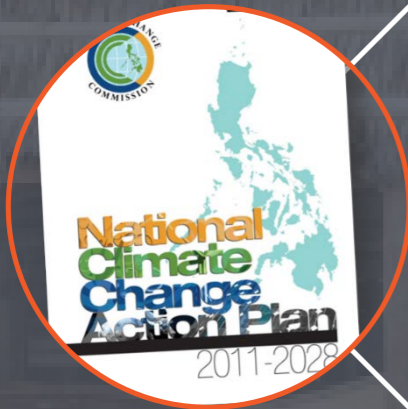


# Example from the Philippines



## Expressed

Connection with former President's "Social contract"; responses to extreme weather events



## Institutional

Climate Change Commission established by Climate Change Act; NCCAP



## Budgetary

Peoples Survival Fund; tracking climate change expenditures in the national budget – 5% in 2015



**What shapes  
political  
priority?**



# Factors related to... evidence & capacity

## Credible indication of the problem

**Evidence** demonstrating the existence of the problem. Quantification (e.g., assigning economic value to impacts and adaptation action) can be especially powerful, but over-reliance on numbers risks masking complexity.

## Clear policy alternatives

**Proposals** that convince policy-makers that a problem is surmountable.

## Technical capacity

Making sure there is a **strong technical understanding** of the issue to support understanding of evidence and action to address it.

## South-south cooperation

Efforts from neighbouring or regional countries, or those of similar socioeconomic or geographic contexts, that serve as examples and friendly pressure to take action.



# ...communication & profile

## Clarity

Describing the adaptation issue, and the NAP process in particular, in **simple, non-technical terms**. Intermediaries can play a key role in enhancing clarity.

## Civil society & media mobilization

Network of actors committed to **raising the profile and advocating** for adaptation; building common messages and a shared vision for responding.

## Political champions

Respected, capable individuals willing to **promote and advance** issues.



# ...integration

## Framing

Public portrayal of NAP process that **resonates with political leaders and their existing priorities**. Framing adaptation as a complementary, not competing, priority.

## Demonstration of co-benefits

Showing that action on adaptation will **build upon and yield returns** for other policy agendas and initiatives (e.g. sustainable development, humanitarian assistance).

## Policy community cohesion

**Agreement** within core policy community on choice, priority and sequencing of actions.

## Political transitions

Relates to the importance of using political support, once achieved, to **integrate adaptation into long-term policies to ensure continuity**.



# ...leveraging opportunities

## Focusing events

Large-scale events, whether planned or unplanned, that **bring visibility to climate issues**. Examples might include natural disasters framed in terms of climate impacts, or large conferences addressing climate issues.

## External political momentum

**Efforts by international actors** to establish a common vision on adaptation can influence national decisions.

## Resource availability and provision

Availability of international and domestic financial and technical **resources for adaptation** can help draw attention to the issue.

## Political transition

**Political changes** affecting prospects for action—giving new actors power, and introducing new processes in favour of or against adaptation initiatives.



# Example from the US context

*“That’s what we seek in these next two weeks. Not simply an agreement to roll back the pollution we put into our skies, but an agreement that helps us lift people from poverty without condemning the next generation to a planet that’s beyond its capacity to repair.”*

-- President Barack Obama, COP 21,  
November 30, Paris



# Carousel group discussions: Challenges, opportunities, drivers



# Carousel Discussion

## Drivers

What were the specific factors (policies, people, events, etc.) that helped to give the adaptation planning agenda a higher political profile in your country's experience?

## Challenges

What challenges have you faced in securing political support? Try to give a specific example.

## Opportunities

Where you have been successful in securing support, what opportunities has it created for you? Try to give a specific example.



# Discussion Groups

**Drivers**  
[Hayley]

Mexico (Colombia, South Africa)

**Challenges**  
[John F.]

Madagascar (Cambodia, Benin)

**Opportunities**  
[Nikola]

Samoa (Thailand, Tanzania)





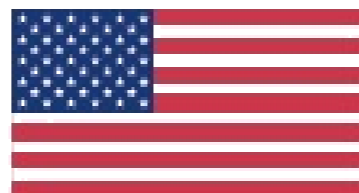
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